

Saint Lucy Church

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WEDDING CEREMONY GUIDELINES FOR ENGAGED COUPLES

Liturgy is a public demonstration, an open acknowledgement of God's presence among us. Those gathered at liturgy are invited to form a community of believers who celebrate together their common belief and trust in God along with praise and thanksgiving. They are people who participate in prayer and song in their celebrations. And certainly the sacrament of matrimony is a great occasion to celebrate. We want to make your celebration special so some guidelines have been established to assist you in planning your wedding liturgy. We would also like to include members of the assembly who may not be familiar with Catholic worship so that they will be comfortable at prayer with us.

Music at Your Wedding:

The guests at your wedding are participants, not spectators. Music brings people together and the music at your wedding should do just that. The following policies and procedures of this parish should help you in making choices about music:

1. St. Lucy's music ministry is well trained in the principles of effective public worship. They also have a repertory of beautiful contemporary religious music which will enhance any marriage ceremony. Secular music (non-sacred music, popular songs) are not usually appropriate during Church celebrations. If you do choose a piece of secular music, it is best performed before the liturgy begins.
2. Vocal solos, sacred or secular, serve to put the gathered assembly into a spectator mode. People will not participate if the music is a performance. It is suggested that vocal solos be positioned before the beginning of the liturgy. This does not include songs in which the cantor sings solo on the verses because the entire assembly is invited to participate by singing the refrain (examples: "You Are Near", "Like A Seal On Your Heart").
3. To facilitate participation by those gathered to celebrate with you the music ministers you select as the cantor and the organist will spend a brief period (3-5 minutes) just before the liturgy begins preparing the assembly for the music they will join in singing.
4. Attached to these guidelines is an outline of the order of the Mass with spaces provided for you to fill in the titles of the music you have chosen. Your selections should be made in conjunction with the cantor and organist. The gospel acclamation and all ordinary parts of the Mass will be sung. The occasional exception is the Our Father. In the case where most of the assembly is unfamiliar with the musical settings used at St. Lucy's, the Our Father may be recited to facilitate more active participation in prayer. A consultation time should be arranged when you contact the cantor and organist. A list of music ministers serving St. Lucy's is given below.
5. Fees for the cantor and the organist are obtained from the individuals you request. All fees charged by music ministers serving St. Lucy Church are within the current pay scale set by the Diocese of Providence. All fees for the Church and the music ministers should be taken care of during the wedding rehearsal.