

# NUPTIAL LITURGY OUTSIDE MASS

## MUSIC PLANNING WORKSHEET

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish

*Overall principles to remember in considering your wedding music:*

1. In the Roman Catholic Nuptial Liturgy, every effort should be made to involve the Assembly in “full, conscious, and active participation” in the Liturgy, including elements of the music.
2. The text of the music chosen should ideally speak of the love between husband and wife as a reflection of God’s love for us, his Church. Secular love songs may not be used in the liturgy.
3. A wedding liturgy is not a “wedding with concert attached.” The music selection and the musicians must be servants of the liturgy, not the other way around.
4. In Roman Catholic Liturgy, we worship together, here and now. Therefore, the Church does not allow recordings, taped music, CD’s, or accompaniment tracks in the Liturgy.

### **OUTLINE OF THE NUPTIAL LITURGY OUTSIDE OF MASS**

*\*Denotes a point in the liturgy where music may be used*

- \*Prelude:** About 20 minutes of music; can be instrumental and/or vocal.  
**\*Seating of the Mother(s):** Music to accompany the mothers as they are seated. May be either an instrumental or vocal selection.

#### **INTRODUCTORY RITES**

- \*Procession(s):** Plural if music changes for the bride.  
**\*Gathering Hymn:** *Optional.* Effectively encourages participation of the entire Assembly, sending the signal that we are participants in this celebration. Particularly useful in mixed (Catholic/non-Catholic) congregations to unite us all in one voice. Cantor invites all to sing and leads the singing.

**Greeting**  
**Opening Prayer**

#### **LITURGY OF THE WORD**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reading** May be read by a lay reader. Taken from Old Testament (see Section B in the *Together for Life* planning book)
- \*Responsorial Psalm** Sung by cantor (verses) and Assembly (refrain). Approved Psalms are Ps. 33, 34, 103, 112, 128, 145, and 148 (see Section C in planning book). This selection is an integral part of the Liturgy of the Word; therefore it **must** be one of the approved psalms, not just a spiritual song.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** May be read by a lay reader. Taken from the New Testament (see Section D in planning book)
- \*Gospel Acclamation** The Alleluia before the Gospel reading. If not sung, it is to be omitted.  
**Gospel Reading** Must be read by priest or deacon (see Section F in planning book)  
**Homily**

#### **RITE OF MARRIAGE**

**Marriage Vows**  
**Blessing and Exchange of Rings**  
**(\*Presentation to the Blessed Virgin Mary)**

*Optional; not an official part of the wedding rite.* Instrumental or vocal solo on a Marian theme is appropriate.

**General Intercessions**

Usually read by a family member or friend, but cantor can chant these prayers if you wish.

**CONCLUDING RITE**

**The Lord's Prayer**

Should *always* be a community prayer, NOT a vocal solo. If you really want a soloist to sing the Our Father, do so as a prelude.

**Nuptial Blessing**

This usually occurs immediately after the Lord's Prayer, omitting the doxology ("For the kingdom, the power,..."). However, the priest may opt to give the blessing at a different time.

**Introduction** of Mr. And Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Recessional:**

Joyous, festive music. Usually instrumental, but can be a vocal piece or hymn sung by the Assembly.

**\*Postlude:**

Music (usually instrumental) as people are dismissed.

Wedding Liturgy Planner			
Wedding Date:		Time of Wedding:	
Bride's Name			
Address, City, State			
Phone		Email	
Groom's Name			
Address, City, State			
Phone		Email	
Priest / Presider			
Order of the Liturgy			
	Song #	Song Title	
Prelude	#		
Prelude	#		
Seating of the Mothers	#		
Processional	#		
Bride's Processional	#		
Gathering Hymn (optional)	#		
1 <sup>st</sup> Reading			Read by:
Responsorial Psalm			
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading			Read by:
Gospel Acclamation			
Gospel Reading			<input type="checkbox"/> Priest <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon
Homily	Priest/Deacon:		
Presentation to Our Lady (optional)	#		
Prayers of the Faithful			Read by:
Lord's Prayer	<input type="checkbox"/> Chanted <input type="checkbox"/> Spoken		
Recessional Song	#		
Additional Music?	#		

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