

MUSIC for the SACRAMENT of MARRIAGE

St. John Chrysostom Parish, Newmarket, Ontario

♪ THE ROLE OF MUSIC

Liturgy by its very nature is a festive event and a communal celebration. Liturgy must involve the full, active and conscious participation of all who are present. Therefore, wedding liturgies are to be celebrated with music and with song.

♪ SELECTION OF MUSIC

Music for the wedding liturgy is to be selected from the *Catholic Book of Worship III* or from another commonly accepted hymnal. Popular songs, whether of a vaguely religious nature or not, are not permitted either before or during the celebration. Our director of music will help you in the selection of appropriate sung music and appropriate instrumental music.

♪ PARTICIPATION

Full, conscious, and active participation in liturgical song is greatly encouraged. Participation is best achieved when the music used for the wedding liturgy is chosen from our parish hymnal and when the assembly is encouraged to sing. The services of a cantor will assist and support the sung prayer of the assembly. Your wedding liturgy must have some opportunity for communal singing, specifically: a **Gathering Hymn** of praise after the entrance procession, the **Responsorial Psalm** and the **Gospel Acclamation**. In addition, the Eucharistic Acclamations are sung at weddings that are celebrated within a Mass; these are the **Holy Holy**, **Memorial Acclamation** and the **Great Amen**. A hymn is also sung during the **distribution of communion**.

April 25, 2007: Effective immediately, the parish music policy for weddings concerning musicians has changed. This is in response to abuses and other recent problems.

♪ PARISH MUSICIANS

David Jafelice is the director of music and organist at St. John Chrysostom Parish. Without exception, David provides the music for all wedding liturgies in our church. In addition, you must choose your cantor from St. John's parish; they are well-trained, experienced, and familiar with parish guidelines. David can put you in touch with our cantors. The organist and the cantor provide the core music for your wedding. You may also consider St. John's Choir which is available to sing at your wedding (the choir can add a certain beauty and solemnity to your celebration but they do not take the place of, or sing for, your invited guests).

♪ NON-PARISH INSTRUMENTALISTS

Once the parish organist and cantor are hired, you may, if you choose, hire additional instrumentalists such as strings or brass. Their repertoire must conform to the church guidelines (pages 2 & 3 of the Music Suggestions document. The parish organist may assist, and will approve the selections. If a rehearsal is needed with the organist, an additional fee is required.

♪ NON-PARISH SINGER

Sometimes couples have a friend or family member they wish to sing at their wedding. This is not the norm, nor is it encouraged since the wedding is sacred liturgy and the church does not encourage solo singing at any liturgy. However, once the parish organist and cantor are hired, you may, if you choose, have a singer sing before the liturgy or following the liturgy, during the signing of the civil documents. The song must conform to the church guidelines (pages 2 & 3 of the Music Suggestions document. Our organist will assist in the selection. If a rehearsal is needed with the organist, an additional fee is required.

♪ FEES FOR MUSICIANS

Fees for music at your wedding are separate from your donation to the priest and to the church. They are to be paid at your wedding rehearsal. However, no one will be deprived of good liturgical music at their wedding for lack of funds. Those couples in financial difficulty who are planning a simple celebration should talk to their priest.

♪ EVENING OF WEDDING MUSIC

Periodically, our director of music presents an evening of wedding music. The evening is offered to help you plan your wedding celebration and choose your music wisely. Music for the assembly and instrumental music will be presented by David, St. John's cantors and other parish musicians. The presentation will include a discussion of the wedding liturgy and ways of helping your family and friends participate in the celebration. Engaged couples are encouraged to attend one of these sessions before deciding their music selections. Please inquire when the next session is scheduled.

updated: April 25, 2007