

Music for Your Wedding

St. John Vianney Catholic Church • Houston, Texas

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

- Responsibility for all wedding music at St. 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 of the month. To make your reservation for the seminar, contact **David San Miguel, Assistant 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 St. 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 St. John Vianney.
- St. 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 St. John Vianney 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 high quality liturgy. It also helps guarantee that the service will go smoothly because celebrant, cantor, and organist 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 may incur a fee, to be determined at the discretion of the organist.
- With advance notice, our organist is happy to assist in obtaining additional 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 St. 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 St. John Vianney staff musicians is made directly to them, at a rate of \$200 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 with the plans for your ceremony.

Sincerely,

Richard Robbins, Director of Music

David San Miguel, Assistant Director of Music and Organist