

WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING

**Saint Dennis Church – 815-838-2592 – www.Saint-Dennis.org
1214 South Hamilton Street, Lockport, Illinois 60441**

Preparing the Wedding Liturgy has three phases: decorations, ritual, and music. These three phases are intended to be done sequentially so that everything will be ready for the Liturgy.

If you have a wedding coordinator, their role stops at our church door. Our Wedding Coordinators take over once you enter our church doors. However, your personal wedding coordinator(s) may be in contact with our Wedding Coordinators regarding the details of our local parish protocols.

1. Decoration Planning

Please contact our Wedding Coordinators before ordering any flowers or decorations for the church. As with your reception hall, our church has practical directives about what works in our church building and what does not. Any changes to the initial decoration plan must be approved by our Wedding Coordinators, who will supervise the wedding decorations in church. Our Wedding Coordinators also supervise the photographers and video personnel.

2. Ritual Planning

After you have completed your Pre-Cana, but before you meet with our parish musician, please meet with the pastor to go over the details of the wedding ritual, such as: the readings, the readers, the form of the vows, etc. Once the ritual details are set, the sacred music can be added to the liturgy in appropriate places. The priest will give you and our music director a document with the ritual order of the wedding liturgy, to which the sacred music is added.

3. Music Planning

Please contact the musician after planning the wedding liturgy with the priest. Our parish musicians plan and provide the music for weddings at our church. Any requests for outside musicians must be approved by both the music director and the pastor. They must also agree to follow our parish protocols for liturgical music at weddings celebrated in our church.

Please furnish the parish office with the names and the contact information of your florist, your photographer, your videographer, and your wedding coordinator. Please use the other side of this page to list this information for our parish records, and to promote the planning process.

GENERAL WEDDING INFORMATION

Wedding Date and Time:

Rehearsal Date and Time:

Bride and Groom:

Contact Information:

Your Florist:

Contact Information:

Your Photographer:

Contact Information:

Your Videographer:

Contact Information:

Your Wedding Coordinator:

Contact Information:

Wedding Donations and Fees

- The suggested wedding donation amount for Saint Dennis Church is \$250 by check.
- Our Wedding Coordinator fee is \$100, and cash payment is given to them directly.
- The Parish Musician fees are negotiated with them and are paid directly to them.

WEDDING DECORATIONS

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Contact our Wedding Coordinator before ordering any flowers or decorations for our church. Please do not purchase anything for use in our church without checking with the parish first.

Flowers and Decorations

- Flowers and decorations need to be approved by our wedding coordinator beforehand.
- The flowers that are worn or carried should be delivered to your home or your hotel.
- Approved flowers for church may be delivered to church about an hour beforehand.
- The parish wedding coordinator will take care of the placement of the church flowers.

Proper Decorum in Church

- No aisle runners or pew bows. No flower petals thrown on the floor.
- No rice-throwing afterwards – please save this for the reception.
- No presentation of flowers to mothers, or for the statue of Mary.
- We do, however, have an optional betrothal rite for the rehearsal.
- No extra candles or unity candles are permitted at the church.
- No signs, carts, or animals are permitted in the church building.
- When in doubt, please ask our wedding coordinator about it first.

Wedding Programs and Everything Else

- The parish provides worship programs for weddings at our church.
- Any other programs or handouts need the approval of the pastor.
- A church wedding is a prayerful worship service of our Catholic faith.
- The party and the beverages are for later. None of this is at the church.

On the next page, please list all of your bridal party members for our wedding coordinator. This information will be used to help line up the people for the entrance procession.

LIST OF THE BRIDAL PARTY MEMBERS

Parents of the Bride	
Her Grandparents, etc.	

Parents of the Groom	
His Grandparents, etc.	

Groomsmen	Bridesmaids
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7

Optional Junior Groomsmen	Optional Junior Bridesmaids

The Best Man (Witness)	The Maid of Honor (Witness)

Optional Ring Bearer(s)	Optional Flower Girl(s)

Ushers	1
	2
	3

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STANDARD ORDER FOR THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The Priest

Grandparents (optional)

Groom (with his Parents)

Mother of the Bride (with an Escort)

Groomsmen and Bridesmaids

Optional Junior Groomsmen and Bridesmaids

Best Man and Maid of Honor

Optional Ring Bearer and Flower Girl

Bride with her Father (or both parents)

After the introductory rites of the Liturgy, the priest recites the Opening Prayer.
If Mass is celebrated, the Gloria is sung or recited before the Opening Prayer.

For the Scripture readings please go to Saint-Dennis.org/Weddings.

First Reading	
Scripture Reader	

Second Reading	
Scripture Reader	

Gospel Reading	
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After the Gospel reading, the priest preaches a homily (sermon) about the Sacrament of Matrimony.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY MATRIMONY: VOWS, RINGS, BLESSING

The Exchange of the Wedding Vows

Option 1 ends with the words, “. . . all the days of my life.”

Option 2 ends with the words, “. . . until death do us part.”

The **Wedding Rings** are blessed and exchanged by the bride and groom.

The **Solemn Nuptial Blessing** completes the sacramental rite of Holy Matrimony.

Prayers of the Faithful	
Petitions Reader	

WEDDING CEREMONY	WEDDING MASS
Solemn Nuptial Blessing	Offertory Procession (optional)
The Lord’s Prayer	Eucharistic Prayer
Final Prayer and Blessing	The Lord’s Prayer
Recessional March	Solemn Nuptial Blessing
	Communion Rite
	Final Prayer and Blessing
	Recessional March

WEDDING MUSIC

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After planning the ritual with the priest, you can then select the music with our music director. All church music fees are negotiated with our parish musicians and are paid directly to them.

Processional Music

Offertory Music (at a Mass)

Communion Music (at a Mass)

Recessional Music

Music suggestions for weddings may be found on the next page of this document. To keep everything in balance, please recall the advice that “there may be music during a wedding, but not a wedding during a music concert.” Music serves the liturgy but should not overwhelm it. At a Mass, we usually sing the Mass Parts that are currently used at Sunday Mass, which includes the Gloria, Holy Holy Holy, Mystery of Faith, Great Amen, and Lamb of God. The Responsorial Psalm and the Gospel Acclamation are usually sung, similar to a regular Sunday Mass as well.

WEDDING MUSIC OPTIONS

All music for weddings in our church is sacred and liturgical, that is, suitable for the prayerful worship and praise of God that befits the solemn and proper celebration of the holy sacraments.

If you do an internet search for the following music selections, you may hear a recording of them. You may also meet with our parish music director to select these and other options for music.

Our parish musicians have been trained to provide all the music for weddings at our church. Outside musicians always need the permission of both the pastor and the parish music director.

Processional Music

Canon in D – Pachelbel
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring - Bach
Trumpet Voluntary - Purcell
Psalm 19 - Marcello

Recessional Music

Trumpet Tune - Purcell
Rondeau - Mouret
Hymn to Joy – Beethoven
(or use processional music)

Offertory Music (at a Mass)

Ave Maria - Bach/Gounod
Ave Maria - Schubert
Wherever You Go - Weston Priory
Irish Blessing – Stookey

Familiar hymns from Sunday Mass may also be sung at the Offertory and at Communion.

Communion Music (at a Mass)

Panis Angelicus – Franck
Center of My Life - Inwood
Eat This Bread - Berthier
I Have Loved You - Joncas
One Bread, One Body - Foley
Taste and See - Moore
The Supper of the Lord - Rosania

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL FOR WEDDINGS

For _____ and _____ on their wedding day.
May God keep them in his love all the days of their lives.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That God will bless their Marriage Covenant with his grace,
as he himself blessed the Wedding Feast at Cana.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That the Lord may always be with them in all their joys and sorrows
so that they may a blessing to each other in God's love.
Let us pray to the Lord.

That the grace of this Sacrament may be renewed
in the hearts of all who are with us at this wedding today.
Let us pray to the Lord.