

No longer two, but one...

SAINT AGNES WEDDING GUIDELINES



Saint Agnes Church
1920 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky

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Choosing St. Agnes

For those of you engaged to be married, we offer our most heartfelt congratulations! We share in your joy and happiness as you begin your new life together.

You have chosen to begin your commitment of marriage publicly with your friends and family, in the presence of God at St. Agnes Church. Through the many details of fashion, flowers, photography, rehearsal dinners and receptions, we encourage you to keep focused on the commitment you will both make to God as you prepare for your wedding.

The wedding liturgy should be a celebration that gives praise to God for the love you have found in each other. It should also be an experience of prayer and spiritual transformation for your family and friends as well.

All liturgical celebrations are worship, the prayer of the entire church. The wedding liturgy is never to be seen as an event or a show for the bride and groom, with family and friends attending as if they were an audience. The music and prayers that you choose should allow all in attendance to pray and express their faith.

People Needed In Your Wedding

CELEBRANT: A priest or deacon is needed to preside at your wedding liturgy. Fr. David Colhour, pastor or an associate pastor will preside at your wedding, although you may invite a guest priest from another parish. Choice of priest will be discussed at your initial Marriage Preparation meeting.

CROSS BEARER: The cross is always carried in the opening procession of all weddings. This person can be anyone of your choosing as long as they are capable of carrying the cross safely.

GOSPEL BEARER: It is important that the Word of God is brought into church in the procession. Usually the person proclaiming the first reading is the one who carries the Book of the Gospel in the procession.

WITNESSES: This is usually the best man and maid of honor, but can be any two of your wedding attendants.

LECTORS: Readers are needed to proclaim the First Reading from the Old Testament, and for the Second Reading from the New Testament. One lector may proclaim both readings, or you may have a separate lector for each of the readings. Care should be taken in selecting lectors for your wedding. These should be people who have lector training or speak very confidently, distinctly, and most of all have a sense of prayerfulness in how they worship. A lector may be used to

recite the Universal Prayer (formerly called General Intercessions or Prayers of the Faithful). At St. Agnes we have of tradition of singing the response to the Universal Prayer, "Lord, hear our prayer," or "Loving God, hear our prayer." If you choose this option, the cantor would recite the prayers and lead the singing of the response.

SERVERS: If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, two servers are needed to assist the Priest. The parish assigns servers; however, you may request specific parish servers.

GIFT BEARERS: If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, you will need two or more people to bring the gifts (bread and wine) to the altar during the Presentation of Gifts. This can be relatives or friends, and a family would be a great choice.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS: If your wedding is celebrated within Mass, you will need three Eucharistic Ministers who, along with the priest, will distribute communion.

CANTOR: The cantor is the person who will musically lead the assembly in sung prayer. This includes singing the verses of the Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, Eucharistic responses, communion song, etc. The cantor may also be used to sing vocal music before your wedding.

ORGANIST: Geoffrey Vickery is scheduled for all weddings at St. Agnes. In the event that he is not available for your wedding date, we will arrange for another well-qualified organist for that date.

We strongly encourage the use of St. Agnes parish singers and musicians. They know the music that we suggest, are comfortable with the acoustics and sound delay in church. St. Agnes musicians are liturgically trained. Singers from outside the parish may be used for prelude music, but you will need a cantor from St. Agnes parish for music during the wedding liturgy. All musicians, singers and music selected for weddings need to be approved by Geoffrey Vickery.

Wedding Preparation Timeline

The first step in planning your wedding liturgy is to meet with our Marriage Minister, Theresa Secord. This needs to be done at least nine months before your wedding date.

All couples are required to attend a Wedding Workshop at St. Agnes. Workshops are held three or four times throughout the year and will address the details of planning your wedding.

Wedding liturgical forms should be completed two months before the wedding date by submitting them online at <http://www.stagnesweddings.com>.

Wedding Rehearsals

Weddings may be scheduled at 6:30 or 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening, or 1:00 or 2:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon. Rehearsals for Friday evening weddings will be at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Rehearsals for Saturday afternoon weddings will be at 4:30 p.m. on Friday evening. St. Agnes Church provides a wedding facilitator who, with the celebrant, will be in charge of the rehearsal.

All members of the wedding party, including attendants, lectors, as well as parents of the bride and groom are encouraged to attend the rehearsal. Anyone who has an assignment or role in your wedding liturgy needs to attend. It is recommended that everyone, including the bride and groom, arrive at least 10 minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time so that the rehearsal may begin on time.

The persons you have selected to proclaim the readings or the Universal Prayer are encouraged to practice reading over the microphone before or during the rehearsal.

The rehearsal will usually last no longer than an hour. During this time, the entrance processional and recessional will be rehearsed. It is helpful to have already determined the order of the people in the procession. More detailed guidelines for determining the order of the procession will be discussed at the wedding workshop, but it should be noted that all those in the procession will begin in the rear of the church as they would in a regular Sunday liturgy.

Photography

Photographers should arrive no earlier than ninety minutes before the scheduled time of your wedding. Pictures taken **after** the wedding ceremony are to be completed within 30 minutes.

Pictures may be taken anywhere inside the church before the wedding. Although backdrops may be used, they are not encouraged since there are many beautiful locations inside the church that are suitable for taking pictures. Pictures may also be taken on the grounds outside the church. Pictures should be completed at least 30 minutes before the wedding is scheduled to begin. This way, the photography is complete prior to the arrival of most of your guests, and your wedding party has 30 minutes to mentally focus, prepare, and tend to last-minute details.

Photographers may take flash photos during the processional and the recessional, but not during the actual wedding ceremony. Photographers may use the center and side aisles, the area directly in front of the sanctuary (before the steps), and the balcony, but they may not be in the sanctuary during the ceremony. Once the liturgy begins, movement and talking should be discreet and kept to a minimum.

Photographers and videographers should dress professionally and appropriately for working in church. No jeans, untucked shirts, T-shirts, athletic shoes, flip flops, hats or caps, etc.

Videography

Video photographers should follow the same guidelines as still photographers for arrival times and appropriate dress. Video cameras may be placed in the balcony, either of the transept areas of the church, and the rear of the church. An **unattended** video camera may be placed in the sanctuary. Video cameras should remain stationary during the ceremony to minimize distractions.

Church Decorations

You are responsible for providing any additional decorations (if desired) inside or outside of the church, placing them before the wedding, and removing them after the wedding.

Existing church decorations such as banners, plants or floral decorations may not be removed. The exception to this is that floral arrangements on either side of the high altar may be replaced with floral arrangements that you have provided. Alternatively, existing arrangements can be left in place, and you can place your additional arrangements on pillars in the sanctuary or by the altar.

Bows may be placed on pews to designate reserved pews or as a decorative feature. However they may only be attached by tying them around the ends of the pews. No tape or other devices may be used that might damage the finish of the pews. Likewise, bows or ribbons may be placed on handrails outside of the church, if desired.

Wreaths on the doors are discouraged but they may be used on hangers provided by you that fit over the top of the doors. Nails or any other hanging devices are not allowed.

Candelabras are not allowed in the sanctuary of the church. Candles down the aisle may obscure your guests' view. However, they are permitted as long as the candles are enclosed in glass. Once again, they should not be affixed to the pews in any way that might damage the pew or its finish. Remember, you are responsible for removal of all additional decorations. Please designate a responsible person to make sure this is done.

For safety reasons, cloth or paper aisle runners are not permitted in the church. Please observe that nothing should be dropped or thrown in the aisle during the procession or as the bridal party is leaving at the end of the wedding ceremony. This includes rose petals, rice, etc. Bubbles have sometimes been used in lieu of

rice to wish the couple well. These are permitted but should be used **outside the church only**. These guidelines are intended to ensure the safety of individuals who might unexpectedly slip on flower petals, rice, or spills from bubbles.

Worship Aids (Wedding Programs)

Wedding worship aids (programs) are provided by St. Agnes Church. When you complete your wedding liturgy forms on our website, we will take your choices of readings, music and the names of individuals in your wedding party to create a worship aid to assist your guests in participating in your wedding. You will receive sample programs at the wedding workshop. The standard format and paper will be used unless you choose to have Cathy Giangarra prepare your wedding worship aids. Cathy has a variety of premium paper stocks and optional ribbons in colors to coordinate with your wedding colors. The cost of her services are in addition to the fee for the church that includes our standard wedding worship aids. Cathy's contact information is on page 13.

Arriving at the Church the Day of Your Wedding

The wedding party should arrive no earlier than ninety minutes before the wedding, provided that the church is available. Please check with the Parish House [(502) 451-2220] secretary to assure availability and to reserve the church.

A limited area is available for the bride and her attendants to get ready. This area is located on the lower level in a section of the passageway that leads to Aloysius Hall. Because this is not a large area, the bride and the bridesmaids are encouraged to arrive at the church as "ready" as possible. The area is large enough to accommodate simply changing into bridal and bridesmaids gowns after arrival. The groom and groomsmen are encouraged to arrive fully dressed because there is not another space available to designate for their use.

Your Wedding Begins

As your guests arrive they will be greeted with beautiful music and the warm ambiance of St. Agnes Church. Music before and during the liturgy should not be secular in nature, but should foreshadow the sacredness of the ritual about to take place.

Traditionally, guests have been escorted to their seats by ushers. We encourage you to have your wedding party and family greet their guests as they arrive. Your guests will feel welcomed when they are greeted by someone they know.

In this celebration of unity, we encourage you to seat your guests as they arrive and as close to the front of church as possible. The tradition of seating guests on the bride's or groom's side only creates an unnecessary division, and may result in unbalanced seating. This is especially true if one of the families is from out of town.

The best decorations are often simple ones. The purpose of additional decorations, if desired, should be to enhance the beauty of the church and grounds for your wedding rather than to clutter or distract. Be careful that additional decoration does not obstruct the use of handrails as they may be needed by your guests as they navigate the steps. The lampposts and plant hangers at the parking lot entrance and along the sidewalks may be decorated with flowers, greenery, ribbons, bows or banners, if desired. Please do not use tape, nails, screws, staples or any other method to affix decorations that would mar the finish on wooden or painted surfaces.

You may want to reserve the first few pews on both sides of church for your wedding party and family. Bows may be tied to ends of pews to mark this section, but keep in mind you will want your wedding guests as close as possible, so make this area only as large as necessary to comfortably seat your family and wedding party.

Keep in mind the comfort of your family members who are elderly and those with small children. Trying to keep a toddler quiet during the wedding is hard enough without asking them to behave for an hour or more before the wedding, too. For their comfort, please advise family members escorting young children and elderly relatives to arrive shortly before the wedding.

For those in a wheelchair or who need to avoid steps, there is a ramp on the south side of the church next to the monastery. Convenient parking in the circular drive in front of the monastery is also available near the ramp, and a special wheelchair area is available near the front of church on the left side.

We recommend that grandparents and other family members not in the wedding party be seated as they arrive. A group of people gathering or waiting in the back of church may create noise or confusion for guests arriving for your wedding.

Guests should be greeted at the door and escorted to their seats without delay. If you have a guest register, it should be stationed outside, weather permitting, or in the lobby. When guests reach the inner doors to church they can be escorted to their seat. Ask your family and wedding party to avoid congregating in the back of church unless they are greeting and escorting guests.

The Opening Rite

Your wedding begins with a liturgical procession, just like the procession we have at Mass on Sundays. Your guests should be instructed to stand for the procession. Your program can include the words, *“Please stand for the Wedding Procession.”*

The order of people in the procession begins with the Cross Bearer, followed by the Servers (if wedding is celebrated within Mass), Gospel Bearer, Celebrant, and then the wedding party. We have three options that will accommodate your choice of the order for the wedding party.

Option A (Preferred)

Cross Bearer
Servers (if celebrating within Mass)
Gospel Bearer
Celebrant
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, as couples
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer, if any
Maid of Honor and Best Man
Parents of the Groom
Parents of the Bride
Bride and Groom

Option B

Cross Bearer
Servers (if celebrating within Mass)
Gospel Bearer
Celebrant
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, as couples
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer, if any
Maid of Honor and Best Man
Parent, Groom, Parent
Parent, Bride, Parent

Option C (Traditional)

Cross Bearer
Servers (if celebrating within Mass)
Gospel Bearer
Celebrant and Groom
Bridesmaids and Groomsmen, as couples
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer, if any
Maid of Honor and Best Man
Bride and Parent

Since this is a celebration uniting the bride and groom, and the two of you have chosen to be married in the church, we encourage you to come in together in the procession (as in Option A above). The tradition of bride and groom being hidden from each other until they are paired at the altar by the bride's father is carried over from medieval times when marriages were arranged by parents. The simple act of bride and groom processing in together speaks clearly that this is *our* wedding, a choice *we* have made together.

The best choices in music for your wedding procession are those that will accompany the entire wedding procession. You are encouraged to choose one piece of music for the entire procession. This avoids drawing undue attention to the bride, alone. Having the processional music stop, then beginning a different piece of music for the bride changes the focus from a liturgical procession that includes all the people in the wedding, putting too much emphasis on only one member of the wedding celebration.

The cross bearer will proceed to the sanctuary and place the cross in the stand, then go to their seat. The Gospel bearer should proceed around the altar, place the Book of Gospels in the middle of the altar, and go to their seat. As each person or couple in the wedding party approaches their pew, they should pause, bow toward the altar, and then enter the pew to their position and remain standing.

Once the wedding party is in place and the procession is over, the celebrant will greet everyone and welcome them. If you are celebrating within Mass, we will sing the *Gloria* (Glory to God). The celebrant then gives an opening prayer. After the prayer, he will invite everyone to be seated. This ends the Opening Rite.

The Liturgy of the Word

During your marriage preparation you will choose the readings for your wedding. At least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must be chosen. These readings are marked with an asterisk (*) on pages 15-18 and on our website. You may choose one or two readers to proclaim these readings.

THE FIRST READING: After everyone has been seated, the person assigned to read the first reading should pause a few seconds, then rise from their seat, proceed down the center aisle, pause before the first step, bow toward the altar, then proceed to the ambo (lectern). They should proclaim the reading slowly, deliberately and clearly so everyone can hear and understand. After the reading, they should pause for a few seconds, and then end by saying, "The Word of the Lord." The assembly will respond, "Thanks be to God." The reader should return to their seat.

THE PSALM: The cantor will pause a few seconds after the reader has been seated, then approach the altar, bow, and proceed to the ambo to lead the responsorial psalm. The cantor will intone the refrain, and everyone, including the wedding party, will be invited to sing the refrain in response and following each verse. After the psalm, the cantor will return to their seat.

THE SECOND READING: After the cantor has been seated, the person assigned to read the second reading should pause a few seconds, then rise from their seat, proceed down the center aisle, pause before the first step, bow toward the altar, then proceed to the ambo (lectern). They should proclaim the reading slowly, deliberately and clearly so everyone can hear and understand. After the reading, they should pause for a few seconds, and then end by saying, "The Word of the Lord." The assembly will respond, "Thanks be to God." The reader should return to their seat.

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: When the celebrant rises to proclaim the Gospel, the cantor will lead the assembly in the Gospel Acclamation or Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL: At the end of the Gospel Acclamation, the celebrant will proclaim the Gospel. After a brief pause, he will end by saying, "The Gospel of the Lord." The assembly will respond, "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ." Everyone will be seated.

THE HOMILY: The celebrant will give a spiritual reflection on the readings.

The Celebration of Matrimony

At the end of the homily, the celebrant will invite the bride and groom and their witnesses to join him in front of the altar for the Celebration of Matrimony. The bride should leave her flowers on her seat during this time. The groom needs to be alert to any extra care that may be needed in moving about or helping his bride move about in her wedding dress. Before the rehearsal you and the wedding facilitator should decide where attendants will stand during the Celebration of Matrimony. You may choose to have your two witnesses join you, or your entire wedding party. Children (flower girls, ring bearers, etc.) should remain seated with their family during the Sacrament of Matrimony.

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT: The priest questions the couple about their freedom of choice to marry, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children.

THE CONSENT: The couple joins their right hands and declare their consent before God and the Church.

THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT: The Priest, as official witness of the Church, accepts the consent of the couple, and offers a prayer.

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS: The couple exchange rings as a sign of their love and fidelity.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER: After the consent and giving of rings, your witnesses will return to their seats and the celebrant will invite everyone to stand and join in the Universal Prayer. You are encouraged to write your own prayers during your marriage preparation using a sample set of prayers as a guide. These prayers may be read by a reader of your choice, or by the cantor. At our Sunday Masses the cantor reads the prayer, and then invites the assembly to respond with a simple sung response of “Loving God, hear our prayer” or “Lord, hear our prayer.” If you choose the sung response, the cantor should read the intercessions. If you choose a spoken response, you may assign this to one of your readers, or select a different person for this task.

In compliance with liturgical norms for the Archdiocese of Louisville Office of Worship we do not use the unity candle as part of the wedding ritual. Historical and theological reasons also support this policy.

If your wedding is being celebrated without Mass, all will be invited to join in saying the Lord’s Prayer, the Nuptial Blessing and the Concluding Rite.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

If your wedding is being celebrated within Mass, everyone will be seated while the gifts of bread and wine are prepared. You should designate at least two people, possibly a family, to bring the gifts to the altar. A brief instrumental selection, chosen by your musicians, will be played during this action.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER: During the Eucharistic Prayer, the cantor will lead the assembly in singing the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy), Mystery of Faith, and Amen. In November 2011 the Catholic Church in America began using the revised Roman Missal with new responses and acclamations. The musical responses will be the Eucharistic Acclamations being used at St. Agnes Church in the current season, usually Mass of Creation or Mass of Renewal.

THE LORD’S PRAYER: The Lord’s Prayer (or Our Father) is an important prayer in all Christian denominations, and is a unifying element. It should not be sung as a solo in place of the assembly participation.

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING: The Nuptial Blessing is a special blessing of the Church on the newly married couple. The blessing is spoken by the celebrant; however, you may choose a Nuptial Blessing with sung responses led by the cantor in between blessings spoken by the celebrant.

THE SIGN OF PEACE: This is a time when all will be invited to share a sign of peace — a handshake, embrace or kiss. As a couple you will certainly want to share this sign of peace with each other, and the priest will exchange the sign of peace with you. You should not leave the sanctuary to greet additional family and friends as this unduly elongates the rite, moving the focus away from the Eucharist we are about to celebrate.

THE FRACTION RITE/LAMB OF GOD: After the Sign of Peace, the cantor will lead the assembly in the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) as the presider and three Eucharistic ministers you have designated prepare for communion distribution.

COMMUNION PROCESSION: Members of the Body of Christ are then invited to communion. Those not of our Church are encouraged to approach the minister for a blessing by crossing their hands over their heart and by joining us in meditation, praying that someday Christ's own prayer "that all may be one" will be fulfilled. All remain standing until all have received communion, at which time all are seated during a period of silent meditation.

Concluding Rite

After a final prayer and blessing, the celebrant will introduce you as a couple to your family and friends who will respond with applause. The recessional music will begin. You may kiss each other before processing out of the church. Your wedding party and immediate family will follow you out. It is not necessary for Cross Bearer and Gospel Bearer, servers and celebrant to process out.

After the Wedding

If you are going to take pictures immediately after the wedding, you should process out, down the steps and come back up the ramp to the side entrance. We recommend that you not form a reception line at this point, but to make that part of your reception.

Please keep your post-wedding picture session to no more than 30 minutes. Often there is another wedding, confessions or a Mass following your wedding. Please assign someone to be responsible for gathering all personal belongings and any flowers or decorations you wish to keep.

Fees and Gratuities

The fee to reserve the church for your wedding is \$600. This fee includes the cost of the wedding facilitator, your organist and printed worship aids (wedding programs). Please add \$20 (cash) to the wedding fee for each server. The fee for your St. Agnes cantor is \$125.

The checks for the church and cantor (and cash for the servers) are due one week before your wedding. The check for the church should be payable to St. Agnes Church, and the checks for the cantor should be made out to them individually. All checks should be sent to the rectory and marked to the attention of Joe Edlin.

The fee for Michael Giangarra, the trumpeter, is \$175. When you book Michael for your wedding he will discuss payment arrangements at that time. If he is not available, the fee charged by another trumpeter might be different and must be arranged separately.

You are welcome to have additional professional musicians such as brass quintets, string quartets, harpists, flutists, violinists, etc. Geoffrey Vickery will be happy to assist in recommending or reserving such musicians for your wedding, but these musicians set their own fees and payment arrangements.

A gratuity to your presider is not required. However, most couples like to thank their presider with a monetary gift and sometimes question what amount would be appropriate. While the amount is strictly up to the giver, \$100-\$150 is recommended.

Important Contact Information

Send checks for wedding fee, servers and cantor to:

Joe Edlin, Director of Music
St. Agnes Church
1920 Newburg Road
Louisville, KY 40205
Phone: (502) 451-2220

Theresa Secord, Marriage Minister
Phone: (502) 451-2220
Email: tsecord@stagneslouisville.org

Geoffrey Vickery, Organist and Wedding Music Director
1012 Charles Street
Louisville, KY 40204
Phone: (502) 381-3835
Email: geoffrey@evickery.com

Wedding Facilitators:

Martha Lies	mjlies1809@gmail.com	502-475-2339
Marilyn Cross	marilyncross@me.com	502-533-9851

Cantors:

Lori Codey	lcodey@yahoo.com	502-454-6797
Winnie Spitz	nursewinnie2488@yahoo.com	502-741-7095

Trumpeters:

Michael Giangarra	mgiangarra@yahoo.com	502-244-7027
Jim Recktenwald	jim@symphonicarts.com	502-599-3105

Professional Wedding Programs:

Cathy Giangarra	cgiangarra@stpatrik-lou.org and mgiangarra@yahoo.com	502-244-7027
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Timeline for Wedding Preparation

Now, or as soon as possible:

Book your cantor (required) and optional musicians

At least two months before your wedding date:

Submit your wedding liturgy plan to Geoffrey Vickery. Complete the form online at www.stagnesweddings.com.

If you want to compose your prayers for the Universal Prayer, email them to Geoffrey at geoffrey@evickery.com.

Decide if you want to rent Aloysius Hall (\$100 fee) or hallway (no charge) and turn in your "Wedding Use of St. Agnes Parish Facilities" contract to Jackie in the rectory.

Let Jackie know if you will need servers for your wedding. (Two servers are needed if your wedding is being celebrated within Mass.)

At least one week before your wedding:

Drop off your payment for wedding fees, servers and cantor to Joe Edlin at the rectory:

Church - \$600

Aloysius Hall - \$100

Servers (if having full Mass) - 20.00 each (in cash please)

Cantor - \$125 (check make out to the cantor)

Gratuity for priest - couple's discretion, but suggest \$100-\$150 (cash or separate check).

Choices of Readings for Your Wedding

Below you will find a list of readings provided in the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, the book that guides worship for Catholic weddings. At least one of your choices should include a reading marked with an asterisk (*) that explicitly speaks of Marriage. The readings are listed here with a descriptive title, the citation and a brief excerpt from the reading.

Options for the First Reading (Old Testament)

1. ***The first creation story** (Genesis 1:26-28, 31): "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them." (verse 27). [B-1](#).
2. ***The second creation story** (Genesis 2:18-24): "Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.... Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.'" (verses 18, 24). [B-2](#).
3. ***With God's help, Isaac finds a suitable wife in Rebekah** (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67): "Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her." (verse 67). [B-3](#).
4. ***Tobias asks Raguel for Sarah's hand in marriage** (Tobit 7:9-10, 11-15): "May the Lord of heaven, my child, guide and prosper you both this night, and grant you mercy and peace." (verse 11). [B-4](#).
5. ***Tobias prays for God's mercy for himself and Sarah on their wedding night** (Tobit 8:5-7): "Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together." (verse 7). [B-5](#).
6. ***Virtues of a worthy spouse** (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31): "When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls." [B-6](#)
7. **A biblical love song** (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7): "Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave. Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If one offered for love all the wealth of one's house, it would be utterly scorned." (verses 6-7). [B-7](#).
8. ***The qualities of a good spouse** (Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16): "A wife's charm delights her husband, and her skill puts flesh on his bones." (verse 13). [B-8](#).

9. **God's covenant with his people as a model for the marriage covenant** (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a): "But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." (verse 33). [B-9](#).

Options for the Second Reading (New Testament)

1. **The depth of God's love** (Romans 8:31-35, 37-39): "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (verses 38-39). [D-1](#).
2. **A summary of Christian life.** (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 [long form] or Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 [short form]): "Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor." (verses 9-10). [D-2](#).
3. **In harmony with one another** (Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13) "May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another." [D-3](#).
4. **The sanctity of the body** (1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20): "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body." (verses 19-20). [D-4](#).
5. **The qualities of love** (1 Corinthians 12:31 - 13:8). "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth." (verses 4-6). [D-5](#).
6. ***Marriage compared to the relationship between Christ and the Church** (Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 [long form] or Ephesians 5:2, 25-32 [short form]): "Just as the church is subject to Christ, so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." (verses 24-25). [D-6](#).
7. **The peace of God will guard your hearts** (Philippians 4:4-9) "Rejoice in the Lord always." [D-7](#).
8. **Love perfects all virtues** (Colossians 3:12-17): "Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony." (verse 14). [D-8](#).

9. **Let marriage be honored among all** (Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b. "I will never forsake you or abandon you." [D-9](#)).
 10. ***The conduct of Christian wives and husbands** (1 Peter 3:1-9): "Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind." (verse 8). [D-10](#).
 11. **Love of God requires love of one another** (1 John 3:18-24): "And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us." [D-11](#).
 12. **God is love** (1 John 4:7-12): "Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love." (verses 7-8). [D-12](#).
 13. **The wedding feast of the lamb** (Revelation 19:1, 5-9): "Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready..." (verse 7). [D-13](#).
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Options for the Gospel Reading

1. **The Beatitudes** (Matthew 5:1-12): "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (verse 3). [F-1](#).
2. **Be salt and light for the world** (Matthew 5:13-16): "In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." (verse 16). [F-2](#).
3. **Build your house on rock** (Matthew 7:21, 24-29 [long form] or Matthew 7:21, 24-25 [short form]): "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." (verses 24-25). [F-3](#).
4. ***The indissolubility of marriage** (Matthew 19:3-6): "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (verse 6). [F-4](#).
5. **The Greatest Commandment** (Matthew 22:35-40): "He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (verses 37-39). [F-5](#).
6. ***The indissolubility of marriage** (Mark 10:6-9): "Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate." (verse 9). [F-6](#).

7. ***The wedding at Cana** (John 2:1-11): "Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.'" (verses 2-3). [F-7](#).
8. **Jesus' commandment** (John 15:9-12): "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (verse 12). [F-8](#).
9. **No greater love** (John 15:12-16): "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." (verse 13). [F-9](#).
10. **That they may be one** (John 17:20-26): "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one..." (verses 21-22). [F-10](#).

Wedding Music CD – Instrumental Tracks

Track	Title	Composer	Category
1	Trumpet Voluntary in D Major	Jeremiah Clarke	Processional
2	Trumpet Tune in D Major	Henry Purcell	Processional
3	Canon in D	Johann Pachelbel	Processional
4	Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring	Johann Sebastian Bach	Processional, Prelude
5	Hymn of Joy	Ludwig van Beethoven	Processional, Recessional
6	Rigaudon	Andre Campra	Processional, Recessional
7	Hornpipe Allegro Maestoso	George Frederick Handel	Recessional
8	Wedding March	Felix Mendelssohn	Recessional
9	Rondeau	Jean-Joseph Mouret	Recessional, Processional
10	Trumpet Tune in D Major	David Johnson	Recessional, Prelude
11	Te Deum*	Marc Antoine Charpentier	Recessional, Prelude
12	Psalm XIX	Benedetto Marcello	Recessional
13	Now Thank We All Our God	Arr. By Paul Manz	Recessional
14	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	Arr. by Paul Manz	Recessional
15	Air	Johann Sebastian Bach	Prelude
16	The King of Love My Shepherd Is	Arr. By Dale Woods	Prelude
17	Andante from Trumpet Concerto*	Giuseppe Tartini	Prelude
18	If Thou Be Near	Johann Sebastian Bach	Prelude
19	I Vow to Thee	Gustav Holst	Prelude
20	Morning Has Broken	Arr. By Paul Manz	Prelude
21	Aria	Antonio F. Tenaglia	Prelude
22	All Glory Be to God on High	Arr. By Paul Manz	Prelude
23	Ave Verum	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Prelude
24	Overture from Suite in D Major*	George Frederick Handel	Prelude
25	Brother James' Air	Arr. By Dale Woods	Prelude
26	A Trumpeting	Dale Woods	Prelude
27	Ave Verum	Charles Gounod	Prelude
28	Blest Are They	Arr. By Charles Callahan	Prelude
29	Air	George Frederick Handel	Prelude
30	Panis Angelicus	Cesar Franck	Prelude
31	O Perfect Love*	Arr. By Stan Pethel	Prelude

Most instrumental music on this list is suitable for organ alone, or optional instrument.

** Suitable only with organ and trumpet.*

Wedding Music CD – Vocal Tracks

Track	Title	Composer	Category
1	Love Never Fails	David Haas	Prelude
2	One Hand One Heart*	Leonard Bernstein	Prelude
3	Covenant Hymn	Gary Daigle	Prelude
4	Come and Journey With Me	David Haas	Prelude
5	Panis Angelicus*	Cesar Franck	Prelude
6	The Cross of Love	Rufino Zargoza	Prelude
7	Make a Joyful Noise	Mark Hayes	Prelude
8	Look at the World*	John Rutter	Prelude
9	The Gift of Love*	arr. by Hal Hopson	Prelude
10	Wherever You Go	David Haas	Prelude
11	The Lord's Prayer	Alfred Hay Malotte	Prelude
12	A Bridal Prayer*	Roger Copeland	Prelude
13	Laudate Dominum	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Prelude
14	Ave Maria*	Franz Schubert	Prelude
15	Ave Maria	J.S. Bach / Charles Gounod	Prelude
16	Blest Are Those Who Love You	Marty Haugen	Psalm
17	Taste and See	Marty Haugen	Psalm
18	This is the Day	Michael Joncas	Psalm
19	To You, O Lord	Marty Haugen	Psalm
20	Forever I Will Sing	Tim Schoenbachler	Psalm
21	We Praise You*	Darryl Ducote / Gary Daigle	Psalm
22	No Longer Two*	David Haas	Acclamation
23	On Eagle's Wings*	Michael Joncas	Communion
24	Let Us Be Bread*	Thomas Porter	Communion
25	Take and Eat*	Michael Joncas	Communion
26	Now in This Banquet*	Marty Haugen	Communion
27	You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*	Robert Kreutz	Communion
28	Nuptial Blessing: May the Light of Christ*	James Chepponis	Blessing
29	The Lord Bless You and Keep You*	John Rutter	Blessing

** Suitable for solo or duet.*

Sample Intercessions for Your Wedding

Intercessions for Weddings

Presider: Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Therefore we boldly lift our prayers to God who is love.

Reader: For the Church, for fidelity in proclaiming the gospel, for faith in good times and in bad, for unwavering commitment to unity: May we never cease to profess boundless love for all creation. We pray to the Lord...

For the world and all peoples, for those without food, shelter, or clothing; for those without meaningful work or meaningful relationships; for those without hope, joy, or peace: May we be a word of comfort for them and a sign of Christ's abundant love. We pray to the Lord...

For our families and friends: for those gathered here and those far away, for those united in love many years and those just beginning, for those we love and those we struggle to love: May Christ deepen our bond to each other in God's strong embrace. We pray to the Lord...

For [bride] and [groom] and all who begin married life today, for peace in times of chaos and confusion; for generosity when there is little to give; for faith in each other and love beyond reason: May their lives be a sacrament of Christ's irrational, irresistible, and invincible love for us all. We pray to the Lord...

For those in need of healing, for those nearing death, for loved ones who have died, and for all who need our prayers, especially those we hold in the silence of our hearts: May nothing ever separate us from the love of God through Christ. We pray to the Lord...

Presider: Faithful God, we have heard your voice in the Word, and seen your love made visible in this couple, so make us now your life-giving presence for the world, and fill us with your unfailing Spirit of love, that the prayers we have offered may come to fulfillment in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Wedding Workshop Review: Checklist of Things to Remember

- Preparing for your wedding:
 - Now – Formation workshop and forms for Theresa Secord.
 - Now – Contact cantor, trumpeter or other musicians to secure them for your wedding.
 - Wedding Liturgy Form: fill out online at www.stagnesweddings.com, mail or email to Geoffrey Vickery two months before wedding date.
 - Turn in contract for use of Church (required) and Aloysius Hall rental (optional) to Jacki Cecil in rectory office two months before wedding date.
 - Compose Intercessions and mail or email to Geoffrey Vickery two weeks before wedding date.
 - Make out separate checks for church, cantor and priest and drop off at the rectory to Joe Edlin one week before wedding. Please provide cash for each server.
 - Give license to Jacki Cecil, church secretary, one week before wedding.

- Wedding Rehearsal and Wedding Day:
 - Enter the church quietly and with respect for the reverence of this sacred place.
 - Bride and groom should be examples of how you want your wedding party to behave.
 - Children in the wedding party should be at least 6 years old.
 - No drinking or smoking in or on the property.
 - No aisle runner, rice, bird seed; bells and bubbles are OK outside afterwards.
 - No unity candle – may be used at the reception.
 - Wedding coordinators may be used for other events, but not for your rehearsal or wedding.
 - Wedding party should arrive at church dressed as there are no dressing room facilities
 - You may use the hallway at the bottom of the stairwell for touchups and adjustments (no charge).

- Aloysius Hall may be used for dressing for an additional fee of \$100.

- Photography and Videography:
 - Arrive 90 minutes before the wedding – 30 minutes for children and elderly.
 - It's OK for bride and groom to see each other before the wedding.
 - Have a photography plan to make use of time before and after wedding for pictures.
 - You have approximately one hour for photos before wedding.
 - Photos should stop 30 minutes before wedding.
 - No more than 30 minutes of photos after wedding.

- After your wedding:
 - St. Agnes provides someone to clean up after weddings.
 - Remove flowers, bows, wedding decorations that you plan on taking with you, or they will be thrown away.