

**Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

*Indianapolis' original Catholic parish and former pro-cathedral*  
126 West Georgia Street • Indianapolis IN 46225-1004  
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**WEDDING MUSIC POLICY**

for Weddings in 2011

**Tom Nichols** ..... *Director of Music & Liturgy*

(317) 635-2021 ext. 23

tom.nichols@stjohnsindy.com

Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church has a rich tradition of music that has existed for 140 years. It has always been a place where the format of liturgies, and the music used in them, is traditional and sacred. It is important that music of an appropriately sacred nature be chosen for your wedding. There are many fine pieces of music and hymns available that would be most appropriate for your special celebration. *Mainstream “pop music” is not appropriate for any sacred liturgy celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.*

Our Director of Music & Liturgy is responsible for overseeing the selection of music at all weddings here. He is available to assist you in planning the music for your wedding and to arrange for any additional musicians you may need. He normally serves as the Organist and/or Pianist for all weddings. He can also assist you with the layout of your wedding program/worship aid. It is his responsibility to insure that all music you choose is appropriate and that your wedding program/worship aid is liturgically correct.

If you have a relative or friend who is a *professional* organist/pianist and is familiar with the format of a Catholic wedding liturgy or ceremony, you may invite that person to serve as the performing Organist/Pianist at your wedding. This person must be auditioned and approved in advance by the Director of Music and/or the Pastor. A **“Release Fee” of \$100 will be due to our Director of Music, since he has the right of first refusal for all Weddings here.** *Only competent, professional organists are qualified to play our pipe organ.* If the person you have in mind is uncomfortable with the idea of being your Organist/Pianist, it is best to leave that most important role to St. John’s Director of Music & Liturgy.

The Director of Music & Liturgy *does not* automatically attend the Wedding Rehearsal unless requested to do so by either the Couple or by the Presider. He may choose to attend the rehearsal if the presiding priest is not one with whom he has previously worked. If this is the case, there is no additional fee, nor would he expect to attend your Rehearsal Dinner.

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## MUSIC SELECTION GUIDELINES

- **Only music of a sacred or classical nature** is appropriate. This includes the Prelude Music, the Ceremony or Mass itself, and the Postlude Music.
  - **We do not allow the playing of pre-recorded music** (CDs or cassette tapes) at any time in the Church. This includes the time prior to, and after, the wedding.
  - **Instruments:** There is an excellent 50-stop pipe organ in the Choir Loft and a Baldwin grand piano in the South Transept. Either or both may be used for your wedding.
  - **Singers:** We prefer to rely on the experience of a Cantor from St. John’s, or one arranged for by our Music Director. If you have a relative or friend who is a *properly experienced singer*, that person may serve as the Cantor and lead the “core music” of the ceremony after being auditioned (either in person or via recording) and approved. Otherwise, this person should only sing appropriate solo(s) before, during, or after the Ceremony.
  - **Wedding Program/Worship Aid:** You are required to have available some kind of worship aid so that your wedding guests can fully participate in all spoken and musical responses. This would include the Responsorial Psalm, Gospel Acclamation, and any hymns being sung.
1. **If you prefer to layout the Wedding Program on your own**, you must provide the Director of Music with a copy of the finished original for proofreading before you have the programs duplicated. In this way we can be certain that the Order of the Ceremony is correct. In this case, the Music Director will prepare for you a double-sided sheet “Music For the Wedding Ceremony” which must be handed out along with your Wedding Program.
  2. **If you prefer to have the Director of Music can layout the entire Wedding Program for you**, he will help you plan what needs to go in the booklet (including any special messages or poetry you may desire to include), submit it to you for proofing, and produce a finished original. You are then responsible for using the finished original to have the booklets copied or printed. The choice of paper type is completely up to you.

### FEE SCHEDULE

*Payment in full is expected **no later than one week before your wedding day.***

*Send checks to: Tom Nichols • St. John Catholic Church • 126 W. Georgia Street • Indianapolis IN 46225-1004*

#### **Tom Nichols (Organist/Pianist)**

Wedding Ceremony (no Mass) .....	<b>\$175.00</b>
Wedding Liturgy (Mass) .....	<b>\$225.00</b>
Complete Wedding Program Layout .....	<u>add</u> 50.00

*Release Fee .....* \$ 100.00

*This is when someone other than Mr. Tom Nichols is used as Organist/Pianist at your wedding.*

**Ellen Denham (Cantor/Vocalist) .....** \$150.00

ellen@denham.virtualave.net

Note: Other soloists and instrumentalists will have their own fee schedules, which may vary significantly.