

Wedding Service – Worship Aid 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, and 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.

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, 200x
St. Monica 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:

Prelude Music (list titles if appropriate; check with your music minister)
Processional/Entrance Chant (include words or hymnal page if sung congregationally)
Opening Prayer (proclaimed by the presider; not necessary to list in the program)
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)
Gospel (may include scripture citation and/or one-line summary of the reading)
Homily
Sacrament of Marriage (Exchange of Consent, Blessing & Exchange of Rings – may list these separately if desired)
Universal Prayer (please list the response, such as Lord, Hear Our Prayer)
Our Father
Sign of Peace
Nuptial 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.

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.

If you have any questions about this guide, or what to include in your worship aid, please contact Sr. Maryanne Quinlivan at 440-223-0459.