



St. Robert Bellarmine Parish

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TO: Couples preparing for Marriage
FROM: Elaine Johnson, Director of Music- St. Robert Bellarmine
RE: Church Music and liturgy planning

Congratulations on your engagement and pending marriage. The next few months are sure to be very hectic and also very exciting as you prepare to take this momentous step in your lives. Planning a marriage ceremony can be a very arduous task. There is so much to think about and consider, and you want everything to be perfect. I understand your concern and promise to do all I can to make this day beautiful and meaningful for you and your family.

At Saint Robert's church, great care is taken in helping you to choose appropriate readings and music for your marriage ceremony. Your opinion is paramount in this process. In the back of the *Together for Life* booklet, there is a tear-out worksheet for planning your ceremony. Although this is your special day, the rules of the Church need to be followed very carefully. Canonical and Diocesan rules place strict guidelines upon the type of music used within the marriage ceremony. Together we will decide upon a liturgy that meets your expectations and agrees with the guidelines of the church.

Please begin to consider the options in the worksheet as soon as you can. Approximately three months before the wedding, contact me to set up a meeting to fully discuss your ceremony. At this time we will decide all the options pertaining to your wedding liturgy; namely the music, readings, use of musicians, etc. to make your ceremony as special as is possible. Please take the time to read the *Wedding Music Guidelines* sheet before you schedule your meeting.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. Due to my busy schedule, I prefer being contacted via email at epjohnson@comcast.net. Please be patient when emailing as it sometimes takes me a few days to get back to you. I look forward to meeting and working with you. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elaine Johnson
Director of Music