

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 SJV Music Staff, who will assist you in planning the music for your wedding.
- The Music Director must approve all music and musicians chosen for the ceremony.
- 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.
- Only music appropriate for a church service is to be used within the wedding ceremony. 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 Director will have final say as to the appropriateness of all music included in the wedding ceremony.
- Saint John Vianney's staff organists play at all weddings. A SJV staff singer will be assigned as the cantor if one has not already been requested. Using SJV musicians ensures continuity with the church's regular Sunday worship.
- Musicians, including the organist, do not typically attend the wedding rehearsal. Attendance at any rehearsal will incur a fee, to be determined at the discretion of the Director.
- With advance notice, we are able to assist in obtaining additional instrumentalists. All additional instrumentalists must be approved by the Director.
- It is not possible to play recordings in the church 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. Payment for SJV staff musicians is made directly to them, at a rate of \$250 for the organist, and \$150 for the cantor. Payment for other instrumentalists is made according to independent arrangements made with them.

These policies, the selection form, and audio examples are also available online at:

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

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