

St. James Wedding FAQ's

Will the musicians be present at my rehearsal?

Because the music director and other approved musicians you have hired for your service have done numerous weddings at St. James, we will not attend your rehearsal. The rehearsal is geared more for you and your wedding party to understand how the liturgy will proceed.

May I choose a popular song or secular piece for my ceremony music?

Standard procedure at St. James is to select something off our Ceremony Music list for the actual liturgy. If a piece you would like is classical in nature, it may be a possibility for us. We may also be able to accommodate a popular song as part of the prelude music or as the exit hymn, since the liturgy is technically over.

A member of my family is a great singer. Can he/she sing at the ceremony?

Our general guideline for family and friends singing or playing at the liturgy is that if they have played in the Catholic Church before it is usually okay. Sometimes an extra rehearsal may be needed for that member to coordinate a piece of music with the music director. If that is the case there may be an extra fee for an added rehearsal. Please note that even if you have a family member play the entire liturgy, the music director must still be present to set up and to make sure that the liturgy proceeds smoothly.

Are we required to attend a wedding workshop? When are they held?

Yes. It is important to attend a workshop so that you can hear the music and musicians ahead of time and plan for your wedding. Missing a workshop usually means you will have to meet with the music director separately and this will incur an additional fee. Wedding workshops are held usually in February, May, July, and October. The music director generally contacts the couples ahead of time to alert them of an upcoming workshop. Please also check the St. James website for upcoming workshop dates.

How long does the workshop last? Where is it held?

The workshop generally lasts about 90 minutes. It is held in St. James Church. This is also a good opportunity to see the church and visualize your ceremony.

My wedding is only one month after the workshop? Is that enough prep time?

Yes. Our musicians are generally adaptable, and even if they are already booked on your wedding date, they can usually provide a highly qualified substitute approved by our director to add music to your ceremony. If your wedding is fast approaching around the date of a workshop, the music director may ask you to choose all or most of your music at the workshop.

Is there an added fee for extra musicians? Does the music director book the additional musicians for me?

A great plus about your ceremony at St. James is the access to extremely talented musicians. You may have your music as simple as the music director singing and playing piano/organ, or you may have additional instruments such as harp, guitar, strings, vocal soloists, and even bagpipes! The added musicians charge a fee, but the music director makes sure that the fee is standard and competitive. You need to speak directly with the musicians at the wedding workshop and book them yourself. The music director will coordinate anything music related with your musicians, but is not responsible for any monetary transactions with your musicians. Some musicians require a deposit on site to book your ceremony. The balance is then due at the time of the rehearsal.

When do we pay for the musicians?

Because your wedding day will be filled with activity, our policy at St. James is payment to your St. James wedding coordinator the day of your rehearsal. This includes the bench fee for the music director, and any outstanding balances due to the musicians.

Are tips standard for the musicians?

We greatly appreciate tips for our services, but they are not required/standard. We understand that there are so many costs associated with your ceremony, and many expect or require tipping. Our goal is simply to provide the best music for your special day!

If you have any further questions not found on this FAQ sheet, please feel free to get in touch with the music director. The phone number is (310) 376-5065. Or you can email: music@stjamesparish.org

Thank you! We look forward to providing you with unforgettable music at your wedding ceremony at St. James!