



St. Mary Magdalene  
Catholic Community  
Willowick, Ohio  
Serving the needs of God's people  
for over 60 years!

## WEDDING PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The wedding liturgy is a communal celebration, and participation of the congregation is encouraged. A printed worship aid may facilitate better participation and a sense of welcome. The design of the worship aid may take any format. Printed covers are commercially available at stores such as Henninger's, Rainbow Family Book Center, or Pat Catan's, or the cover may be custom designed. Paper stock and layout are also at the discretion of the designer, and may be selected to coordinate with the bridal party dresses, flowers, or themes. Following are suggestions of what content to include in the wedding worship aid. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Hrich at [music@smmwillowick.org](mailto:music@smmwillowick.org) or 440-854-6015.

### PASSING OUT THE WORSHIP AID

Note that some couples choose to have greeters, separate from their bridal party, to hand out the worship aids at the door. This can be a gesture of hospitality (providing visiting guests an opportunity to become acclimated with the church, and also someone, for example, to ask for directions to the rest room). It is also an opportunity to give a special role to a significant young person in the couples' life without having them as part of the bridal party. This is optional, and some couples choose to simply have the bridal party members who seat guests serve as greeters.

### WORSHIP AID FOR WEDDING WITHIN MASS

A wedding within Mass is very similar to weekend liturgy, with the addition of the actual Sacrament of Marriage and the Nuptial Blessing.

### FRONT COVER

The front of the program typically includes the names of the bride and groom, date, and location:

*Celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony Uniting*  
Jane A. Doe  
and  
John B. Smith  
July x, 201x  
St. Mary Magdalene Church

Usually names of those who have significant roles in the wedding celebration are listed, either at the front of the program or at the back. This can include bridal party, parents of the couple, presider,

lector(s), gift bearer(s), music minister(s), and/or greeter(s). The body of the worship aid details the order of worship:

## CONTENTS OF THE WORSHIP AID

- Prelude Music (list titles if appropriate; check with your music minister)
- Processional/Gathering Song (include words or hymnal page if sung congregationally)
- Opening Prayer (proclaimed by the presider; not necessary to list in the program if space is a concern)
- First Reading (may include scripture citation, one-line summary of the reading, and/or “proclaimed by *lector’s name*”)
- Responsorial Psalm (usually sung, **please include the words in the worship aid** so that the congregation can respond)
- Second Reading (may include scripture citation, one-line summary of the reading, and/or “proclaimed by *lector’s name*”)
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia; not necessary to list in the program if space is a concern)
- Gospel (may include scripture citation and/or one-line summary of the reading)
- Homily
- Sacrament of Marriage (Exchange of Consent & Vows, Blessing & Exchange of Rings – may list these separately if desired)
- Lighting of Unity Candle (not part of the wedding liturgy; optional)
- Universal Prayer of the Faithful (please list the response, such as Lord, Hear Our Prayer)
- Offertory Song (may also list the gift-bearers; if song is congregational, list words or hymnal page)
- Eucharistic Acclamations (Holy, Holy; Mystery of Faith; Great Amen – not necessary to list in the program if space is a concern)
- Our Father
- Sign of Peace
- Lamb of God (not necessary to list in the program if space is a concern)
- Communion Song (**please list words or at least title and hymnal page**)
- Reflection/Hymn of Praise (may be omitted – verify with musician)
- Visit to Mary’s Altar (not a part of the wedding liturgy so may not be included; if it is, you can list the music being sung, such as *Ave Maria*)
- Nuptial Blessing (May occur here or right after the Our Father; verify with the presider)
- Final Blessing
- Recessional (list song title)
- Postlude (optional; verify with musician)

Some couples choose to include a prayer, thank-you, or forwarding address at the end of the program, as space permits.

## WORSHIP AID FOR WEDDING OUTSIDE OF MASS

A wedding outside of Mass is similar to weekend liturgy through the Liturgy of the Word. However, a wedding service (no Mass) does not include Eucharist. Therefore, there is no presentation of gifts or Communion rite.

### FRONT COVER

The front of the program typically includes the names of the bride and groom, date, and location:

*Celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony Uniting*  
Jane A. Doe  
and  
John B. Smith  
July x, 20xx  
St. Mary Magdalene Church

Usually names of those who have significant roles in the wedding celebration are listed, either at the front of the program or at the back. This can include bridal party, parents of the couple, presider, lector(s), music minister(s), and/or greeter(s). The body of the worship aid details the order of worship:

### CONTENTS OF THE WORSHIP AID

- Prelude Music (list titles if appropriate; check with your music minister)
- Processional/Gathering Song (include words or hymnal page if sung congregationally)
- Opening Prayer (proclaimed by the presider; not necessary to list in the program if space is a concern)
- First Reading (may include scripture citation, one-line summary of the reading, and/or “proclaimed by *lector’s name*”)
- Responsorial Psalm (usually sung, **please include the words in the worship aid** so that the congregation can respond)
- Second Reading (may include scripture citation, one-line summary of the reading, and/or “proclaimed by *lector’s name*”)
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia; not necessary to list in the program if space is a concern)
- Gospel (may include scripture citation and/or one-line summary of the reading)
- Homily
- Sacrament of Marriage (Exchange of Consent & Vows, Blessing & Exchange of Rings – may list these separately if desired)
- Lighting of Unity Candle (not part of the wedding liturgy; optional)
- Universal Prayer of the Faithful (please list the response, such as Lord, Hear Our Prayer)
- Our Father
- Sign of Peace

- Visit to Mary's Altar (not a part of the wedding liturgy so may not be included; if it is, you can list the music being sung, such as *Ave Maria*)
- Nuptial Blessing (May occur here or right after the Our Father; verify with the presider)
- Final Blessing
- Recessional (list song title)
- Postlude (optional; verify with musician)

Some couples choose to include a prayer, thank-you, or forwarding address at the end of the program, as space permits.