

St. Genevieve Church

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Wedding Directives

Dear Friends,

First of all, please allow me to say congratulations on your engagement. I can only imagine the excitement both of you are having right now as you still try to fully grasp the wonder of becoming one – united in this Sacrament of Matrimony.

Secondly, I also want to say thank you for considering St. Genevieve as the place where all of these will happen. As her pastor, I am thrilled and, at the same time, humbled at the fact that this parish will become part of a special milestone in your lives. Please know that this community will be praying for you as you prepare to celebrate this sacrament.

I ask that you please consider everything that is contained in this literature. It is important that you are aware of the “do’s” and “don’ts” that must be met in order for the wedding to take place.

If you have any questions regarding the venue, please feel free to contact me at 985-446-5571. If you have any questions regarding the ceremony itself, I would suggest that you contact the priest who will be your celebrant.

Please be assured of my prayers for you. Wishing God’s blessings upon you in this time of preparation, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Fr. Eric Leyble, *Pastor*

These directives are meant to help you plan your wedding ceremony so that the deeper aspects of marriage can be reflected in the liturgical celebration.

**** Definition of a Catholic Wedding ****

A Catholic wedding is an act of worship in which an engaged couple comes together to *exchange vows*, to offer thanks and praise to God with their families and friends and to ask *God’s blessings on their life together* as husband and wife.

Therefore, a Catholic wedding is a *communal liturgical celebration*. The guests are *not onlookers or spectators* but worshipers and should be *active participants* throughout the liturgy in prayers and music, etc.

*** Music ***

The purpose of music for any liturgy is to give glory to God and to minister to God's people. It should unify the assembly and help it express its faith.

In selecting music for all liturgical celebrations, the church has developed the following criteria as expressed in Bishop's Document on the Liturgy, "Music in Catholic Worship." The criteria are threefold: Musical, Liturgical and Pastoral.

A. *Musical*: "Is the music technically, esthetically and expressively good?" The document states, "To admit the cheap, the trite, the musical cliché often found in popular songs on the grounds of an instant liturgy is to cheapen the liturgy, to expose it to ridicule and to invite failure" (No. 26). The music must be good. "Although all liturgical music should be good music, not all good music is suitable to the liturgy" (No. 29).

B. *Liturgical*: "What kind of music is called for at certain places in the liturgy? What parts should be sung and who sings them?" (No. 30) Some music serves to accompany ritual actions, such as the processional, recessional and communion procession. This music supports the prayer and action of the assembly. At other places, the sung prayer is the rite and not an accompaniment to a rite. Examples of this would be the Holy, Holy and other acclamations.

C. *Pastoral*: "Does the music in the celebration enable these people to express their faith, in this place, in this age, in this culture?" (No. 39). "All means must be used to promote singing by the people" (No. 40). "In selecting the kind of sacred music to be used, whether it is for the choir or for the people, the capacities of those who are to sing the music must be taken into account. No kind of sacred music is prohibited from liturgical actions by the church as long as it corresponds to the spirit of the liturgical celebration itself and the nature of its individual parts and does not hinder the active participation of the People" (No. 9, Instruction on Music in the Liturgy Documents).

*** Important Summary ***

All emphasis should be on selecting liturgical music, music in which the texts are drawn from biblical sources and are composed for the worship of God. All music should serve to direct the congregation's attention to the sacredness of the event and the presence of Christ in the holy union of marriage. **NON-RELIGIOUS MUSIC DURING THE WEDDING CEREMONY IS NOT ALLOWED.** Music before the wedding should also be appropriate for a religious celebration. Examples of inappropriate music are "Here Comes the Bride," "Turn Around," "More," "Sabbath Prayer," "Theme from Ice Castles," "Butterfly Kisses," etc.

Music preparation should be done well ahead of the wedding date. Planning should include the couple, the priest and musicians. Although St. Genevieve has a Music Ministry, couples may prefer their own musicians. Our policy on this requires that all musicians be competent, not only musically, but also

liturgically. A complete list of all selections and musicians must be submitted at least six weeks before the wedding date. This will allow ample time for changes, if necessary.

A suggested music list is below which includes a few selections that are appropriate for wedding liturgies. Most are found in our Glory and Praise hymnals and could be sung by the congregation.)

PROCESSIONAL OR RECESSIONAL

Trumpet Voluntary	Rondo
Trumpet Tune	Canon in D
Hornpipe	Trumpet March
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	

OPENING HYMNS

Gather Us In	All My Days
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	We Gather Together
This Day God Gives Me	Glory and Praise to Our God
We Remember	

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

God is Love	We Are God's People
Blest Are Those	Taste and See
I Have Loved You	This is the Day

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Celtic Alleluia
Gregorian Chant
Mass of Remembrance

HYMN AFTER VOWS

Now Thank We All Our God
All Our Joy
Wedding Song

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Instrumental
Beginning Today
Wherever You Go
Like a Seal on Your Heart

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS

(Holy, Holy; Christ has died; Amen.)
I Have Loved You
Mass of Creation

COMMUNION HYMNS OR SONGS

Song of Ruth
One Bread, One Body
Taste and See
We are Many Parts
You are Near
Yahweh The Faithful One

KISS OF PEACE/MARIAN PRAYER

Ave Maria
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Other selections from "Glory and Praise" or "Gather Hymnal."

When Love is Found	In Love We Choose to Live	No Greater Love
Love is the Sunlight	May God Grant you a	Song of St. Patrick
Wherever You Go	Blessing	We are the Light of the
God, in the Planning	God is Love	World
We will Serve the Lord	I Have Loved You	We Praise You
A Nuptial Blessing	Love Divine, All Loves	Where True Love and
Blessing the Marriage	Excelling	Charity are Found
Ubi Caritas	Love One Another	Psalm 34 Cry of the Poor

According to church law, a marriage between a Catholic and a non-Catholic is not celebrated within the context of a Mass. The first part of the Mass, the Liturgy of the Word is used along with the special prayers and blessings for the couple.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

- 1) We require the engaged couple to attend a diocesan marriage preparation course.
- 2) All couples must take the Focus Inventory. The inventory is administered and the results are given by a married couple.
- 3) The couple should bring recent copies (within six months of the wedding date) of their baptismal records to the priest on the second visit.

ATTENDANTS AND MINISTERS:

We encourage the couple to have family and friends involved in the liturgical parts of the wedding ceremony. The following are some examples:

- Altar Servers: One or two people to help the priest during the ceremony. They can be a child or adult, male or female. No experience necessary.
- Readers: Three selections need to be read — the Old Testament Reading, the New Testament Reading and the Prayers of the Faithful. One, two or three readers are appropriate. (The musician usually sings the Responsorial Psalm).
- Gift Bearers: The bread and wine are presented to the bride and groom during the “Presentation of the Gifts.” Two people are appropriate.
- Small Children: Small children often take away from the solemnity of the ceremony and therefore, we do discourage couples from allowing them to take part in the ceremony. However, if children participate, we insist that they should be old enough to walk down the aisle and seat themselves in a front pew with a parent or relative.
- Attendants: While the number of couples in the wedding party is left to the discretion of the bride and groom, the entrance procession should not resemble a fashion show. Too many couples take away from the dignity and purpose of the ceremony.
- Witnesses: The Church and State now require that two persons, eighteen years old or older, act as witness to the marriage. They do not have to be the best man and maid of honor. The names of the witnesses must be given to the priest or called into the church office (446-5571) before the rehearsal.

REHEARSAL:

- Contact the presider about six months to a year before the wedding to set a date and time for the rehearsal. Being present at the rehearsal is important for ushers, parents, bridesmaids and groomsmen. We invite readers, altar servers, musicians, communion ministers and gift-bearers to be present.
- Upon request, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confession) after the rehearsal. We encourage all Catholic families to receive our Lord in the Eucharist at a wedding Mass.

WEDDING CANDLE:

An arrangement of three candles in a stand (the left one representing the bride and her family, the right one the groom and his family) can be used for weddings. The simple lighting ritual of the large middle candle takes place in silence after the exchange of vows, symbolizing the new creation in this marriage.

Flowers and Other Decorations:

- The use of flowers and plants should enhance the whole liturgical setting. Columns and stand should not be used around the altar but on the side or the back of the altar. The area around the altar should be kept free at all times. Flowers and plants should not block the view of the congregation.
- Wedding banners on each post and as well as behind the altar are available for weddings. This is a fee of \$25 for this service. You may make arrangement for this service with the office.
- We encourage couples to consider leaving flowers in the church for the weekend Masses. If flowers are to be used in the reception hall, please consider returning them to the church after the reception.
- Weddings are discouraged but not prohibited during Lent and Advent. During Lent, flowers are not allowed. Wedding must “fit in” with the season of the church, not vice-versa. For example, a couple who plans to be married during the Christmas Season should expect poinsettias and the Christmas crib to be part of the church decorations.
- We permit floor runners, but the ushers or the florist must remove them immediately after the wedding.
- We allow candlelight weddings. However, the candles must be enclosed in glass cylinders to protect the floor from damage. If multi-candle arrangements are used, the couple is to appoint someone to light them before the ceremony. Removing the candles after the ceremony should be done carefully. It is understood that other lights will be used besides the candles. Appropriate lighting brings the congregation together.
- The use of Rice or Confetti inside or outside the church is prohibited.

Photographers:

The photographers are permitted to take pictures (still or video) during the ceremony. They must check with the celebrant before the ceremony begins. They must be as discreet as possible and must not interfere with the solemn nature of the ceremony. Video cameras must be stationed in one location off to the side of the sanctuary at all times.

Wedding Fees:

- The church fee is \$150.00 for parishioners. The out of parish (non-parishioner) fee is \$300.00. Checks should be made payable to the order of “St. Genevieve Church.” Couples who cannot afford the fee will not be refused the sacrament of marriage in church. However, inability to pay the fee should be discussed with the celebrant before the rehearsal. Payment of the fees should take place sometimes before the rehearsal.
- The church fee does not cover any stipend or monetary gift to the Celebrant of your wedding. Should you wish to provide your Celebrant with some gift, as a sign of gratitude for walking with you through your wedding preparations, that will be greatly appreciated. There is no standard amount. That is something that both of you will consider on your own.
- Making a small offering to the Altar Servers is customary if they are not relatives or friends.
- Fees for musicians vary. This transaction should be handled between the couple and the musician.
- A Wedding License should be obtained from the parish Clerk of Court about two weeks before the wedding ceremony. Cost is \$35.00 CASH ONLY (updated 2/18). Both parties must be present at the Clerk of Court’s office with original or certified copy of birth certificate, valid state ID’s, social security numbers, and certified divorce decree (if applicable). There will be a 72-hour hold on the license when applied for then it will be valid for 30 days. The Wedding Officiant will return the license to the clerk’s office with all signatures. The Bride and Groom may purchase certified copies for \$6 each.

Use of Alcohol or Drugs:

If anyone in the wedding party comes to church on the day of the wedding under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the wedding is canceled and everyone is sent home. If someone needs to drink or abuse drugs to be married, then he or she is not yet ready to be married. There are no exceptions to this rule and fees will not be refunded due to the wedding date being held for a six month period or longer.

*Would you take these two,
Of dust and bone,
Born of flesh, then you,
Would you make them one?*

*Would you speak again
The words you spoke
When Adam slept
And Eve awoke?*

*Would you let your wine
Replace our water
And look with grace
On this son, this daughter?*

*Oh Lord of Eden
In your majesty
Create again
Your tapestry
One heart*

*Where there were two,
This is the prayer
We lift to you.
Amen.*

