

WEDDING MUSIC PLANNING PROCEDURES

Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Lenexa KS ~ June 2026

To assist your planning, the Holy Trinity Director of Music serves as the coordinator of music and musicians for all on site Holy Trinity weddings. A music planning meeting with the Music Director is required, and should take place two to three months before the scheduled wedding date. **Joe Heron, (913) 895-0682/ JHeron@htlenexa.org**

Please give your attention to the helpful information that follows:

CHOOSING MUSICIANS – Holy Trinity is blessed with many fine musicians. Couples are encouraged to choose parish musicians, since they are most familiar with our protocols, environment, and equipment. **All requested non-Holy Trinity musicians must also be coordinated by the Music Director.**

ORGANIST/PIANIST - The parish Music Director-Principal Organist/Pianist is the assigned Holy Trinity wedding organist/pianist. If s/he is not available, s/he will engage a qualified substitute/guest organist from within or outside the parish.

CANTOR - A cantor/song leader is present for every marriage at Holy Trinity. Any non-Holy Trinity vocalist requested by the couple is expected to demonstrate competence in the role of the cantor in Catholic liturgical practice, as well as vocal proficiency (e.g., by emailing a brief recorded sample) before being approved by the Music Director.

CONTEMPORARY/FOLK ENSEMBLE – If you desire music in the contemporary Christian or folk idiom, the parish Music Director will coordinate the required music planning meeting with the couple AND the respective Musician/ Ensemble Leader attending.

OTHER INSTRUMENTALISTS - Additional instrumentalists (e.g., string quartet, flutist, guitarist, etc.) are welcome, and the Music Director will guide your selection. Instrumentalists engaged by the Music Director are paid by the couple according to the fee schedule below.** Guest musicians within/outside Holy Trinity engaged by the couple negotiate their fees directly with, and are paid by, the couple.***

CHOOSING MUSIC - Our evaluation of wedding music is guided by instructions in the revised *Order of Celebrating Matrimony* (OCM), Second Edition (1990, 2015, 2016), the U.S. Bishops' document, *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (2007, rev. 2019), and the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2010).

- **Songs that speak directly of the divine/religious dimension of love are most suitable at Christian marriage.**
- **Songs that negate either explicitly or implicitly the divine/religious dimension of love are unsuitable at a Christian marriage, and are best reserved for the rehearsal dinner or reception.**

The Church, as reflected in the above-mentioned documents, envisions the music sung by the congregation as the most important music at the wedding, just as at Sunday Mass.

Solo or ensemble-only music may be offered as a prelude, during the Preparation of Gifts, or after the congregational Communion hymn/song. The Music Director will collaborate with the couple in preparing a printed worship aid, at no extra charge, to encourage and support participation in the wedding liturgy. As with all liturgical ministries, music is offered by music ministers who are present at the celebration; pre-recorded music is not used.

Couples will want to review the parish wedding music webpages at <https://htlenexa.org/wedding-music>. Here you will find downloadable music planning outlines, explanations of music used in the various parts of the wedding liturgy (within or outside Mass), music links, and cantor vocal samples. **Please note:** the posted music links represent music that is consistent with the guidelines mentioned above, but are not the only options. All music requests will be evaluated according to these same Guidelines. **The final decision regarding the suitability of any wedding music selection belongs to the parish Music Director in agreement with the Pastor.**

MUSICIANS' FEES

Checks payable to Holy Trinity-connected musicians are due ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE WEDDING DATE.

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| • Holy Trinity Music Director-Principal Organist/Pianist | Paid by the Parish |
| • Substitute Keyboardist when Music Director is unavailable | Paid by the Parish |
| • Holy Trinity Cantor | Paid by the Parish |
| • **Additional Instrumentalists (flute, trumpet, violin, etc.) | \$150 minimum each; Paid by the Couple |
| • ***Guest Keyboardist/Other Instrumentalist
(within/outside HT) engaged by the Couple | Negotiated and Paid by the Couple |