



## St Michael Catholic Church

458 Maple Street, Livermore, CA 94550  
StMichaelLivermore.com

# Wedding Liturgy

## A Sacred Celebration

A wedding ceremony is first and foremost a sacred celebration. The integrity and dignity of the Catholic liturgy must be respected and maintained.

## Catholic Weddings Look Different

In the United States, we're accustomed to secular wedding traditions; but because of the deep symbolism of what takes place in the Sacrament of Matrimony in the Catholic Church, the wedding liturgy looks different. You will have several options from which to choose, and the Parish Wedding Coordinator will discuss them with you in detail.

## Choosing Scripture Readings

The readings at a Catholic wedding liturgy are a proclamation of God's Word and of the Church's faith about marriage. For this reason, they are limited to readings from the Scriptures (the Bible). There are specific options for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, the Second Reading and the Gospel. One of those readings must speak explicitly of marriage. You are encouraged to read, pray and choose the scriptures that will be proclaimed at your wedding. Take this time to pray and select the appropriate prayers and responses that best reflect you as a couple. The Parish Wedding Coordinator and Music Planner will help you choose one from each of these categories at your appointment. All of the approved readings can be found in the 'Together for Life' book.

**Lectors for Catholic weddings must be Confirmed Catholics.**

## Choosing Vows

There are two sets of scripted vows from which to choose, and the Parish Wedding Coordinator will assist you. **In a Catholic wedding, the bride and groom are not permitted to write their own vows.**

## Choosing Music



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Because the focus of the wedding liturgy is on the couple's gift of their lives to God, and God's blessing upon them, the music must be sacred. The Music Planner has a library of beautiful music from which to choose, and great care will be taken to help you choose music that reflects your style and personality. **Secular music, pop music, movie theme, other non-religious music and instrumental versions of pop music are not allowed at the wedding liturgy.**

### Cantor & Accompanist

It is our policy that a St. Michael's parish cantor and accompanist be contracted for each wedding. The cantor will lead the congregational singing. This will include the entrance chant, Gloria, Responsorial Psalm, and Gospel acclamation. If Mass is to be celebrated, the Eucharistic acclamations will be sung as well. The accompanist - organ or piano - will play prelude music before the ceremony and processional and recessional marches in addition to accompanying the cantor and congregation. **No recorded music may be played at the wedding liturgy.**

### Additional Musicians

If you would like to have a soloist, string or brass ensemble or solo instrumentalists, arrangements can be made. **Please DO NOT contract with outside musicians before speaking with the Music Planner.**

### Worship Aids

The Music Planner will create a special worship aid (program) for your wedding. St. Michael Parish is licensed to reprint the music of several publishers. We do expect that all Liturgies follow the strict guidelines of copyright law. The first 75 black & white copies are free. Additional copies can be printed in increments of 25 for \$10. If you choose to create your own worship aid, it must be proofed and approved by the Director of Music Ministries.

### Choosing Other Liturgical Elements

Traditional wedding rituals, such as the binding the couple with a veil or cord (lasso), blessing and giving wedding coins (arras) and placing flowers at an image of Mary can be beautiful additions to your wedding. Please let the Parish Wedding Coordinator know if you would like to incorporate these traditions.



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Presentation of flowers to Mary is a devotional. If you choose this ritual, know that this takes place after the final blessing, right before the recessional.

**Your Liturgy Plan is final 45 days prior to the wedding.**