

WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES

Saint John Vianney Catholic Church • Houston, TX

The music staff at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church congratulates you on this special occasion! Our experienced staff looks forward to assisting you in your musical planning for this sacred liturgy. The following policies are in place for all weddings at Saint John Vianney.

- Responsibility for all wedding music at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church is delegated to the Principal Organist and the Assistant Organist, who will assist you in planning the music for your wedding.
- To plan the music for your service, and to answer any questions, engaged couples are asked to attend one of our wedding music seminars, held on the first Tuesday evening of the month. To make your reservation for the seminar, contact **David San Miguel, Assistant Organist and Associate Director of Music**, at 281-497-1500 ext. 111 or dsanmiguel@stjohnvianney.org
- The organist must approve all music and musicians chosen for the ceremony.
- Because a wedding is a service of worship, the liturgical guidelines for music are subject to the same standards as music for any other worship service at Saint John Vianney. As the Catholic Church teaches that marriage is a sacrament, Catholic weddings are not as liturgically and musically flexible as those in some other churches.
- Texts of hymns, anthems, or solos are to be taken from Holy Scripture, the Catholic liturgy, a suitable Catholic hymnal, or shall be texts congruent with them. Only music appropriate for a church service is to be used. Music with commercial associations, whether textual or musical – including, but not limited to, music from Broadway-style shows – is not appropriate. *Some popular choices for weddings, including the Mendelssohn and Wagner wedding marches, fall into this category. The Malotte, Lord's Prayer is also inappropriate for the Catholic liturgy.*
- The organist will have final say as to the appropriateness of all music included in the wedding at Saint John Vianney.
- Saint John Vianney's staff organists play at all weddings at which organ music is desired. If you are planning a full Mass with Communion, a cantor is required, and as a rule, only professional SJV cantors are permitted to serve in this capacity at weddings. This ensures continuity with the church's regular worship life, and protects the parish's mission in terms of celebrant, cantor, and organist, who are accustomed to working with each other, as well as with the specific acoustical demands of the church.

- Musicians, including the organist, do not traditionally attend the wedding rehearsal. Attendance at any rehearsal will incur a fee, to be determined at the discretion of the organist.
- With advance notice, our organist is happy to assist in obtaining qualified instrumentalists, such as string quartets, harpists, and brass instruments. All instrumentalists must be approved by the organist.
- It is not possible to play recordings in the sanctuary or chapel at Saint John Vianney.
- Our musicians will reserve the date for your wedding upon receiving payment, which must be submitted no later than **30 days in advance** of the proposed wedding date (payment at the wedding music seminar is preferred). Payment for SJV staff musicians is made directly to them, at a rate of \$250 for the organist, and \$150 for the cantor (if applicable). Payment for other instrumentalists is made according to independent arrangements made with them.

Thank you for taking the time to review these policies. These policies, the selection form, and audio examples are also available online at:

<http://stjohnvianney.org/ministries/music-ministry/wedding-music>

Again, we look forward to assisting you in your preparation for your wedding ceremony.

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