



The Catholic Center at UGA

Catholic Weddings Music and Liturgy Guide

Updated 7/23/2024

General Information:

Weddings at the Catholic Center are directed by the celebrant and the Wedding Guild. You're welcome to hire your own wedding consultant, but they are required to abide by our policies, and operate only under the direction of the officiant and representatives of the Wedding Guild.

Marriage Preparation:

Marriage preparation is the process leading up to the wedding ceremony when a priest or a designated couple meets with the engaged couple for a number of sessions in order to discuss topics of faith, relationship and marriage.

Can we do our marriage preparation elsewhere, yet get married at the Catholic Center? Yes, however, paperwork must be done by the Parish doing the marriage prep.

Catholics marrying another Catholic:

Please see information below about reserving the date and beginning marriage preparation. There is some paperwork to fill out by the couple.

Catholics marrying a non-Catholic:

Can a Catholic marry a non-Catholic? Yes.

Can a Catholic marry a non-Christian? Yes.

Can a Priest marry a Catholic and a non-Catholic? Yes.

Can a Priest marry a Catholic and a non-Christian? Yes.

In an interfaith marriage, the Catholic party is required to "make a sincere promise to do all in his or her power so that all offspring are baptized and brought up in the Catholic Church" (*Code of Canon Law* 1125). The spouse of a different faith needs to be clearly informed about that promise. In addition, a "dispensation" is required from the archdiocese. The priest facilitating your marriage preparation/documentation will help you obtain this permission.

Guest Priests or Ministers

Priests from other Catholic parishes are welcome to celebrate your wedding. We'll need their name and contact information to send them their required paperwork ahead of the wedding. If they are from a parish outside of the Archdiocese of Atlanta, they have to apply to the archdiocese for permission to celebrate the wedding within six months of the wedding date and provide us a copy of the letter from their diocese granting those faculties.

In an interfaith marriage, the minister of the non-Catholic party may participate in the ceremony, either in the readings and/or giving a blessing. Church law does not permit the priest and minister jointly to ask for and receive the vows, nor does it permit a double recitation of the vows.

Rite of Marriage within Mass

All sacraments, including marriage, are connected to the Paschal Mystery we see in Mass – Christ uniting Himself to His Church as a Groom to His Bride. In a Wedding Mass, the couple are the ministers of the Sacrament. The Priest assists, witnesses, and blessed the marriage.

Rite of Marriage outside of Mass

This Liturgy is shorter. It includes a Liturgy of the Word and homily, but omits Holy Communion.

Weddings for Alumni at the Catholic Center:

Reach out to your local parish to do the paperwork. If you are not a part of a parish, then you should go to your local parish, register, and complete the paperwork there. Upon completion and approval of the paperwork, the couple would begin marriage preparation at their local parish.

Sacramental Wedding not within the Catholic church physical building:

Can a priest perform a wedding ceremony outside the Catholic church? The priest needs to get permission to do this from Archdiocesan headquarters and submit legitimate reasoning. If there is a non-Catholic or non-Christian involved, and the priest has been granted permission, the priest can do the wedding ceremony. A Catholic marrying another Catholic ought to be married in a Catholic church.

Church Forms

Form	Get it from	Submit it to	Due Date	Notes
Baptismal Certificate	The church of your baptism within six months of your wedding date	The priest or deacon directing your marriage preparation	Within six months before your wedding date	Catholics need a new copy of their baptismal certificate from the parish of their baptism, noting all Sacraments received. If the Bride or Groom was baptized in another faith, and later was received into the Catholic Church, we need a copy of his/her Profession of Faith, with notations. Non-Catholics must provide evidence of baptism (e.g, a certificate/letter from the church's secretary, or a signed affidavit by a witness to the baptism).
Affidavit for Freedom to Marry	Your first meeting with priest/deacon	The priest celebrating your wedding	As soon as possible	The bride and groom each need two affidavits completed on their behalf. Affidavits are completed by relatives or friends who attest that each of the espoused is free to marry. These forms must be either notarized by a Notary Public, signed in the presence of a clergy member of the pastoral staff, or in the presence of their own priest or deacon. Please do not turn in Affidavits without one of these forms of witness.
Archdiocesan Bride and Groom Questionnaires	Your first meeting with priest	Completed at a marriage prep meeting	As soon as possible	These forms are signed and witnessed to certify that the information is correct.

Form	Get it from	Submit it to	Due Date	Notes
Forms for Specific Occasions				
Dispensation Form				This form is required for weddings between a Catholic or a non-Catholic, or if the ceremony is conducted by a non-Catholic minister or civil official. This form is obtained by the clergy directing your marriage preparation.
Letter of Permission from Pastor				This form is required if either party is a Catholic registered at another parish. Their pastor will provide a letter approving the marriage outside the registered party's home parish.
Final Decree of Annulment			Prior to scheduling your wedding	
Civil Forms				
Civil Marriage License	Your county probate court: Cherokee Cobb DeKalb Fulton Gwinnett Out-of-state residents	The priest celebrating your wedding	At least one week before your wedding	The Wedding cannot be conducted without the marriage license! It is illegal in Georgia for a clergy member to officiate at a marriage unless the license is in hand. Assurances that the license has been issued are not sufficient. The Center staff will mail the certificate to the county the Monday after your wedding. To obtain an official copy of your marriage license, please contact the county of issuance (the county may require a fee).
Death Certificate				If either party has been married before and the marriage ended due to the death of a spouse, a copy of the death certificate will be required.

Fees:

The Catholic Center charges a fee of \$500 to use the Chapel for the wedding for members of the Catholic Center. For non-members of the Catholic Center, the fee is \$750.

To reserve your time and date, please deposit at least half of this amount.

The Catholic Center charges an additional mandatory fee for music at the wedding ceremony at the church. Catholic Center musicians must be utilized to ensure the song selections and mass acclamations are done well, at the correct time, and appropriate for liturgy.

A fee of \$250-\$350 is also encouraged as a stipend for the presiding priest.

Streaming (Optional):

If you would like the wedding streamed, a fee of \$100 is required as a stipend for the AV technician to run the cameras and the stream.

This will be collected by the Director of Liturgy of Music who will assign an A/V tech.

Fee	Cost	Due Date	Notes
Catholic Center	\$500 (<i>members</i>) \$750 (<i>non-members</i>)	50% to reserve the date, 50% 30 days prior to wedding	This fee covers the use of the Chapel for the ceremony and for the rehearsal, as well as the Bride's Room, the Groom's Waiting Area, the Program, and the services of the Wedding Guild.
Officiant	\$250-350 (encouraged)	Wedding Day	It is customary for the couple to provide an honorarium to the priest officiating. The amount is a matter of personal discretion and should reflect your sincere appreciation.
Organist/ Pianist	\$350	No later than 2 weeks prior to wedding	A bench fee of \$200 is paid to the Director of Music and Liturgy if outside musicians are exclusively used, and other additional fees may arise, depending on the number of musicians included in your wedding, the number of rehearsals required, and other factors.
Cantor (<i>Optional</i>)	\$250	No later than 2 weeks prior to wedding	A staff cantor other than the Director of Music is optional at a nuptial ceremony. The Director of Music typically can sing and play most selections without the use of another cantor.
Streaming (<i>Optional</i>)	\$100	No later than 2 weeks prior to wedding	Streaming is optional. No fee is required unless you want the ceremony streamed on YouTube and/or Facebook

Information Form

Bride _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Groom _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Wedding Date _____ Time _____ | Rehearsal Date _____ Time _____

Priest _____

Best Man _____

Maid/Matron of Honor _____

Names of Parents & Grandparents _____

Number of Ushers _____

Number of Groomsmen _____

Number of Bridesmaids _____

Ring Bearer _____ Flower Girl _____

Rehearsal Dinner at the Catholic Center: yes / no _____

Location if not at CC (for the wedding coordinators to tell lost sheep)

Reception at Catholic Center: yes / no _____

Location if not at CC (for the wedding coordinators to tell lost sheep)

Dedicated person for taking wedding gifts/cards to reception _____

Additional Notes:

Music Selections

Mass ____ *Lit of Word* ____

Preludes: (Optional) _____

Seating of Mothers and Grandmothers _____

Bridal Party Procession _____

Bridal Procession _____

Gloria (Seasonal) _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

Gospel Acclamation _____

Presentation & Preparation of the Gifts _____

Mass Setting _____

Communion _____

Flowers to St. Mary or Unity Candle _____

Recessional _____

Additional musicians _____

Notes:

Readings

Old Testament Reading _____ Read by _____ New

Testament Reading _____ Read by _____

Gospel Reading _____

Prayer of the Faithful Read by _____

Gift Bearers _____

Worship Aid

The Worship Aid will be provided by the Catholic Center with no charge for printing. All information needed for the Worship Aid must be emailed to the Director of Music and Liturgy no later than **two weeks** prior to the wedding date.

Names of all Bridesmaids: _____

Names of all Groomsmen: _____

Names of family and friends who are no longer with us to be recognized and remembered:
(optional) _____

Thank you note to family and friends (*optional*)

Reception information and directions if needed:

CONTACT INFO: Dan Marcacci, Director of Music and Liturgy
email: music@ccatuga.org phone: 678-468-4100

Congratulations on your engagement. We are delighted you have chosen to have your wedding here at The Catholic Center. We will work with you on planning out your music for this sacred event.

All music must be approved by the Director of Liturgy and Music. It is preferred that Catholic Center organists/pianists be the primary musicians in the wedding ceremony. Other musicians must be approved at least 30 days prior to the event and a bench fee of \$200 will be assessed.

The musicians typically do not attend the rehearsal. If you would like the primary musician to be present at the rehearsal or there is a need for additional rehearsals with out of town guest cantors or soloists, additional fees will be required for each session.

When selecting your music, please be aware that all music in your ceremony should be sacred (religious) in nature. Please save your favorite "love songs" for the reception where it is more suitable.

Please listen to the enclosed musical selections to help you plan your wedding music. They are all available on youtube, itunes, or other music sites.

Please contact the Director of Liturgy and Music as soon as you have a date for your wedding for appropriate scheduling of the organist/pianist and other musicians. Please make an appointment no later than four weeks prior to your event to plan the music and discuss options. If the Director of Music and Liturgy is unavailable, for the wedding date, qualified substitutes will be provided.

Payment for all musicians is due two weeks prior to the wedding and is to be paid to the Director of Liturgy and Music. Cash or individual checks should be made out to each musician and AV Personnel.

Organist/Pianist Fee:	\$350	Streaming Fee / AV:	\$100
Rehearsal Fee (Optional):	\$150/event		
Other Musicians:			
Cantor (Vocalist)	\$250		
Violinist:	\$250		
String Quartet:	\$1000-\$250		
Trumpet:	\$250-\$350		
French Horn:	\$250-\$350		
Harp:	\$350-\$600		
Cello:	\$350-\$600		

We have uploaded many music selections to YouTube to make your reviewing much easier:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T1KT06TjwJA&list=PL1RhX7iSqcAxJ2eVRSSdLb--I-PC2ZMC4>

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS:

PRELUDE MUSIC (STARTS 15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE BRIDE'S ENTRANCE)

Instrumental or vocal tunes or string quartet or piano or other instruments

Classical music and/or contemporary Christian Music

Panis Angelicus - Cesar Frank
Pie Jesu - A.L. Webber
Largo (from Xerxes) - Handel
Ave Verum - Mozart
Air (Water Music Suite) - Handel
Coronation - Boyce
The Bridal Prayer - Copeland
I Can Only Imagine
As It Is In Heaven - Maher
In This Very Room - Harris
The Lord's Prayer - Mallote
Breathe - Barnett
Center - Charlie Hall
Draw Me Close - Carpenter
Enough - Tomlin
The Gift of Love -- Hal Hopson

The Wedding Song (There Is Love)
How Beautiful - Twila Paris
The Prayer - Sager/Foster
Find Us Ready - Booth
God of Wonders - Byrd
Here I Am to Worship - Hughes
How He Loves - McMillan
I Love You, Lord - Maher
I Will Never Be- Hillsong
Jesus, My Everything - Maher
Mighty to Save - Hillsone
Reason To Live - Bolduc
Refiner's Fire - Doerksen
Sacred Silence - Booth
Take My Life - Tomlin
Word of God Speak - Millard

SEATING OF THE MOTHERS/GRANDMOTHERS/ OTHERS AND BRIDESMAIDS' PROCESSIONAL

Instrumental or Vocal (Some of the contemporary songs work from above)

Air on G - J.S. Bach
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - J.S. Bach
Canon in D - Pachelbel
Ave Maria - Gounod
Ave Maria - Schubert Rondeau - Moure

BRIDE'S PROCESSIONAL

It is possible to bring in the whole bridal party and bride with one musical selection, or use a separate selection or Hymn for the Bride.

Ave Maria Gounod or Schubert
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - J.S. Bach
Canon in D - Pachelbel
Ode to Joy - Beethoven
Wagner: Bridal Chorus from Lohengrin (Here Comes the Bride)
Prince of Denmark's March - Jeremiah Clarke
Trumpet Tune - Purcell Rondeau - Mouret

Congregational Hymn Possibilities for Bridal Entrance or Recessional:

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
All Creatures of Our God and King
Christ is Made the Sure Foundation
Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
For the Beauty of the Earth
Gather Us In

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Lord of All Hopefulness
Morning Has Broken
O God, Beyond All Praising
10,000 Reasons
Mighty To Save (HillSong)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

This is a 'call & response' song, rather than a solo.

Psalm 128 - Blest Are Those Who Love You
Psalm 95 - If Today - Bolduc
Psalm 66 - Let All the Earth - Haugen
Psalm 33 - The Earth is Full of the Goodness of the Lord
Psalm 126 - God Has Done Great Things
Psalm 128 - Blest Are Those Who Love You
Psalm 145 - I Will Praise Your Name Forever - Muglia
Psalm 34 - Taste & See - Angrisano
Psalm 34 - Taste & See the Goodness of the Lord – Moore
Psalm 118– This is the Day the Lord Has Made - Haugen

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (OR 'ALLELUIA')

Recommended: “The Celtic Alleluia” is familiar to many Catholics and encourages participation (During Lent, other options are available.)

TRIBUTE TO MARY and/or UNITY CANDLE: (OPTIONAL)

A Marian song or short instrumental works best here. The movement of the bride and groom to the Statue of Mary is nicely accompanied by a sung or instrumental tune.

Ave Maria - Gounod
Ave Maria - Schubert
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

PREPARATION OF GIFTS (OFFERTORY) {Mass Only}

This is a spot for a relatively short instrumental or vocal song to accommodate the processional of the gifts to the altar. A shortened version of many of the aforementioned selections would work too.

Pie Jesu - A.L. Webber
Ave Verum - Mozart
Gift of Love
Gift of Finest Wheat

EUCCHARISTIC ACCLAMATIONS (HOLY, MEM. ACCL., GREAT AMEN, LAMB OF GOD) {Mass Only}

The **Mass of Creation** by Marty Haugen is very familiar to most all Catholics in the U.S.
The **Mass of St. Anne** (Bolduc) is known by the Catholic Center Congregation.
The **Mass of Communion** (Maher) is known by many college students.

COMMUNION {Mass Only}

Music is needed here: either a liturgical/congregational song or a solo (contemporary or traditional).

Here I Am, Lord - Schutte
Ave Maria Gounod or Schubert
Behold the Lamb of God - Maher
Gift of Finest Wheat
Hail Mary, Gentle Woman
Here I Am Lord - Schutte
I Am the Bread of Life - Talbot
I Am the Bread of Life - Toolan
Look Beyond - Ducote
Lord, I Come - Funk
Lord, I Need You - Maher
Many and One - Angrisano
Prayer of St. Francis/ Make Me A Channel of Your
Peace

Panis Angelicus (solo) - Frank
One Bread, One Body - Foley
Pie Jesu - A.L. Webber
Miracle of Grace - Stephan
My Soul Is Thirsting - Angrisano
Sanctuary
Table of Plenty
Taste and See - Angrisano
Ubi Caritas
We Are One Body
We Come to You - Blakesley

RECESSIONAL (AN INSTRUMENTAL PIECE HERE IS USUALLY BEST)

Traditional Wedding March - Mendelssohn
Ode to Joy - Beethoven
Forever - Tomlin
He Is Exalted - Paris
Hornpipe from Water Music - Handel
Holy, Holy Hoy, Lord God Almighty
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Let Everything That Has Breath - Redman
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Now Thank We All Our God
Psalm 19 - Marcello
Rondeau - Mouret
Rejouissance - Handel
All the People Said Amen - Maher

**Any of the processional pieces mentioned for the Bridal procession may work.