

The Entrance Procession

Best Practice

If you have attended a Catholic wedding, the beginning of the wedding usually does not look the same as the beginning of Sunday Mass. Perhaps the reason for this is that different cultures and eras have developed ways to highlight the entrance of the bride and/or groom.

Keeping the sense of a liturgical procession is a great value. Ideally, the procession should be led by a processional cross. It should include the liturgical ministers. It might also include the bridesmaids and groomsmen as well as the maid of honor and the best man. The parents of both the bride and groom should participate. Encouraging parents to be part of the entrance procession acknowledges a past and a future, a coming and a going, and a welcoming into a new extended family. This will have meaning for moms and dads, groom and bride, and all who witness it.

Gentle guidance by the presider or parish staff can shape an Entrance Procession which follows liturgical norms.

A liturgical procession assumes neither that the bride enters alone nor that the focus of the procession is on just the bride. The liturgical procession allows the liturgical ministers to enter the Church, and helps the liturgical assembly to enter into what is to come. Here is an example for an Order of Procession:

- Cross bearer
- Servers
- Readers
- [Assisting Deacon] *included if using form 1*
- [Priest] *included if using form 1*
- Bridesmaids and Groomsmen
- Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man
- Bride and Groom (three options for entry)
 - Bride and Groom together
 - Groom with parents; Bride with parents
 - Groom; then Bride