

Planning a Christian Wedding



IMMANUEL
L U T H E R A N
CHURCH | SCHOOL | PRESCHOOL

47120 Romeo Plank Road
Macomb, MI 48044
586.286.4231

immlutheran.org

MARRIAGE

GIFT OF MARRIAGE

The Scriptures read that God is the creator of marriage. “And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone. I will make a helper fit for him.” (Gen. 2:18). People were created to be in relationship. Relationships are a design of the best life possible for human beings. Marriage is the relationship between man and woman, and between Christ and His “bride” the church, us! May all marriages reflect the love of God for humanity, and the love of humanity for our great Savior and friend, Jesus.

OUR PROMISE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

We are thrilled, excited, and joy-filled to share in your wedding day. But, we also are excited to be a part of your married life. Together, as disciples of Jesus, we promise we will support, pray for, encourage, and care for you in your marriage.

If there is anything we can ever do to uplift, strengthen, or empower your marriage, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to celebrating your anniversaries, your children's birthday's and baptisms, and your faith milestones each year, as we are intertwined with one another in faith and life together, by the power and in the name of Jesus.



MAKING YOUR WEDDING ARRANGEMENTS

FIRST THINGS FIRST...RESERVING THE DATE

When you have a date selected for your wedding, please contact the church office to be sure the date and time you would like are available.

You have a choice of having your wedding in the:

- Worship Center (which seats 1,000)
- Chapel (which seats 235)

Weddings are booked on Fridays, Saturdays, & Sundays starting at 5pm on Fridays and at 2pm on Sundays. On Saturdays, weddings can be booked at any time.

After you have ensured that the date & time in the venue of your choice is available, **a non-refundable deposit of \$750 is required in order to secure that date**. The remaining balance is due 30 days before your wedding. Full payment is expected, and is not refundable.

Please do not make firm commitments for your reception or rehearsal plans until you have secured the date with the church. Also note that all weddings are subject to the approval of the Senior Pastor.

WHAT'S NEXT?

After you have reserved the date, there are a few things you'll need to do. They are:

- If neither the bride nor the groom are members of Immanuel, then you will both need to take our Immanuel Orientation class. This class is one and a half hours long and is held on Sunday mornings. Please contact the church office for upcoming class dates.
- Attend our pre-marriage seminar, which is a 7 ½ hour class held on three separate days (2 ½ hours each day). These seminars are held approximately three times a year. Once your wedding is scheduled, you will automatically be added to the invitation list for upcoming seminars. Please contact the church office for upcoming seminar dates.
- Attend worship services at Immanuel at least four times before your wedding.
- Meet with the Pastor who will be officiating at your wedding. This is typically done about a month before your wedding day.

THE ORDER OF THE SERVICE

The order of a wedding service is considered open to flexibility. However, scriptures do call for all worship to be orderly. Accordingly, each congregation establishes certain regulations regarding ceremonies, including the marriage service. Below is a typical order of when things happen during a wedding. You will go over the details with the officiating Pastor and the Wedding Coordinator.

- * **PRE-SERVICE MUSIC**
- * **RINGING OF THE BELLS**
- * **PROCESSIONAL**
- * **ENTRANCE OF THE BRIDE**
- * **INVOCATION**
- * **EXHORTATION**
- * **SCRIPTURE READING(s)**
- * **SOLO OR HYMN** (optional)
- * **MESSAGE**
- * **SOLO OR HYMN** (optional)
- * **PARENTAL BLESSING** (optional)
- * **RITE OF MARRIAGE—CEREMONY OF MUTUAL CONSENT**
- * **EXCHANGE OF VOWS**
- * **EXCHANGE OF RINGS**
- * **PRONOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE**
- * **BLESSING**
- * **UNITY CEREMONY** (optional)
- * **PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER**
- * **BENEDICTION**
- * **INTRODUCTION**
- * **RECESSIONAL**

Some Things to Consider

- ◇ The order of service can be changed around. For example, you can add music or more scripture readings.
- ◇ You can have a family member or friend read the scripture passages or say the opening prayer.
- ◇ Do you want to do a unity ceremony? Like, light a unity candle, mix sand or something else?
- ◇ What songs do you want for your wedding ceremony? See suggestions elsewhere in this booklet.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Pre-Service Music

Music will be playing for approximately 30 minutes before the ceremony starts to set an atmosphere as your guests begin to arrive and be seated. Often, grandparents and mothers (or parents) are escorted in to be seated during this time.

You may choose a few selections to have played, or allow our Worship Arts Director to choose them for you. Some couples will choose a specific song to be played while the grandparents and mothers are seated.

Ringing of the Bells

The bells will be rung to mark the start of the service.

Processional

The processional is for the entrance of the bridal party. As this music begins, the pastor and the groom usually proceed to the front and the bridesmaids begin their procession down the aisle.

Entrance of the Bride

Usually, the entrance of the bride in the processional is marked by the playing of a song that is different than what is used for the bridal party. It stirs your guests to stand, and gives the bride her moment to shine.

Invocation

The Pastor will say:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Exhortation

The Pastor will say:

We are gathered here in the sight of God and of His Church to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in holy marriage. This is an honorable estate which God Himself has instituted and blessed, and by which He gives us a picture of the very communion of Christ and His bride, the Church. God has both established and sanctified marriage, and has promised to bless therein all who love and trust in Him, and who seek to give Him their faithful worship and service, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy, for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity, and when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore, marriage is not to be entered into inadvisably or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Scripture Readings



1 John 4:7 - 12

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

Proverbs 24:3

By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established.

Ephesians 3:14 - 19

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith — that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Ruth 1:16 - 17

But Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Ephesians 5:21 - 33

Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Scripture Readings

Matthew 19:4 - 6

He answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate."

I Corinthians 13:4 - 8, 13

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Genesis 2:18, 21 - 24

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

Ecclesiastes 4:9 - 12

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him — a three-fold cord is not quickly broken.

Genesis 1:27, 28, 31

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Ephesians 5:1 - 2

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Parental Blessing

The parents will stand and the Pastor will say:

Will you, as parents, support, encourage, and strengthen _____ and _____ in their marriage, remembering at all times that God wants them to live in obedience to His holy ordinance until death parts them?

The parents will respond:

We will, with the help of God.

Rite of Marriage — Mutual Consent

The Pastor will ask the question of the father (or another relative):

Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

He/they will rise and answer *"I do."*, or *"Her mother and I do"*.

Then the Pastor will say to the man and woman separately:

_____, will you have _____ to be your (wife/husband), to live with (her/him) after God's command, to share your laughter and your tears and all that your years will bring, and bind yourself to (her/him) as long as you both shall live?

Bride/Groom will answer *"I will"*.

Exchange of Vows

The couple will face each other and join hands and say after the Pastor:

Vow #1

I, _____, take you, _____ to be my wife/husband from this day forward, to join with you and share all that is to come, and, with the help of God, I promise to be faithful to you as He gives us life together.

OR

Vow #2

I _____, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you _____ to be my wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death parts us, and I pledge you my faithfulness.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Exchange of Rings

After the vows have been exchanged, you may exchange rings. The Pastor will guide you through this; having you place the ring on the other's finger and using the words below:

Version #1

Having this love in your hearts, you have chosen to seal your vows by the giving and receiving of rings.

_____, place this ring on _____'s finger and repeat after me:

*As a pledge of my love...
And with all that I am...
And all that I have...
I honor you...
In the name of the Father...
And of the Son...
And of the Holy Spirit...
Amen.*

Version #2

Placing the ring on the other's finger, say "This ring is a sign of my love and faithfulness".

The Pastor will say:

May the giving and receiving of these rings ever be a symbol to you of the never-ending circle of love, which God has given to you as individual, and also as a couple. To this end, may God bless you through the heavenly Bridegroom, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Pronouncement of Marriage

After exchanging rings, the Pastor will have you join hands and face each other and will then say:

_____ and _____, by your promises before God and in the presence of this congregation, I pronounce you husband and wife. Blessed be the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit now and forever. You have been joined by the love of God the Father in the life of the Spirit of Christ, and man must not divide you.

Wedding Blessing

Kneeling (optional), the couple will receive a blessing.

SERVICE COMPONENTS

Unity Ceremony

This is an optional part of the service. The unity ceremony is a symbol of what happens in marriage; the two become one. You may choose to light a unity candle, mix sand, or have some other type of specialty element that symbolizes the union taking place.

Before the service starts, someone from each family (traditionally, the mothers of the bride and groom) will bring the sand forward, or will light the individual candles. This represents the two individuals and their families.

After the pronouncement of marriage, you will take those individual family elements (candles/sand) and make them one. Since the flame of the candle cannot be separated, nor the grains of sand separated once they are joined together, it is a reminder that what God has joined in love and commitment cannot be undone.

You may like to have a hymn or solo sung at this time, or simply have background music played. Most often couples do not choose a song for this because it is a brief part of the service.

The Pastor will say a prayer, and then invite the congregation to join him in saying the Lord's Prayer:

O God, our dwelling place in all generations, look with favor upon the homes of our land. Embrace husbands and wives, parents and children, in the arms of your love, and grant that each, in reverence for Christ, fulfill the duties You have given. Bless our homes that they may ever be a shelter for the defenseless, a fortress for the tempted, a resting place for the weary, and a foretaste of our eternal home with You; through Jesus the Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us all to pray as family...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Benediction

The benediction is a blessing said by the Pastor to conclude the ceremony.

Introduction & Recessional

After the benediction, the Pastor will congratulate you and say "You may now kiss the bride." He will introduce you as a couple to the congregation and you will proceed out of the church down the center aisle to a song of your choosing. The bridal party will follow you. If you have ushers, they will help direct your guests as they leave.

For the recessional, consider choosing an upbeat selection that shares your joy.

MUSIC

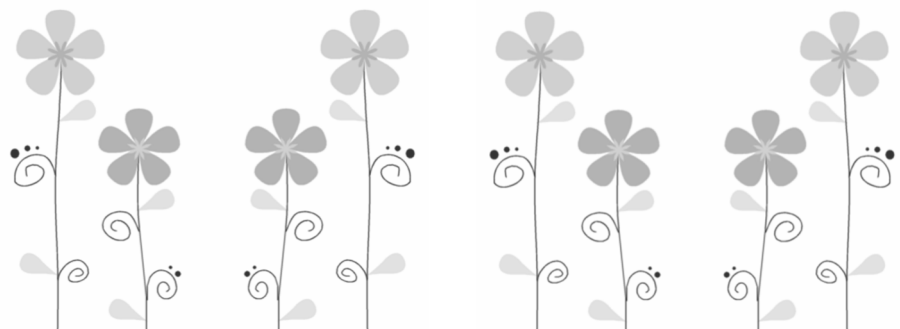
About the Music...

The following pages are provided to assist you in your choice of music for your wedding service.

If you have a music selection that is not listed here, it might likely be OK, but you must have it approved by the Worship Arts Director a minimum of one month before your wedding. If the selection has not been approved, then the selection will not be allowed.

Our Worship Arts Director is available to help you pick music for your wedding. Even if you only plan on using selections from the lists provided, please contact the Worship Arts Director to discuss your choices and clarify any questions you may have.

Suggestions are listed in sections titled “Modern” and “Traditional” below, but you may choose to use any approved music for any part of your wedding ceremony. The titles listed are approved selections, but feel free to consider other songs. Just discuss them with our Worship Arts Director.



MUSIC

MODERN

With today's brides and grooms, increasing numbers of soon-to-be newlyweds seek a vibe that is unique and symbolizes their relationship. Make the music yours with modern love songs that speak personally to you.

Prelude (or Pre-Service) *(pick at least 3)*

The prelude is the 30 minutes of music played while guests arrive, and is often when the grandparents and mothers are escorted in. Here are a few soft and sweet suggestions for the moments just before the ceremony starts:

"The Way I Am" (Ingrid Michaelson)
"Love Never Fails" (Brandon Heath)
"Only You" (Joshua Radin)

"Reasons to Love You" (Meiko)
"Until You" (Dave Barnes)
"Falling Slowly" (Glen Hansard & Marketa Irglova)

Processional *(pick 1)*

As this music begins, the pastor and the groom usually proceed to the front and the bridesmaids begin their procession down the aisle. Some choices for the processional are:

"Bless the Broken Road" (Rascal Flatts)
"Can't Help Falling In Love" (Haley Reinhart)
"Love Somebody Like You" (Keith Urban)

"Amen" (Dave Barnes)
"Never Stop (Wedding Version)" (SafetySuit)

Bridal Entrance *(choose 1)*

For the grand entrance of the bride, choose a tune that expresses your love as a couple. Find one with lyrics you love or in the genre that you both agree on. The choices are endless. Check out these to start:

"A Thousand Years" (Christina Perri)
"Make You Feel My Love" (Adele)
"My Love for You is Real" (Ryan Adams)

"Fly" (Sarah Groves)
"Let it Be Me" (Rosie Thomas)
"Lay Your Head Down" (Keren Ann)

Recessional *(choose 1)*

After saying your vows, you'll be ready to skip down that aisle with your new partner on your arm! So, choose an upbeat recessional. Share your joy with one of these selections:

"Signed, Sealed, Delivered" (Stevie Wonder)
"Everything" (Michael Buble)
"Best Day of My Life" (American Authors)
"Ain't No Mountain High Enough" (Marvin Gaye)

"Good Day for Marrying You" (Dave Barnes)
"Beautiful Day" (U2)
"This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)" (Natalie Cole)

MUSIC

TRADITIONAL

Many couples today still prefer a classic and traditional vibe.

Prelude (or Pre-Service) *(pick at least 3)*

The prelude is the approximately half hour of music played while people are gathering for the ceremony. Choose classical music to create a reverent mood:

"Prelude in C" (J.S. Bach)

"Ave Maria" (F. Schubert)

"Clair de Lune" (C. Debussy)

"Gymnopedie" (A.E.L. Satie)

"La primavera" and "L'inverno"

from the Four Seasons (A.Vivaldi)

Seating of Family *(pick 1)*

The ceremony begins with the seating of special guests and grandparents, followed by the seating of the mothers. The finest selections for this moment are:

"Arioso" (J.S. Bach)

"Allegro Maestoso" from Water Music (G.F. Handel)

"Meditation from Tais" (J. Massenet)

Processional *(pick 1)*

As this music begins, the pastor and the groom usually proceed to the front and the bridesmaids begin their procession down the aisle. Some traditional choices for the processional are:

"Trumpet Voluntary" (J. Clark)

"Trumpet Tune" (H. Purcell)

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" (J.S. Bach)

"March" from Occasional Oratorio (G.F. Handel)

Bride's Entrance *(pick 1)*

It's time for the grand entrance! Familiar songs that stir your guests to stand and await the bride's appearance are:

"Canon in D" (J. Pachelbel)

"The Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin (R. Wagner)

"Rondeau" (J.J. Mouret)

"Allegro Maestoso" from Water Music (G.F. Handel)

Recessional *(pick 1)*

At this point, you're beaming with total joy after marrying your partner! Consider these exuberant pieces for a grand exit:

"Ode to Joy" (L. Beethoven)

"Hornpipe" (G.F. Handel)

"The Wedding March" from

A Midsummer Night's Dream (F. Mendelssohn)

OTHER INFORMATION

UNITY CEREMONY

If you would like to light a unity candle, mix sand, or something else, you will need to discuss that with the Pastor and Wedding Coordinator, and you will need to provide the candles, sand, etc. We have a standard unity candle holder available for your use, if needed.

AISLE CANDLES

Candelabra for the center aisle are available for your use. The candles are supplied, and you may decorate the stands with bows and/or flowers, if you'd like. There are 10 candles (5 on each side) in the Chapel, and 16 candles (8 each side) in the Worship Center.

AISLE RUNNER

If you would like to have an aisle runner, you will need to provide one. They are available for purchase or rental from most florists. You will need one that is 75 feet long.

PROGRAM

If you would like to have us prepare a program for your wedding, we can do that. We have a few options to choose from. Please contact us in the church office for more information at least two weeks before your wedding.

FLOWERS

The church will be opened one hour before your wedding so you may decorate. If you are having flowers delivered, they may be brought to the church at that time. After your service, you may take them with you, or you can leave them for weekend services. Only artificial petals may be used (if desired) to scatter up the aisle.

THE REHEARSAL

Please contact the church office to set up a date and time for your wedding rehearsal. Normally, the rehearsal is scheduled for the evening a day or two before the wedding (typically between 6 - 8pm), depending on availability. Every member of the wedding party should be present for the rehearsal, as well as the ushers and parents of the bride and groom. The rehearsal will last 30—60 minutes.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The Pastor *must* have the marriage license before he can perform the marriage ceremony. You will need to contact the Macomb County Clerk's office in order to apply for your marriage license. Their website is www.clerk.macombgov.org and phone number is (586) 469-5210.

If you are not a Macomb County resident, you may apply in the county in which you reside, unless you live out of state; in which case you *must* apply in Macomb County.

Please call them in advance for information on what documentation is needed in order to apply. A waiting period of three days after application is required. The license is valid for a 33-day period.

Soon after you receive the marriage license, please bring it to the church office. The Wedding Coordinator will ensure all parties sign the marriage license where needed, and one copy will be given to you after the wedding. The other copies will need to be returned to the County Clerk's office, which we will do for you.

To obtain a certified copy of your marriage license (which you will need for various legal reasons), contact the County Clerk's office where you applied.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. Your attendants should be ready to seat people 30 minutes before the service begins.
2. According to custom, the relatives and friends of the groom are seated on the right side (facing the altar) of the church, and those of the bride on the left. The front pews are typically reserved for the immediate relatives of the couple.
3. The church bells will be rung when the bridal party is ready to proceed down the aisle to the altar.
4. Anyone may enter the church and be present during a wedding service.
5. A receiving line may be done in back of the worship area following the service.
6. Your wedding ceremony will last approximately 30 minutes.
7. Always consider your Pastor to be your friend. Feel free to call upon him at any time to discuss with you any spiritual or family matters.
8. The Wedding Coordinator assigned to your wedding will be at the church one hour before the wedding to open the church.
9. No alcoholic beverages are allowed on our campus, nor is smoking permitted.
10. Fees are non-refundable and full payment is expected 30 days before the wedding.



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WEDDING EXPENSES

For Weddings Held at Immanuel

FOR MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS \$1,000

The amounts above include payments for:

- The Officiant (that is, the Pastor)
- The Organist/Pianist/Musician
- The Wedding Coordinator
- The Custodian
- The use of the facility for two hours (the hour before your wedding and the hour of your service)
- Pre-Marriage Counseling
- Use of Aisle Candles (*optional*)
- Use of Overhead Screens (*optional*)
- Programs (*optional*)

NOTE: Full payment is expected by 30 days before your wedding and is not refundable.

For Weddings Held Off-site

FOR MEMBERS & NON-MEMBERS \$700

The amount above includes payments for:

- The Officiant (that is, the Pastor)
- The Wedding Coordinator (included and required if off-site location is considered to be local)
- Pre-Marriage Counseling
- Programs (*optional*)

NOTE: Full payment is expected by 30 days before your wedding and is not refundable.

CHECKLIST

DID YOU...?

- Confirm the date and time of your wedding with the church?
- Attend Immanuel Orientation (if neither of you are members of Immanuel)?
- Attend pre-marriage counseling?
- Schedule a meeting with the Pastor?
- Pick your music and talk with the Worship Arts Director?
- Schedule a date and time for your rehearsal with the church?
- Select your florist?
- Select your photographer?
- Apply for and receive your marriage license?
- Give your marriage license to the church office at least 15 days before your wedding?
- Pay your final balance with the church at least 30 days before your wedding?

For Your Records

Date of Wedding: _____ Time: _____ Venue: _____

Date of Rehearsal: _____ Time: _____

Name and Contact Information of your Wedding Coordinator:

Music selected for: Processional _____

Entrance of the Bride _____

Recessional _____

During the service _____

Scripture Readings: Reading 1: _____ Read by: _____

Reading 2: _____ Read by: _____

Extra Reading(s): _____ Read by: _____