

# Duties of the Engaged Couple

**“Have you never read how He who created them, when they first came to be, created them male and female; and how he said, ‘A man, therefore, will leave his father and mother and will cling to his wife, and the two will become one flesh?’” (Mt. 19:4-6) Marriage, then, is not a human invention but a divine institution.**

**Many couples think that marriage is solely in their hands for the purpose of satisfying either their physical sexual needs or emotional needs of being loved and of loving. A man and a woman share in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony for no other purpose than one’s immortal soul encountering God.**

**Consider the seriousness of the path you are about to embark upon. If you believe that your sacramental union to your fiancé is a true calling from God Himself, then take seriously the guidelines presented here for the proper and holy preparation of not only your wedding day but also for the rest of your marriage and the life of the Church.**

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# Process

1. In order to schedule a wedding at St. Mary Magdalen Church, the couple first meets with Peggy Ashley, a member of the St. Mary Magdalen staff to receive the wedding guidelines. These guidelines include information on church and civil requirements, music information, and an acknowledgement that the couple will abide by these guidelines.
2. Schedule an appointment with the priest or deacon who will witness the wedding vows to begin the process (at the time the wedding is booked but at least 6 months before the wedding).
3. At the initial meeting with the priest or deacon the following will take place:
  - **The Pre-Nuptial Inquiry** which begins the process of obtaining statistical information from the couple and confirms the wedding and rehearsal dates is completed.
  - **PREPARE/ENRICH assessment** which is a tool used to assess areas in which the couple might need to focus in preparation for the Sacrament of Matrimony and life together as husband and wife and as parents is taken. The fee for this assessment is \$40.
4. **Schedule a marriage preparation program** which is required by the Diocese of Lafayette. More information about the choices is given during this initial meeting.
5. Take the Natural Family Planning classes. These classes meet once a month over a 3 month period. A schedule of classes is given to the couple at the initial meeting. There is a fee for participation in this program.
6. Attend one of the approved marriage preparation programs offered by the Diocese of Lafayette or St. Mary Magdalen Parish.
7. Have the final meeting with the priest or deacon to choose readings for the liturgy and make final preparations for the wedding day.

## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

These requirements apply whether a St. Mary Magdalen priest or visiting priest or deacon is the celebrant.

### Pre-Nuptial Inquiry

- Paperwork which provides statistical information about the couple.
- Process which allows priest/deacon to investigate couple's readiness to marry.

### Marriage Preparation Programs

- **In Home Marriage Preparation** is presented by a married couple to one engaged couple which allows the married couple to mentor an engaged couple to successfully begin marriage on a solid foundation. There are six meetings in the home of the training couple.
- **Catholic Engaged Encounter** is a weekend experience designed to prepare each couple for their years of married life together. The cost is \$150.00 for both parties and includes lodging and meals for the weekend. A deposit of \$75 is required with registration form sent in by the parish staff. Registration is required at least one month prior to the weekend chosen by the couple.

- **Foundations** course is a two day marriage preparation experience which is presented by trained married couples and a priest or deacon. The mandatory life skills portion is one full day and the Optional Theological Portion is presented on another full day. The cost for both parts is \$150.00; if only the mandatory portion is taken the cost is \$100.00 and fees are non-refundable. Payment of the fee is required with registration form sent in by the parish staff. Registration should be received as soon as possible as classes fill up quickly.
- **Second Union Option** is presented on certain Mandatory Life Skills dates. It is specifically designed to give couples entering a second marriage the opportunity to address their needs which are unique, because one or both were previously married, and that former relationship ended with death or divorce.
- **On-Line Marriage Preparation** is a program that is only approved for those couples who have a serious reason why they cannot attend one of the face-to-face programs.

### **Natural Family Planning Class Series**

- These classes are designed to completely familiarize the engaged couple with the principles and practices of Natural Family Planning.
- This three part class series extends over three months and is taught by certified Natural Family Planning teachers.
- Couples are encouraged to begin this class as early as possible in the marriage preparation.
- A fee is charged for participation in this program.

### **Couples of Different Religious Backgrounds**

- The priest assisting a couple preparing for marriage has the faculty to grant permission for a Catholic who is preparing for marriage to a baptized non-Catholic (Protestant). However, dispensation is required for marriages to non-baptized individuals. The priest or deacon assisting couples in preparation will obtain this dispensation for the couple through the Diocese of Lafayette.
- The non-Catholic party is to be informed at an appropriate time about the promises which the Catholic party is to make, which includes that the Catholic party promises to live the Faith and to encourage baptism and education of the children according to the Roman Catholic traditions.
- Marriages involving only one Catholic party are celebrated outside of Mass which includes Service of the Word with the Exchange of Consent.

### **Couples Living Together Before Sacramental Marriage**

- St. Mary Magdalen Parish does not offer the option of a wedding Mass to the engaged couple if they are living together.
- Cohabiting couples are offered the Rite of Marriage Outside of Mass, which consists of the celebration of the Word of God and the Exchange of Vows.

### **Ceremony**

- Must take place in church.
- May take place on Friday evenings at 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. or on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or on Saturday evenings at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m.
- For Saturday afternoon weddings, all activity must cease by 2:25 p.m. to allow for preparation for regularly scheduled Saturday Confessions.
- Weddings scheduled on Saturday evenings do not have the option of having the ceremony with a Mass. No decorations for the ceremony may be brought into church before 5:30 p.m. on the day of the wedding. However, it may be possible to bring flowers for the sanctuary before 2:30 p.m.

- No weddings may take place on Sundays or during the Easter Triduum.
- Weddings are discouraged during Lent due to the penitential nature of the season and during Advent due to the preparatory nature of the season. If a wedding is celebrated during Advent or Lent, simplicity in the ceremony and decorations should be observed.
- Couple will choose Scripture readings from the approved list in consultation with the officiant. If a wedding is celebrated on certain solemnities, the readings of the day must be used.
- Sacred music will be chosen in conjunction with the parish music director.
- Any couple may choose for the Rite of Marriage to be celebrated by either a priest or deacon.
- Since it is not part of the Roman Rite of Marriage, St. Mary Magdalen does not permit the use of the Unity Candle.
- The bride and groom and members of the wedding party must refrain from the consumption of alcohol or drugs prior to the wedding ceremony.
- St. Mary Magdalen Parish reserves the right to prohibit participation of anyone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Drug or alcohol consumption by the bride or groom creates a serious question of their ability to give full consent to the wedding vows under such influence.
- If the bride or groom or members of the wedding party arrive under the influence of drugs or alcohol the wedding will be postponed to another date.

### **Visiting Priests or Deacons**

Marriages may be celebrated by visiting priests or deacons if the following requirements are met by the visiting cleric:

- Receives delegation from the Pastor of St. Mary Magdalen as soon as possible.
- Abides by parish policies found in this booklet.
- Secures and fills out all the necessary paperwork for wedding preparation.
- Provides proper pre-marriage instruction for the couple.
- Ensures that the necessary paperwork is delivered to the parish office at least two weeks prior to the date of the wedding.
- Is invited to conduct the wedding rehearsal in conjunction with the St. Mary Magdalen wedding coordinator.
- If the priest or deacon is not assigned to ministry within this Diocese, he must present to the pastor right after the wedding is scheduled, the Testimonial of Suitability for Priestly Ministry form utilized by that Diocese.
- If the priest or deacon is not from the State of Louisiana, must contact the Clerk of Court's office to register for the marriage in this state.

### **Documents Required:**

#### Updated Baptism Certificates

- Updated Baptismal certificates for bride & groom that are obtained from the church of baptism with notations of other sacraments with the church seal are required for the initial meeting.

#### Letter of Permission

- If neither the bride nor groom are registered parishioners or live within the geographic boundaries of St. Mary Magdalen Parish, then a letter of permission from the proper pastor of the bride and groom is needed before the process of marriage preparation at St. Mary Magdalen can begin.

#### Marriage License

- Bring to the parish office after obtaining from the Clerk of Court. The license must be in the parish office at least one week before the wedding.

### The Wedding Liturgy Worksheet

- Complete the extra copy of the Wedding Liturgy Worksheet and bring Peggy Ashley at the parish office at least two weeks before the wedding with the wedding coordinator fee..

### Witnesses Required

Two witnesses who are at least 18 years of age (best man and maid of honor) are required.

### Fees and Donations

For Non-Parishioners	
Church use	\$600
For non-residential individuals who were originally from Abbeville or Alumni of VC	
Church use	\$200
For all weddings	
Wedding Coordinator	\$ 75

Recommended donation to clergy witnessing the marriage	\$50-\$100
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## CIVIL REQUIREMENTS

The State of Louisiana requires that a marriage license be obtained from the Clerk of Court's office at the parish courthouse. The fee for the license is set by the Clerk's office.

### Age

- In the State of Louisiana marriage is a civil contract. To be able to enter into a contract an individual must have reached the age of majority, which is 18 years of age.
- If either party to the marriage is 16 or 17 years of age, parental consent is required in order to obtain a license.
- If either party is under the age of 16, a court order is required to obtain a license.

### Documents Needed

- Certified copy of birth certificate for each party or a waiver signed by a judge (district or city) or justice of the peace and Social Security numbers for each party are needed.
- It is not required that both parties apply for the license; however, identification for whoever comes in to apply for the marriage license is required.
- If either party was previously married, proof of how the marriage ended, i.e., divorce judgment or death certificate is required.

### Waiting Period

- A 72 hour waiting period between the issuance of the license and the actual celebration of the ceremony must be observed.
- If the license is issued in less time than the 72 hour waiting period, then a waiver must be obtained by the couple.
- The marriage license is void after 30 days from the date of issuance and no authorized person shall perform a marriage between parties whose license has expired.

- It is recommended that you apply for and receive your license two weeks before the actual date of your wedding.

## **Witnesses/Signatures**

- Two witnesses who must be at least 18 years of age are required.
- The license is signed by the bride and groom and witnesses at the rehearsal.
- License is signed by the officiant (priest or deacon) on the day of the wedding.
- The original license is sent to the Clerk of Court by the parish office to be recorded.

## **ST. MARY MAGDALEN PARISH REQUIREMENTS**

The following information regarding the wedding ceremony and the celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage is intended to be helpful in planning your special day.

### **Sacrament of Penance**

- All Catholics are urged to make a good confession as close to the wedding day as possible as preparation for marriage.
- Regular confession schedules are published in the bulletin and are on the parish website or individual confessions may be heard by appointment with the resident priests.

### **Liturgy of the Word**

- The couple chooses scripture readings from the approved list in consultation with the officiant. If the wedding takes place on certain solemnities, the readings of the day must be used.
- The couple chooses lectors to read sacred Scripture. Lectors are encouraged to be individuals who are lectors in a Catholic Church parish and trained in the proclamation of the Word of God. Liturgical guidelines require that only Catholic may be permitted to proclaim the Word of God when celebrating rites of the church.
- Lectors should be dressed appropriately for the occasion; men in suit/tie and women modestly dressed.
- Gospel is always read by the deacon or priest.
- **First Reading Choices from the Old Testament**

- 1 Genesis 1:26-28,31a .....Creation of Man & Woman
- 2 Genesis 2:18-24 .....Two in One Flesh
- 3 Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 .....A Really Good Wife
- 4 Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67 .....Isaac Loved Rebekkah
- 5 Tobit 7:6-14 .....God Joins You Together
- 6 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a .....Make a New Covenant
- 7 Tobit 8:4b-8 .....God Bring us to Old Age Together
- 8 Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a, 8:6-7a...Love is as Strong as Death
9. Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 .....Worthy Wife

- **Responsorial Psalm; music is available for some selections.**

Psalm 33:12, 18, 20-21, 22

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Psalm 103: 1-2, 8, 13, 17-18a

Psalm 112: 1bc-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7b-8, 9

Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5

Psalm 145:8-9, 10, 15, 17-18

Psalm 148: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13a, 13c-14a

• **Second Reading - Choices from New Testament**

- 1 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 .....Who Will Separate us from Christ's Love
- 2 Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 OR 12:1-2, 9-13.....Offer Your Bodies to God
- 3 I Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 .....Body is a Temple of the Spirit
- 4 I Corinthians 12:31-13:8a .....Love is Patient
- 5 Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 OR 5:2, 25-32 ....Mystery of Marriage
- 6 Colossians 3:12-17 .....Live in Love and Thanksgiving
- 7 I Peter 3:1-9 .....Be of One Mind, Compassionate
- 8 I John 3:18-24 .....Love in Deed and Truth
- 9 I John 4:7-12 .....God is Love and Lives in Us
- 10 Revelation 19:1, 5-9 ..... A Wedding Feast
- 11 Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13..... Welcome One Another
- 12 Philippians 4:4-9.....God of Peace Be With You
- 13 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6a .....Marriage Held in Honor by All

• **Gospel**

- 1 Matthew 5:1-12a .....The Beatitudes
- 2 Matthew 5: 13-16 .....You are the Light of the World
- 3 Matthew 7:21, 24-29 OR 21:24-25 ...The House Built on a Rock
- 4 Matthew 19:3-6 .....What God United, Man Not Divide
- 5 Matthew 22:35-40 .....Love, the Greatest Commandment
- 6 Mark 10:6-9 .....Two Become One Body
- 7 John 2:1-11 .....Wedding at Cana
- 8 John 15:9-12 .....Keep My Commandments
- 9 John 15:12-16 .....Love One Another as I Loved You
- 10 John 17:20-26 OR 17:20-23 ... .....May be Completely One

## **Wedding Coordinator**

- St. Mary Magdalen has designated wedding coordinators for the parish who assist couples at the rehearsal and on the wedding day.
- The responsibilities of any outside professional wedding consultant cease at the door of church and are picked up again at the reception.
- She handles the rehearsal (or assists if the priest or deacon attends rehearsal).
- She sets up for the wedding.
- She assists with the procession at the beginning of the ceremony in collaboration with the musicians. It is recommended that friends or relatives not help with the procession except the adult assigned to assist with the children who are in the procession.
- She locks the church after the rehearsal and wedding ceremony.

Fee: \$75

- The fee is \$75 and should be sent to the parish office. The parish staff will let the couple know to whom the check should be made payable. It is due two weeks prior to the wedding date.

## **Wedding Rehearsal**

- Usually takes place within the week of the wedding.

- Rehearsals begin at 6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. and all participants are encouraged to be on time and ready to begin.
- Members of the wedding party should act with dignity and dress appropriately.
- The rehearsal will last approximately 45 minutes and does not include music practice.
- Members of the wedding party, including those reading at the ceremony should attend.

## **Flowers and Other Decor**

Flowers form an important part of Church décor and celebration. They also draw attention to the liturgical season.

- For a wedding scheduled on Saturday evening, no pew or other décor may be brought into church before 5:30 p.m. However, if there are no other events, flowers for the sanctuary may be brought in before 2:30 p.m. No florist may work in the church between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m. on a Saturday due to confessions and Mass.
- Furniture may not be removed or rearranged at any time by those decorating for the wedding.
- Florists ordinarily handle flowers for the sanctuary, bouquets, boutonniere and corsages, and any extra candelabrae.
- Unity candles are not allowed.
- Fresh flower arrangements may be placed on pedestals in the sanctuary. If the flower arrangements will be left in church after the wedding, please notify Peggy Ashley at the parish office before the wedding. During the seasons of Lent and Advent, any flowers or greenery must be removed following the ceremony.
- If the flowers are removed after the ceremony, the couple is responsible for the removal of flower arrangements and for the cleanup.
- Flowers may be brought by the bride and groom to the Blessed Mother Altar at the end of the ceremony.
- If pew decorations are used, they are to be attached to the pew with rubber bands, ribbons, pipe cleaners, or elastic. (no tape, wire, plastic hooks, or tacks.)
- Aisle runners are not allowed.
- Use of rice, flowers petals or bubbles inside or outside the church are not allowed.
- Because of the special nature of the Christmas season (from the week of Christmas until the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in early January) and the Easter season (from Easter until Pentecost), St. Mary Magdalen Parish is solely responsible for decorating the church and no other decorators can add decorations at that time without specific consultation with a member of the St. Mary Magdalen Parish staff. Small additions to the already existing Christmas and Easter decorations, such as pew bows and candelabra in the center aisle may be permitted but permission must be obtained.
- If candelabrae are used, chase candle tubes or globes must be used; open, uncovered candles are not allowed.
- Any request for the use of candelabra in the center aisle must be approved through the parish office.

## **Photography/Videography**

- The photographer/videographer is the recorder of the wedding, not part of the ceremony.
- Movement by the photographer/videographer should not distract from the ceremony.
- The photographer/videographer should not walk into the middle of the sanctuary or stand in the area behind the altar.
- The photographer/videographer should dress in a way appropriate to the occasion with reverence befitting the house of God.
- No extra lights are to be brought into the church.

- If extension cords are needed, the photographer and/or videographer are expected to provide them.
- All camera equipment, film packing, etc. are to be removed as soon as the ceremony is over.
- If there are any questions or confusions about this policy, the photographer/videographer should schedule a meeting with the parish staff.
- Should pictures be desired as a group before or after the ceremony, we ask out of respect for the Blessed Sacrament that **NO** pictures be taken in front of the Blessed Sacrament Altar (High Altar).
- During the reciting of vows and exchange of rings, we ask that no more than four or five pictures be taken in the sanctuary area.
- If pictures are to be taken before or after the ceremony, other scheduled liturgical events must be considered and cannot be interfered with.
- For a Saturday evening wedding, the arrival of the bridal party and the delivery of decorations may not be scheduled until 5:30 p.m. or later.
- The couple should make arrangements with the parish office if pictures will be taken before the ceremony.
- Any pictures taken after a Saturday afternoon wedding must be completed by 2:25 p.m.
- Any photographs taken in church must reflect a respect for the worship space and the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please note that funerals often need to be scheduled on the same day as weddings and advance notice is not possible.
- Furniture may not be removed or rearranged by the photographer/videographer.

### Commemorative Wedding Certificate

A commemorative wedding certificate with a small print of a watercolor painting of St. Mary Magdalen Church is available for a fee of \$25.00.

### Music for Your Wedding

**Below is a basic summary of the steps involved in planning music for your wedding.**

1. Read through the information provided.
2. Contact the parish organist, Tommy Guidry, **before making any plans** at all involving music or musicians. **You should *confirm* Mr. Guidry at least five months before your wedding.** *Confirming* means contacting him regarding availability and securing the date with payment in full or a \$75 down payment. Should you choose to send \$75, the balance will be due 90 days before the wedding.
3. If you wish to have guest musicians (vocalists, trumpeters, timpanists, violinists, etc.), Mr. Guidry will assist you in the booking process.
4. Select your instrumental music using this planner and the St. Mary Magdalen wedding C.D.
5. If you have a vocalist, consult with that person to select songs from the pre-approved list provided.

6. Complete the **Your Music Selections** sheet and mail it (601 Carriage Light Loop; Youngsville, LA 70592) or e-mail it to Mr. Guidry for final approval. Mr. Guidry will forward your selections to your guest musicians.

### **The Parish Music Director**

- Mr. Tommy Guidry is the Director of Music and parish organist.
- Mr. Guidry is at your service to guide you throughout the entire process of planning beautiful and prayerful music for your wedding.
- He is responsible for ensuring the sacredness and integrity of all music utilized at all wedding liturgies.
- Mr. Guidry may be contacted at (337) 277-3775 or e-mail [ORGELMEISTER67@aol.com](mailto:ORGELMEISTER67@aol.com). Please include your name, telephone number and wedding date with all correspondences including voice mail.

### **Outside Musicians**

- Mr. Guidry will assist you in finding quality instrumentalists and vocalists for your ceremony.
- Please do not engage any other musicians to play or sing at your wedding before consulting with the music director.
- Mr. Guidry will book all musicians on your behalf.

### **Services Provided by the Music Director for your Wedding**

- Help you select the music. A wedding music CD is available to assist with music selections.
- Engage other musicians (vocalists, trumpeters, etc.) for you.
- Contact all musicians in writing to inform them of your selections.
- Reconfirm the booking with all musicians.
- Coordinate with the wedding consultant and officiate to ensure a smooth flow at the ceremony.
- Play the organ at your wedding.

### **Music Selections**

A wedding is a worship service – worship and praise of God who calls two people together in the sacramental union of marriage.

- The music must be chosen with great care. The words, images, and music should enable those present to join with the bride and groom in praising God and asking His blessing on the union.
- Vocal music at weddings must be based on sacred texts.
- Just as secular music is inappropriate for a Sunday Mass, it is not permitted at weddings.
- There is a wealth of fine sacred music available, and our parish organist will be happy to help you in making those selections.
- The church trusts the music director's judgment and authorizes him to decide as to what music is and is not appropriate for wedding liturgies.

### **Fee**

Mr. Guidry's base fee of \$175.00 is mandatory and must be paid if there is music at the ceremony. Additional fees will apply to organize a more elaborate musical ensemble for your wedding or if you select non-traditional pieces that would require an inordinate amount of preparation.

The organist's fee will vary depending on the complexity of the ensemble desired. Basically, the more guest musicians present, the more work is entailed. The following fees apply to the organist only. All other guest musicians set their own fees.

Organist's Fees:

Organ only or organ and one guest musician -- \$175

Organ and two to three guest musicians -- \$200

Organ and four to five guest musicians -- \$225

Organ and six to seven guest musicians -- \$250

Organ and eight to nine guest musicians -- \$275

Organ and ten or more guest musicians -- \$300

Please make your check payable to Tommy Guidry and send it to the following address:

Mr. Tommy Guidry

601 Carriage Light Loop

Youngsville, LA 70592

**The organist's deposit of \$75 (or payment in full) is due 5 months prior the wedding. The balance is due 90 days before the wedding.**

**Please remember to indicate the date and time of the wedding in the *memo* blank of each check.**

*Organist's Refund Policy for Wedding Cancellation*

120 or more days prior to scheduled wedding date = 100% refund

90 - 119 days prior to scheduled wedding date = 50% refund

0 - 89 days prior to scheduled wedding date = no refund\*

\*Exceptions are made if there are extenuating circumstances beyond the control of the couple.

**Concerning the wedding C.D....**

There is wide variety of different instrumentations on the C.D., from solo trumpet with organ to full orchestra. Just focus on the music and melodies you hear, not the particular instruments. Choose the pieces of music that you like the most, and Mr. Guidry will let you know what will or will not work with the particular instruments you have chosen for your wedding.

# Approved Vocal Selections for Weddings St. Mary Magdalen Parish

\*P = Prelude

\*GM = Grandmothers'/Mother's procession

\*RS = Responsorial Psalm

\*O = Offertory

\*C = Communion

\*F = Presentation of Flowers

\*Where there is more than one option for placement, the first is the most appropriate.

## Responsorial Psalms

Title Comment	Composer	Placement
Psalm 127/128 Perfect if two singers or violin	Chepponis	RS
Psalm 33: The Earth is full of Beauty	Cotter	RS
Psalm 33: Blessed Are We	Cotter	RS
Psalm 34: The Goodness of God	Haas	RS
Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful	Cotter	RS
Psalm 112: God's Command	Haas	RS
Psalm 128: Happy are They Who honor the Lord	Haas	RS
Psalm 145: Our God Is Compassion	Cotter	RS
Psalm 148: Let All Praise the Name of the Lord	Cotter	RS

## High Quality Songs

Title Comment	Composer	Placement	
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Bach	GM, C, P	<i>Classic</i>
Bist Du Bei Mir	Bach	O, C, P	<i>Classic</i>
Panis, Angelicus	Franck	C	<i>Classic</i>
Gift of Love	Hopson	O, C, P	<i>Appalachian melody, easy</i>
Ave Maria	Schubert	F, GM, C, P	<i>Classic</i>
Ave Maria	Bach/Gounod	F, GM, C, P	<i>Classic</i>
Celtic Alleluia	Walker	GA	<i>Very Joyful, well-known</i>
Lord's Prayer	Malotte	C, P	<i>Classic, medium difficulty</i>
Blessing the Marriage**	Vaughan Williams	O, C	<i>Joyful tune, easy</i>
Wherever You Go	Haas	GM, C, O, P	<i>Famous text, contemporary tune</i>
Blessed are all They That	Handel	P, C	

Fear the Lord			
	<i>Trained vocalist required</i>		
Let the Bright Seraphim <i>required</i>	Handel	P, C	<i>Joyful, trained soprano and trumpeter</i>
Laudate Dominum <i>required</i>	Mozart	C	<i>Lyrical, trained soprano or tenor</i>
Lord May Their Lives	Carroll	O	
Lord Bless the Souls who Pledge Their Love	Butler	C, P	
	<i>Lovely, easy</i>		
Alleluia	Mozart	P	<i>Joyful, trained soprano required</i>

### Lower musical quality, but acceptable

Title	Composer	Placement	
The Greatest Gift is Love	Hayes	C, P	
When Love is Found**	Wren	O, C, P	
Love is the Sunlight**	Jacobson	O, C, P	
God, in the Planning**	Bell	O, P, C	
We Will Serve the Lord**	Haas	O, P, C	
A Nuptial Blessing**	Joncas	O, P, C	
Wherever You Go**	Norbert	O, P, GM, C	Old standard
God is Love**	Haas	O, C, P	
Love One Another**	Chepponis	C, P	
Not for Tongues... **	Smith	P, C	
Where there is Love	Haas	P, C	

\*\*These are found in the *Gather Comprehensive* hymnal owned by St. Mary Magdalen.

Additional quality songs for weddings may be found in the collection *When Love is Found* compiled by Jeanne Cotter and David Haas published by G.I.A.

## Vocal Selections

Included above is a list of pre-approved vocal selections for weddings. We currently do not have a recording available of all of these songs. If you have a singer for your wedding, please consult with that person and choose vocal selections **from the list provided**.

It is possible to use songs which are not listed. If you would like a song that is not listed, e-mail Mr. Guidry with the following information:

Wedding Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title of Song \_\_\_\_\_  
 Composer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Biblical Reference\* (lyrics) \_\_\_\_\_

\*This is normally found on the upper left-hand corner of the first page of music.

Once you have submitted your request, the director of music will either:

- a. Approve it
- b. Disapprove it
- c. Request a copy of the music for further examination

All vocal music must be Bible-based, sacred music. Pop music, show tunes, sacro-pop, etc. have no place in a Catholic wedding. The rule of thumb is as follows: if the song would not be appropriate for Sunday morning Mass, it is not appropriate at weddings.

We trust that the extensive list of beautiful, sacred songs will assist you and your vocalist in making selections that will create a prayerful and joyous atmosphere.

## Instrumental Selections

**You may hear excerpts from these selections on the St. Mary Magdalen wedding C.D.**

Please choose from the following selections:

### PRELUDES

Handel: Air from the Water Music  
Bach: Sheep May Safely Graze  
Bach: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring  
Bach: Air for the G String  
Bach/Gounod: Ave Maria  
Pachelbel: Canon in D  
Handel: Largo from *Xerxes*

Mascagni: Intermezzo  
Massenet: Méditation de Thaïs

Bohm: Calm as the Night  
Bach: Bist Du Bei Mir  
Handel: Where'er You Walk  
Vangelis: Hymne  
Bach: Arioso  
Beethoven: Ode to Joy  
18th Variation (*Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*)...Rachmaninoff  
Handel: Lascia ch'io pianga  
Bach: Sleepers Wake, A Voice is Calling

Any piece of music below may also be used as prelude music.

### GRANDMOTHERS'/MOTHERS' PROCESSION

Bach/Gounod: Ave Maria  
Handel: Air from the Water Music  
Bach: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring  
Bach: Bist Du Bei Mir  
Massenet: Méditation de Thaïs

Vangelis: Hymne  
Bach: Arioso  
Handel: Largo from *Xerxes*  
Handel: Lascia ch'ia pianga

### ATTENDANTS' PROCESSION

Handel: Air from the Water Music  
Bach: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring  
Vangelis: Hymne  
Handel: Largo from *Xerxes*  
Handel: Lascia ch'ia pianga

Bach: Arioso  
Bach: Air for the G String  
Pachelbel: Canon in D  
Mascagni: Intermezzo

## BRIDAL PROCESSION

Clark: Prince of Denmark's March (*Trumpet Voluntary*)

Charpentier: Te Deum

Purcell: Trumpet Tune in D Major

Mouret: Rondeau

Campra: Rigaudon

## OFFERTORY

Bach: Bist Du Bei Mir

Handel: Where'er You Walk

Mascagni: Intermezzo

Bach: Air for the G String

Bach: Arioso

Lascia ch'ia pianga...Handel

## COMMUNION

Handel: Air from the Water Music

Bach: Sheep May Safely Graze

Bach: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Bach: Air for the G String

Bach/Gounod: Ave Maria

Pachelbel: Canon in D

Handel: Lascia ch'ia pianga

Bohm: Calm as the Night

Bach: Bist Du Bei Mir

Handel: Where'er You Walk

Vangelis: Hymne

Bach: Arioso

Handel: Largo from *Xerxes*

Massenet: Méditation de Thaïs

## RECESSIONAL

Purcell: Trumpet Tune in D Major

Campra: Rigaudon

Charpentier: Te Deum

Mouret: Rondeau

Handel: Allegro Maestoso (*Hornpipe*)

Handel: La Réjoissance

Marcello: Psalm XIX

## Frequently asked questions:

1. *May I hire any musician I wish to play an instrument (other than organ) or sing for the wedding?*

Under most circumstances, yes. However, you must consult with the director of music before engaging any musicians. He will guide you as to which musicians have done good work time after time. He also is aware of musicians who tend to show up unprepared.

2. *Will there be a music rehearsal?*

If you hire musicians who are not recommended by the parish organist, it is likely that they will require a rehearsal. Mr. Guidry's rehearsal fee is \$35 for a one-hour rehearsal. This fee must be paid before the music rehearsal date. The music rehearsal is not at the same time as the wedding rehearsal. Please keep in mind that the musicians Mr. Guidry will recommend are experienced and will not require a rehearsal.

3. *Will we meet with Mr. Guidry?*

This document and the C.D. are provided to you in lieu of a meeting. Mr. Guidry is available to answer all of your questions and discuss the various options by telephone (337-277-3775) and e-mail ([ORGELMEISTER67@aol.com](mailto:ORGELMEISTER67@aol.com)).

4. *What if I want a different organist to play for my wedding?*

Mr. Guidry has a legally binding contract with St. Mary Magdalen Parish granting him the privilege of coordinating music and playing for all parish weddings. If you prefer another organist, this is possible under the following conditions: 1. Mr. Guidry must approve the organist. 2. Mr. Guidry must approve all music selections. 3. Mr. Guidry's fees must be paid to him in full.

5. *Why are there all of these policies and procedures?*

St. Mary Magdalen Parish wishes to insure the integrity of all liturgies held in the church. The sacrament of matrimony is no exception. You will find that following our procedures will lead to a joyous, prayerful, and smooth-flowing wedding ceremony.

## Ideas for musical ensembles for your wedding

Please note that all prices will vary.

### Current rates for musicians are as follows:

Organ	\$175 - \$300	Timpani	\$175
Trumpet	\$150 - \$175	String quartet	\$800
Vocalist	\$100 - \$175	Vocal quartet	\$600
Violin or flute	\$150 - \$200	Choir (octet)	\$800 - \$1200

### Below are possible combinations and approximate prices.

1. Organ only \$175  
*The organ is capable of very soft pieces during the ceremony as well as grand marches for the bride and recessional.*
2. Organ, violin or flute \$350  
*One of these instruments will add a touch of elegance.*
3. Organ, trumpet \$350  
*The trumpet adds excitement to the bride's march and recessional.*
4. Organ, vocalist \$275 - \$350  
*A vocalist will add the aspect of sung sacred music to the liturgy.*
5. Organ, trumpet, vocalist \$475 - \$550
6. Organ, trumpet, vocalist, violin or flute \$650 - \$725
7. Organ, trumpet, violin or flute \$550
8. Organ, trumpet, timpani \$550  
*The timpani add excitement and grandeur to the bride's march and recessional.*
9. Organ, trumpet, vocalist, timpani \$650 - \$725
10. Organ, 2 trumpets, vocalist, timpani \$850 - \$925  
*Two trumpets can play a very joyous and brilliant fanfare for the bride. The bride's march and recessional always cause chills with this ensemble.*
11. Organ, 2 trumpets, vocalist, violin or flute, timpani \$1025 - \$1100 (**very nice!**)  
*In the organist's opinion, this is the perfect combination -- soft and elegant during the liturgy, ceremonial and grand for the bride and recessional.*
12. Organ, string quartet \$925-\$1025  
*It will sound like there is an orchestra in the choir loft!*
13. Organ, string quartet, trumpet, vocalist, timpani \$1400 - \$1575
14. Organ, string quartet, two trumpets, vocalist, timpani \$1600 - \$1775
15. Organ, string quartet, two trumpets, vocal quartet, timpani \$2125 - \$2225  
*Choral music is possible with a vocal quartet.*
16. Organ, string quartet, two trumpets, choir (octet), timpani \$2325 - \$2725 +  
*This is the works. No one will forget this wedding!*

## **FORMS TO BE RETURNED**

**Copies of the forms on the following pages are given to the couple at the same time the handbook is given. The forms are in the handbook so that the couple can retain a copy of what information is provided to us.**

Contact Information for the Music Director (page 32) returned as soon as possible if the form is not filled out during the initial appointment. Please use the form in this book as your copy. If phone numbers or e-mail addresses change, please notify us.

Your Music Selections (page 33) full page sheet should be sent in by mail or e-mail to Tommy Guidry once you have decided on music selections but no later than 30 days before the wedding. Please use the form in the book as your copy.

Baptism Certificates for Bride & Groom Baptism certificates with notations obtained from the church of baptism must be provided at the initial meeting with the celebrant.

The Wedding Liturgy Worksheet (page 36) should be returned to the parish office two weeks before the wedding. It is used by the wedding coordinator for the rehearsal. The form in the book is your copy.

The Wedding License Obtained from the Clerk of Court and brought to the parish office at least one week before the wedding.

### **PAYMENT DUE DATES:**

Church use fee (non-parishioners)	arrangements made when wedding date is booked
Organist's fee	down-payment 5 months before wedding Balance due 90 days before
Wedding Coordinator Fee	2 weeks before wedding

# Contact Information for the Director of Music

**To church official: Please put this in Tommy Guidry's mailbox  
after meeting with the couple**

**If phone numbers change, please notify us**

Wedding Date and time:

Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ PM/AM

Bride's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Have you received the St. Mary Magdalen *Guidelines for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony* and C.D.?  
Yes No

I understand that if there is music at the wedding, then the organist's fee is required.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# Your Music Selections

PLEASE RETURN THIS DOCUMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

- *Date and time of wedding* \_\_\_\_\_
- Contact person's name and telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Preludes:** (We normally have one vocal selection and two or three instrumental selections.)

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**Grandmothers'/Mothers' Procession** (This may be an instrumental or vocal selection.)

- What is the total number of grandmothers and mothers to be escorted in at this point? \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendants' Procession:** (This should be an instrumental selection.)

- What is the composition of the wedding party (number of bride's maids, junior maids, children)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Bride's Procession:** (This should be an instrumental selection.)

---

**Responsorial Psalm:** (If there is a vocalist, this should be sung. If not, it should be read.)

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**Gospel Acclamation:** (If there is a vocalist, this should be sung. If not, it should be omitted.)

Celtic Alleluia...Christopher Walker (Except during Lent)

- Prayers of the Faithful: Yes / No

**Offertory:** (This may be a very short instrumental or vocal selection. Omit if there will be no Communion.)

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**Communion:** (One vocal and one instrumental selection work well.)

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**Presentation of Flowers** (Optional): (This may be either instrumental or vocal.)

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**Recessional:** (This should be an instrumental selection.)

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# THE WEDDING LITURGY WORKSHEET

**Bride** \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wedding Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rehearsal Date** \_\_\_\_\_ **Time** \_\_\_\_\_

**Priest or Deacon** \_\_\_\_\_

# of Expected Guests \_\_\_\_\_

**Flowers in church**

Name of Florist \_\_\_\_\_

Where will they be placed? \_\_\_\_\_

**Miscellaneous (permission must be given)**

Candelabrae/other \_\_\_\_\_

**Mothers/Grandmothers (Bride)**

Name	Escorted By

**Mothers/Grandmothers (Groom)**

Name	Escorted By

**Attendants** are the witnesses to your wedding and form a sort of “Honor Guard” for you.

**Best Man                  Walking With                  Maid/Matron of Honor**

Name	Name

Groomsmen	Walking With	Bridesmaids
Name		Name

**Flower Girl/Ring Bearer**

It is recommended that these individuals be of an age capable of fulfilling their roles.

Name	Walking With

**Ushers** are there to make people welcome and to seat them together.

Name

**Liturgy of the Word**

- A. **First Reading**  
Chapter & Verse \_\_\_\_\_
- B. **Responsorial Psalm**  
Psalm Number \_\_\_\_\_
- C. **Second Reading (optional)**  
Chapter & Verse \_\_\_\_\_
- D. **Gospel (always read by the priest or deacon)**  
Chapter & Verse \_\_\_\_\_

**Lectors** will proclaim the readings. You will need one or two who already serve as lectors in a Catholic Church Parish.

Name	Reading

**Servers** are required. They must be regular Mass servers. The couple may choose two servers whom they know or allow the parish to appoint them.

Asked by the couple  Appointed by the parish

Name	Phone	Contacted

**Offertory Gift Bearers**

If there is a Mass, the couple may choose two people to bring the Offertory gifts to the altar.

Name	Gifts
	Wine
	Hosts

**Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Communion**

If there is a Mass, the couple may choose Eucharistic Ministers but they must be commissioned by a church parish.

Name

**Concluding Rites**

Flowers at Blessed Mother Altar  yes  no

Flowers to Mothers  yes  no

**Complete this form and return it to Peggy Ashley at the St. Mary Magdalen Parish office two weeks before the wedding along with the fee for the wedding coordinator.**