

# Guidelines for the Selection of Wedding Music

St. Joseph (Westphalia) and St. Anthony of Padua (Folk)  
*last revised January, 2025*

No recorded music may be used during the wedding Mass. All music used during the sacred liturgy must be played or sung live.

The *Diocesan Wedding Policy*, no. 5 indicates: “All music in the church building is to be sacred music, including preludes; no ballads, pop, country, etc.”

Diocesan policy is that no music by the composers David Haas, Cesareo Gabarain, or Ed Conlin may be used.

“Here Comes the Bride” may not be used in church.

Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah” may not be used in church.

**The following hymns may not be used** (cf. Decree by Bishop McKnight of 28 October 2024, subsequently revised):

Title	Composer
All Are Welcome	Marty Haugen
As a Fire is Meant for Burning	Ruth Duck, Marty Haugen
Ashes	Tom Contry
Bread of Life	Bernadette Farrell
Canticle of the Sun (verse 6 may not be used)	Marty Haugen
Celtic Alleluia: Sending Forth	Christopher Walker, Fintan O’Carroll
Covenant Hymn	Rory Cooney, Gary Daigle
For the Healing of the Nations	Fred Kaan, John Wade, Randall DeBruyn
God Beyond All Names	Armand Fecteau
God Has Chosen Me	Bernadette Farrell
God is Here! As We His People	Fred Pratt Green
Haleluya! We Sing Your Praises	Walton Music
In Christ Alone (verse 2 may not be used)	Keith Getty, Stuart Townend
Jesus Hope of the World	Deanna Light, Paul Tate
Led by the Spirit	Bob Hurd, Ralph Williams
Led By the Spirit	Bob Hurd
Let Us Break Bread Together on our Knees	American Folk Hymn
Lord of the Dance	Sydney Carter
Many and Great	Ricky Manalo, CSP
Now in This Banquet	Marty Haugen

O Crucified Messiah	
Sing a New Church	Delores Dufner
Table of Plenty	Dan Schutte
The Play of the Godhead	Mary Louise Bungle, Robert J Batastinir
Three Days	M.D. Ridge, Casey McKinley

### Suggested Wedding Music

Any setting of the proper Entrance, Offertory, and Communion antiphons is appropriate (e.g., *Simple English Propers*).

Free resources provided by *Corpus Christi Watershed* may be helpful:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/2017/10/06/three-entrance-antiphons-celebration-marriage/>

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/2013/06/3/free-responsorial-psalm-marriage-nuptial-mass/>

Hymns found in the parish hymnals are *generally* acceptable (but see the list of prohibited hymns).

**Instrumental pieces include:** Pachelbel’s Canon, “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” and Trumpet Voluntary.

**Eucharistic hymns include:** “Draw Near,” “I Am the Bread of Life,” “Gift of Finest Wheat,” “*Panis Angelicus*,” “Taste and See,” “O Sacrament Most Holy,” “*Adoro Te Devote*,” “Wisdom’s Feast,” “I Received the Living God,” “Sweet Sacrament, We Thee Adore,” “O Lord, I Am Not Worthy,” “Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless”

**Marian hymns include:** “Hail Mary, Gentle Woman,” “*Ave Maria*,” “On This Day, O Beautiful Mother,” “Immaculate Mary,” “Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above,” “As We Kneel Before You,” “Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly,” “O Most Holy One / *O Sanctissima*,” “Hail Mary.”

**Other hymns include:** A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing; All Creatures of Our God and King; All Glory, Laud, and Honor; All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name; All People That on Earth Do Dwell; Alleluia! Sing to Jesus; As with Gladness Men of Old; At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing; At the Name of Jesus; Christ is Made the Sure Foundation; Come Down, O Love Divine; Come Now, Almighty King; Come, Holy Ghost; Come, O Long-Expected Jesus; Comfort, Comfort O My People; Crown Him with Many Crowns; Faith of Our Fathers; Father, We Thank You, Who Have Planted; For All the Saints; For the Beauty of the Earth; From All That Dwell; Go Make of All Disciples; God, We Praise You; Holy God, We Praise Thy Name; Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!; How Firm a Foundation; How Good, Lord, to Be Here!; I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say; I Know That My Redeemer Lives; Jesus Christ is Risen Today; Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You; Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence; Let All Things Now Living; Lift High the Cross; Like a Shepherd; My Song is Love Unknown; O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God; O God, Our Help in Ages Past; O Sacred Head Surrounded; Praise to the Lord, the Almighty; Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven; Sing with All the Saints in Glory; Soul of My Savior; The King of Love My Shepherd Is; To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King; *Ubi Caritas; Veni Creator Spiritus*; Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones

## Some Notes on Church Etiquette for Weddings

Catholic weddings often involve the participation and presence of people who may not be familiar with the appropriate etiquette for a Catholic church. The following are some practical points of church etiquette:

### **At all times:**

- It is not appropriate for older children or adults to eat or drink in the church, with the exception of water or food/drink that may be required for medical reasons (e.g., if someone is diabetic).
- It is not appropriate to chew gum in church.
- As a general rule, men should not wear hats in church.
- Phone calls and texting should be done outside of church if possible.
- It is inappropriate to play videos, games, or browse social media on one's phone in church.
- Anyone who is intoxicated will be excluded from the wedding. Use of alcohol by the bride or groom on the day of the wedding may be grounds for cancellation.

### **Signs of reverence:**

- When entering church, leaving church, and when crossing in front of the tabernacle, it is appropriate to genuflect to the Blessed Sacrament.
- When entering and leaving church, all are welcome to make the sign of the cross over themselves with holy water, even those who are not Catholic.
- All are welcome to light candles and pray in church, including those who are not Catholic.

### **The ceremony:**

- Please silence all mobile devices.
- Respectful silence should be maintained in church to the extent possible before and after the wedding.
- If Holy Communion is distributed, as a general rule, only those Catholics who are prepared to do so (e.g., not conscious of unconfessed grave sin, having fasted for one hour, etc.), may receive Holy Communion.
- The Catholic Church also allows members of Orthodox Churches to receive Holy Communion.
- Other Christians and non-Christians may join in the responses, prayers, and songs to the extent they feel comfortable but are not generally able to receive Holy Communion in the Catholic Church.

### **Decorations and Dress:**

- Decorations and clothing should reflect the sacred and liturgical nature of the wedding ceremony.
- During the season of Lent, except on the Fourth Sunday and on solemnities, decorations should be moderate. For example, flowers should not be placed near the altar.
- No signs, clothing, or decorations may be used that are overtly sexual, contain foul language or blasphemy, or that could be interpreted as sexualizing children (for example, a child holding a "Ladies, I'm single" sign).

### **Payments and Fees:**

- You are under no obligation to give Fr. Schrader any payment for the celebration of your wedding. You may do so if you wish, but there is no expectation that you must.
- Fees / payments for musicians or others who provide a service should be worked out with those individuals directly.

**Sample Petitions for Weddings (Universal Prayer, Prayer of the Faithful)**

*The couple may also modify these or write their own petitions, which they should print out and bring to the rehearsal.*

For this bride and groom,  
and for their well-being as a family,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For their relatives and friends,  
and for all who have assisted this couple,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For young people preparing to enter Marriage,  
and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For all families throughout the world  
and for lasting peace among all people,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For all members of our families  
who have passed from this world,  
and for all the departed,  
let us pray to the Lord.

For the Church, the holy People of God,  
and for unity among all Christians,  
let us pray to the Lord.