



THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

5050 8th Avenue Northeast
Seattle, WA 98105

Liturgical Music Policies and Guidelines for
Nuptial Masses and Wedding Rites
Blessed Sacrament Parish
Seattle, WA

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding at Blessed Sacrament! As a community dedicated to the beauty and reverence of the church's musical heritage, we ask that you assist us in maintaining the high standards for liturgical music at our parish by taking a moment to review the following policies.

1. The parish website provides a list of music that is available for your selection. While we realize that much other music exists that is dear to people, the schedule of masses at the parish and the desire to ensure the highest quality of performance make it impractical for parish music staff to draw from the entire repertoire. As such, we only guarantee the possibility of using music from the approved music list. Any off-list choices require approval of the Director of Sacred Music and may incur additional fees, outlined on the Wedding Music Costs Table at the end of this document and levied at the discretion of the Director of Sacred Music.
2. All wedding music at Blessed Sacrament is provided exclusively by staff singers or regularly contracted instrumentalists. The costs for additional musicians are outlined on the "Table of Costs" on the "Wedding Costs Sheet" at the end of this document. One cantor and one organist are included in the basic fee you pay for the wedding.
3. The Director of Sacred Music is solely responsible for the hiring of additional musicians. Any substitute musicians or additional instrumentalists will be contracted by the Director of Sacred Music and no other or previous arrangements made, financial or otherwise, will be honored.
4. Any music plans made prior to conversations with the Director of Sacred Music will require their approval before programming. Please note: celebrants do not have the right to approve music for weddings at Blessed Sacrament. That right is reserved for the pastor of the church, and is normally delegated to the Director of Sacred Music.
5. The couple is encouraged to pick the responsorial psalm of their choice, but the musical setting thereof is decided solely by the Director of Sacred Music.
6. Recorded music is not permitted in the church under any circumstance.
7. Worship aids can be made and printed by the music staff at Blessed Sacrament. These include all of the music titles, personnel, and any responses or music that the congregation is to sing and an example can be provided. The cost for this can be found in the "Table of Costs."
 - PLEASE NOTE: you are welcome to provide your own pamphlet/guide/program. However, because of our copyright liability **programs that you create may not contain music, lyrics, or the texts of the readings.** These are intellectual property protected by copyright and, as the organization carrying out the ceremony, we bear the liability for properly covering costs relating to the intellectual property we use. Our copyright licenses cover any material that we publish. We thank you for understanding that we cannot make exceptions to this policy under any circumstances.
 - The cover and title page of the worship aid can be customized, the interior is a fixed design template.
 - If you would like to have a worship aid, please contact Virginia Zanger at vzanger@bspwa.org to receive a demo worship aid and planning template.

FAQ's

Q: I have a friend or relative that sings or plays an instrument. Can they participate in my wedding?

A: While we understand that it may be meaningful to have family and friends participate in this way, the rehearsal schedule at Blessed Sacrament and our desire to maintain high levels of musical excellence make it impractical to use non-staff or regularly contracted musicians. As such, the answer is no.

Q: May I request a certain instrumentalist or singer to play or sing at my wedding?

A: If your requested instrumentalist or singer is on staff or regularly contracted by the Church of the Blessed Sacrament we will attempt to schedule them for your wedding. Please note that this may not always be possible and we make no guarantees to this end.

Q: How much pre-service music can we choose?

A: Because of the time required to prepare the wedding itself, pre-service music is provided for 10 minutes and is chosen solely by the organist.

Q: Are the cantor and organist necessary?

A: Yes. Music is central to the celebration of any Catholic liturgy and an organist and cantor are the minimum required forces that support this indispensable element of the liturgy.

Q: For which parts of the Mass do we need to select music?

A: The Wedding Music Form details the music that needs to be chosen for your nuptial ceremony.

Q: What if I cannot afford the basic costs.

A: Blessed Sacrament does wish cost to be a barrier to having music at your wedding. If you need financial assistance with music please contact the Director of Sacred Music. Please note, financial assistance can only be offered for the most basic music options and documentation may be requested to determine need.

+ Please contact the Director of Sacred Music at mplagerman@bsp.org not less than three months prior to your wedding date. Please note that because of our desire for excellence in the liturgy and our busy musical schedule, exceptions will not be made to these policies. If the Director of Sacred Music is contacted less than three months prior to the wedding it may impact which music may be chosen, even if it is on the approved music list.

Wedding Costs Sheet

A NOTE ABOUT COST: Your wedding ceremony is the actual moment in which you and your spouse join yourselves together in the sacrament of holy matrimony. We realize the need to be cost conscious and that the cost of weddings can be extreme, but we encourage you to invest in this liturgy, as it will constitute one of the most defining moments of your lives together. Particularly in comparison to other wedding costs such as reception venue, catering, and bar service, we feel this represents a very cost effective way to make your wedding Mass truly unforgettable.

Table of Costs

Item	Cost
Organist and Cantor	<i>Included in church stipend</i>
Choir Director (<i>required for ensembles of more than 4 singers</i>)	\$250 for the ceremony
Additional Singers	\$125 per singer
Instrumentalists (<i>including strings, brass, bagpipes, etc.</i>)	\$200 per instrumentalist
Additional rehearsal (<i>the necessity for which is determined by the Director of Sacred Music</i>)	\$250 each for organist and/or director \$125 per singer \$200 per instrumentalist All in addition to the cost of the ceremony.
Worship Aids	\$250 for up to 150 copies. \$1.50 for each additional copy above 150

Note: The need for an additional rehearsal depends largely on how complicated the chosen music is and the number of people involved. No additional rehearsal will be necessary for any music listed on the Approved Wedding Music list. If more than 4 additional musicians are called an additional rehearsal is automatically required.

Wedding Music Packages

These are provided to give you a simplified idea of what musical configurations work well at weddings.

You may simply choose one of these configurations or may discuss alterations with the Director of Sacred Music.

The Package	What's Included	The Cost ¹
The Simply Lovely ²	1 cantor, 3 additional singers, 1 organist, worship aids	\$625
The Elegant*	1 cantor, 3 additional singers, 1 choir director, 1 organist, 2 trumpeters, worship aids	\$2,150
The "People will talk about this"	1 cantor, 7 additional singers, 1 choir director, 1 organist, 2 trumpeters, worship aids	\$3,675
The Royal Wedding ³	1 cantor, 15 additional singers, 1 director, 1 organist, brass quartet, timpani, worship aids.	\$6,875

1. This cost is **in addition** to the base cost of the church, which includes an organist and cantor. The proportion of that cost allocated to music is not included here. Adding these numbers to the base cost of the church will give you the total for your ceremony.
2. These packages do not include rehearsal and, as such, not all choral masses will be possible with this configuration.
3. Because of the abundant resources this package provides, there are musical possibilities not listed on the approved music list. Please consult the Director of Sacred Music for details.