



MARRIAGE PLANNING BOOKLET

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your incredible witness by powerfully responding to God's call to the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. In *The Joy of Love* (72), Pope Francis writes:

The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the sanctification and salvation of the spouses, since "their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple are therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another and for their children witnesses of the salvation in which they share through the sacrament." Marriage is a vocation, inasmuch as it is a response to a specific call to experience conjugal love as an imperfect sign of the love between Christ and the Church. Consequently, the decision to marry and to have a family ought to be the fruit of a process of vocational discernment.

Your presence and desire to celebrate the SACRAMENT of Matrimony is one sign you are undertaking this "vocational discernment".

The liturgical celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony should be a time of the greatest prayer and preparation for in this sacramental celebration "Christian spouses signify and participate in the mystery of the unity and fruitful love between Christ and the Church, therefore...they help one another become holy and have to their own place and particular gift among the People of God" (*The Order of Celebrating Matrimony* 9). So, "the celebration itself of the Sacrament must be diligently prepared, as far as possible with the engaged couple" (*The Order of Celebrating Matrimony* 29).

With the awareness of the importance of this celebration, we have created this Matrimony Planning Binder (MPB). This is prepared to make the planning of the liturgical celebration of your wedding organized, easy, efficient and, hopefully, enriching. (It is sort of like your own Church wedding planner!)

Some important notes:

1. Do not be overwhelmed. THERE IS A LOT HERE! We know this. We have tried to organize this in a step by step manner to make it as simple as possible. Any questions, please ask.
2. You should be in regular contact with the PRESIDERS (the priest or deacon who is officiating at the celebration). Ideally, you would see the priest at Sunday Mass, parish events and in formal meeting times. He can help you with any questions about the liturgy planning.
3. Do not be overwhelmed.
4. **Marriage Preparation.** As SJE is not presently offering a formal marriage preparation program, you may fulfill this in other settings (parishes, diocese, etc.) with the permission of the presider of your wedding. Regardless of what you are given regarding the planning of your wedding, this is the only document you are to follow for weddings that are celebrated at St. John the Evangelist.
5. **Sunday Mass.** This is the best way to prepare for married life and for the liturgical celebration of your wedding. We want you to come and pray with us! You also

might hear some beautiful hymns that you'd like to incorporate on the day of the celebration of the sacrament.

6. Do not be overwhelmed. You're not alone! We are all looking forward to this day and want to help!

Using This Booklet

Now get to work! Here are some tips for using the MPB at SJE!

1. Take your time. If you're reading this booklet, you are probably not getting married tomorrow. Take it slow! Set some deadline for yourself and give yourself some time to take this all in. The more time and effort you put into the planning the more powerful the celebration (and your marriage) will be!
2. You're not the first one to get married. The Church has a liturgical tradition when it comes to the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. Embrace it! As you go through the MPB you'll see there is not really any need to "add" anything. You have to plan and create. Let the liturgy of the Church guide through this part of the marriage planning.
3. It's not YOUR wedding. OK, don't get mad! Let us explain. When it comes to this liturgical celebration, it belongs to the Church. Now, you are part of the Church! Remember, this is not a private event, like a reception or party. It's the official celebration of two individuals responding to God's call in love. We all celebrate this!
 - a. This means that we are limited to how the Church calls us to prepare and to celebrate. Now there are tons of options (you see how big this binder is, right?). In general, we are limited to the options here.
 - b. Always reach out to our Director of Music Ministry or one of the priests or deacons for specific information.
4. **Liturgical Planning Night.** Three to four times a year, SJE holds Liturgical Planning Nights for the Sacrament of Matrimony. At these meetings, we "walk-through" the wedding (not like at the rehearsal), go through some of the practical details and even play music! You may bring the MPB to the planning nights.

Ok, so now you're ready!

YOU NEED TO RETURN THE WEDDING PLANNING FORMS AT THE END OF THE BOOKLET. . (If you're accessing this via our website, it is separate link.)

-If you are celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony within Mass, you need to return the form on page 71 and 72

-If you are celebrating the Sacrament of Matrimony outside of Mass (a ceremony), you need to return the form on pages 73 and 74.

This form **MUST BE** returned **ONE MONTH** before your wedding. We want to make sure everyone is prepared, and we hope to have a beautiful wedding booklet prepared for you as well. (By the way, one month before your wedding is a great time to turn in your license, meet with the priest, handle offerings and fees, etc.)

OK....Here we go!

INTRODUCTORY RITES

PRELUDE MUSIC

As your guests are being seated, the organist will play instrumental music. A few moments before the Entrance Procession, the cantor will sing a piece of music. Here are the choices for the Prelude:

- Ave Maria (Schubert or Bach)
- Air of The G String (Bach)
- Sacred Instrumental

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE PRELUDE MUSIC.

PROCESSION

You have a few options for your procession!

1. Our favorite (☺) one is that both the bride and groom are part of the procession. The procession would enter the Church, followed by the bride and groom walking together or the groom and a witness followed by the bride and a witness (you would not see each other until the groom reach the “foot of the altar”. Please consider this one strongly. (We do the happy dance at SJE when you choose this one!)

We encourage this choice because it shows what Matrimony is all about. The bride and groom are the central symbols in matrimony, and they are equal in honor and dignity. This procession shows this.

Here is how it will look:

Altar Servers
(*Note: An altar server will carry the rings in procession if there is no ring bearer.*)
[Those doing Scripture readings]
Priest or Deacon
[Groom's Parents, if they are not accompanying the Groom, if desired]
[Bride's Parent(s) not accompanying the Bride, if desired]
[If parents are not part of the procession they are to be seated before the procession begins]
Bridesmaids and Ushers, **as couples**
Flower Girl and Ring Bearer, if any
Best Man and Maid of Honor, **as a couple**
Bride and Groom **together**
or
Groom with Parent(s)
Bride with Parent(s)

Thus, if the bride and groom do not walk down together, the groom will still be in the procession, and he will be the last one to walk down before the bride.

2. At present, the groom may enter the Church with the priest as the procession begins and the bride and a witness may be the last two people in the procession.
 - a. We permit this but we don't think it shows the fullness of what the Sacrament is all about (see #1!).

Some other notes for your procession:

- Any child under the age of 5 must be accompanied by an adult or a young adult.
- No other elements may be added to the procession (a wagon, additional signs, etc.) Remember, this is a pretty amazing ceremony, you don't need to add anything.

While this is happening, you can choose one of the following:

ENTRANCE PROCESSION

- Bridal March (Wagner)
- Canon in D (Pachelbel)
- Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)
- Sacred Instrumental

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM, PAGE 2, MARK THE MUSIC THAT WILL BE PLAYED DURING THE PROCESSION AND LIST THE ORDER OF PROCESSION.

GATHERING HYMN

After everyone in the Entrance Procession has arrived at their places, the GATHERING Hymn is sung. Please consider one of the following:

- Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ytf_TIujPw
- God, In The Planning
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DupTZ0qpxJU>
- God Beyond All Praising (THAXTED)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnnQpC9oLxU>
- Amazing Grace
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=37jHeDgfr5k>
- When Love is Found
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pHRWiYU8gA>

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE ENTRANCE HYMN.

COLLECT (Opening Prayer)

Here are the choices for the Collect (Opening Prayer):

D-1

(Note: This Collect may not be used in the same celebration as the first Nuptial Blessing, O-1 below)

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadow
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,
grant, we pray, to these your servants,
that what they receive in faith
they may live out in deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

D-2

O God, who in creating the human race
willed that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

D-3

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness
pour out your grace on these your servants (*N. and N.*),
that, coming together before your altar,
they may be confirmed in love for one another.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

D-4

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that these your servants,
now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony,
may grow in the faith they profess
and enrich your Church with faithful offspring.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

D-5

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness uphold

what you have established for the increase of the human race,
so that the union you have created
may be kept safe by your assistance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

D-6

O God, who since the beginning of the world
have blessed the increase of offspring,
show favor to our supplications
and pour forth the help of your blessing
on these your servants (*N. and N.*),
so that in the union of Marriage
they may be bound together
in mutual affection,
in likeness of mind,
and in shared holiness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

**GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE
COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER).**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

There are three Biblical readings which will be read at your wedding liturgy. You may wish to ask family members or friends to proclaim the First and Second Reading (the Gospel is always proclaimed by the priest or deacon). When selecting readings and readers for your wedding liturgy, keep the following in mind:

- Who is reading? You need to select someone to read who is comfortable speaking in a church or place of prayer. The person must be able to speak publicly, have a certain reverence in the Church and be able to enter prayerfully into the Word. You might have a friend who is ready to give a great speech at the wedding. It does not necessarily mean he or she is comfortable proclaiming God's Word. Does this make sense? You should not just choose "anybody" but somebody who can carry out this role.
 - **Any friend or family member you select must at least be baptized; an unbaptized person cannot function as a reader at liturgy.**
It is our parish policy that children under the age of 10 not proclaim readings at sacramental celebrations.
 - The reader is **never** to make any extemporaneous comments or greetings before or after the reading.
- If you feel it might be hard to find someone to proclaim the readings, let us know. Our parish readers LOVE to come to weddings!
- In making the choices, note that at least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must always be chosen. These readings are designated by an asterisk (*). **Therefore, at least one reading you choose out of the three must be a reading with an asterisk (*).**
- If your wedding is taking place during Easter Time, then an Old Testament reading is **not** used, and the First Reading is automatically the New Testament reading from the Book of Revelation (G-16); then, another New Testament reading is chosen as the Second Reading.

Now, look over the readings:

- Choose one Old Testament Reading (E-1 to E-9); these can be found on pages 12-21 (*except during Easter Time, in which case the First Reading is to be Revelation 19:1, 5-9a, G-16*);
- Choose one Responsorial Psalm (F-1 to F-6); these can be found on pages 22-27;
- Choose one New Testament Reading (G-1 to G-16); these can be found on pages 28-43;
- Choose one Gospel Reading (H-1 to H-12); these can be found on pages 44-52.

PLANNING NOTE:

This is not the bride's job!
Both members of the couple should think about, pray about, and choose the readings. This may be a great opportunity to talk about your hopes and dreams for your marriage!

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM, PAGES 2 AND 3, AND MARK THE CHOICES OF READINGS. ALSO INDICATE WHO WILL BE DOING THE READINGS. (Now you can see why this binder is so big!)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

E-1* Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Male and female he created them.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,

the birds of the air, and the cattle,

and over all the wild animals

and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,

and all the living things that move on the earth.”

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The word of the Lord.

E-2* Genesis 2:18-24

The two of them become one body.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone.
I will make a suitable partner for him."
So the Lord God formed out of the ground
various wild animals and various birds of the air,
and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
whatever the man called each of them would be its name.
The man gave names to all the cattle,
all the birds of the air, and all wild animals;
but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.
So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man,
and while he was asleep,
he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.
The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib
that he had taken from the man.
When he brought her to the man, the man said:
"This one, at last, is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
This one shall be called 'woman,'
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."
That is why a man leaves his father and mother
and clings to his wife,
and the two of them become one body.

The word of the Lord.

E-3* Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother.

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:
“I bowed down in worship to the Lord,
blessing the Lord, the God of my master Abraham,
who had led me on the right road
to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.
If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master,
let me know;
but if not, let me know that, too.
I can then proceed accordingly.”
Laban and his household said in reply:
“This thing comes from the Lord;
we can say nothing to you either for or against it.
Here is Rebekah, ready for you;
take her with you,
that she may become the wife of your master’s son,
as the Lord has said.”
So they called Rebekah and asked her,
“Do you wish to go with this man?”
She answered, “I do.”
At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave,
along with Abraham’s servant and his men.
Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:
“Sister, may you grow
into thousands of myriads;
And may your descendants gain possession
of the gates of their enemies!”
Then Rebekah and her maids started out;
they mounted their camels and followed the man.
So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.
Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi
and was living in the region of the Negeb.
One day toward evening he went out . . . in the field,
and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching.
Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him,
she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,
“Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?”
“That is my master,” replied the servant.
Then she covered herself with her veil.
The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.
Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;
he married her, and thus she became his wife.
In his love for her Isaac found solace

after the death of his mother Sarah.

The word of the Lord.

E-4* Tobit 7:6-14

May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.

A reading from the Book of Tobit

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.
Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy.
But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight,
he was grieved and wept aloud.
He said to Tobiah:
“My child, God bless you!
You are the son of a noble and good father.
But what a terrible misfortune
that such a righteous and charitable man
should be afflicted with blindness!”
He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.
His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;
and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.
Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock
and gave them a cordial reception.
When they had bathed and reclined to eat,
Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah,
ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”
Raguel overheard the words;
so he said to the boy:
“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,
for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah
than you, brother.
Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you,
because you are my closest relative.
But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.
I have given her in marriage to seven men,
all of whom were kinsmen of ours,
and all died on the very night they approached her.
But now, son, eat and drink.
I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”
Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing
until you set aside what belongs to me.”
Raguel said to him: “I will do it.
She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses.
Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!
Take your kinswoman
from now on you are her love,
and she is your beloved.
She is yours today and ever after.
And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.
May he grant you mercy and peace.”

Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him.
He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words:
“Take her according to the law.
According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife.
Take her and bring her back safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity.”
He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,
so that he might draw up a marriage contract
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.
Her mother brought the scroll,
and he drew up the contract,
to which they affixed their seals.
Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

E-5* Tobit 8:4b-8

Allow us to live together to a happy old age.

A reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”
Sarah got up, and they started to pray
and beg that deliverance might be theirs.
They began with these words:
“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;
praised be your name forever and ever.
Let the heavens and all your creation
praise you forever.
You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve
to be his help and support;
and from these two the human race descended.
You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone;
let us make him a partner like himself.’
Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine
not because of lust,
but for a noble purpose.
Call down your mercy on me and on her,
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”
They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The word of the Lord.

E-6* Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

E-7 Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

Stern as death is love.

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover—here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me,
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!
“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,
Let me see you,
let me hear your voice,
For your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely.”
My lover belongs to me and I to him.
He says to me:
“Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

E-8* Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.
A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste soul.
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.
Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

E-9 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.
But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.
I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the Lord.
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE FIRST READING.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

After the Old Testament Reading, the Responsorial Psalm is sung by the cantor. You should choose one of the psalms below.

PSALM

F-1: Psalm 33



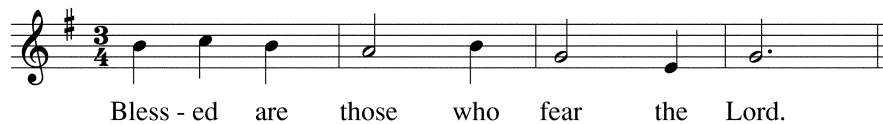
F-2: Psalm 34



F-3: Psalm 103



F-4: Psalm 128



F-5: Psalm 145



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GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

G-1 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly

through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

G-2 Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.
(LONG FORM)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.
Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you,
bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.
Have the same regard for one another;
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;
do not be wise in your own estimation.
Do not repay anyone evil for evil;
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.
If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The word of the Lord.

G-3 Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

(SHORT FORM)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.
Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit,
serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.

The word of the Lord.

G-4 Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves;
let each of us please our neighbor for the good,
for building up.

For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement
grant you to think in harmony with one another,
in keeping with Christ Jesus,

that with one accord you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

G-5 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,
and the Lord is for the body;

God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?

Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Avoid immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,
but the immoral person sins against his own body.

Do you not know that your body

is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,

whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been purchased at a price.

Therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

G-6 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8a

If I do not have love, I gain nothing.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

G-7 Ephesians 4:1-6

One Body and one Spirit.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner
worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

G-8* Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

(LONG FORM)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of his wife
just as Christ is head of the Church,
he himself the savior of the body.

As the Church is subordinate to Christ,
so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the Church

and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the Church,
because we are members of his Body.

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.*

This is a great mystery,
but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,
and the wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

G-9* Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

(SHORT FORM)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the Church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.
So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the Church,
because we are members of his Body.

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.*

This is a great mystery,
but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

G-10 Philippians 4:4-9

The God of peace will be with you.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

G-11 Colossians 3:12-17

And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one Body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

G-12 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

Let marriage be held in honor by all.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,
for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,
and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,
for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all
and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money
but be content with what you have,
for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.

Thus we may say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper,
and I will not be afraid.

The word of the Lord.

G-13* 1 Peter 3:1-9

Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that,
even if some disobey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:

braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes,
but rather the hidden character of the heart,
expressed in the imperishable beauty
of a gentle and calm disposition,
which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God
once used to adorn themselves
and were subordinate to their husbands;
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."

You are her children when you do what is good
and fear no intimidation.

Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding,
showing honor to the weaker female sex,
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called,
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

G-14 1 John 3:18-24

Love in deed and in truth.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Children, let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.
Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him
in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
And his commandment is this:
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.
Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The word of the Lord.

G-15 1 John 4:7-12

God is love.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.
In this is love:
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

G-16 Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying:

“Alleluia!

Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God.”

A voice coming from the throne said:

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
and you who revere him, small and great.”

Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude
or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder,
as they said:

“Alleluia!

The Lord has established his reign,
our God, the almighty.

Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory.

For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,
his bride has made herself ready.

She was allowed to wear
a bright, clean linen garment.”

(The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

Then the angel said to me,

“Write this:

Blessed are those who have been called
to the wedding feast of the Lamb.”

The word of the Lord.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE SECOND READING.

GOSPEL READING

H-1 Matthew 5:1-12a

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-2 Matthew 5:13-16

You are the light of the world.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything

but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;

it is set on a lamp stand,

where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds

and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-3 Matthew 7:21, 24-29

A wise man built his house on rock.

(LONG FORM)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to his disciples:
“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.
“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.
And everyone who listens to these words of mine
but does not act on them
will be like a fool who built his house on sand.
The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”
When Jesus finished these words,
the crowds were astonished at his teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority,
and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-4 Matthew 7:21, 24-25

A wise man built his house on rock.

(SHORT FORM)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Jesus said to his disciples:
“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.
“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.
The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.”
The Gospel of the Lord.

H-5* Matthew 19:3-6

What God has united, man must not separate.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,
“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”
He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning
the Creator made them male and female and said,
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?
So they are no longer two, but one flesh.
Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-6 Matthew 22:35-40

This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking,
“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”
He said to him,
“You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and the first commandment.
The second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-7* Mark 10:6-9

They are no longer two, but one flesh.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said:

“From the beginning of creation,
God made them male and female.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.
So they are no longer two but one flesh.
Therefore what God has joined together,
no human being must separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-8* John 2:1-11

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”
And Jesus said to her,
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come.”
His mother said to the servers,
“Do whatever he tells you.”
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them,
“Fill the jars with water.”
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”
So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
(although the servants who had drawn the water knew),
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
“Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now.”
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-9 John 15:9-12

Remain in my love.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father’s commandments
and remain in his love.

“I have told you this so that my joy might be in you
and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-10 John 15:12-16

This is my commandment: love one another.

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-11 John 17:20-26

That they may be brought to perfection as one.

(LONG FORM)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
“I pray not only for my disciples,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.
Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

H-12 John 17:20-23

That they may be brought to perfection as one.

(SHORT FORM)

+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“I pray not only for my disciples,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE GOSPEL READING.

THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

The Celebration of Matrimony consists of four elements:

- the Questions before the Consent, concerning the couple's freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children;
- the Consent (sometimes popularly referred to as "the vows"), along with the Reception of the Consent by the Church's minister and an acclamation by the assembly praising God;
- the Blessing and Giving of Rings;
- the Universal Prayer.

Some considerations for this part of the liturgy:

- Each of these actions embodies and reveals the covenant theology of the rite, *i.e.*, the equality of the partnership and the self-giving love that imitates the love of Christ.
- Since the words of Consent are ritual words which bind us in faith to the whole Church, they may not be set aside for other words which are private, individual, or specially written.
- The blessing of rings indicates that the rings are the symbols of the couple's love and fidelity. The rings should be carried by a ring bearer if one is used, or placed on an appropriate plate or dish before the liturgy begins.

Read through the Introductory Address and Questions before the Consent given below. Then, choose one form for your Consent, the choices for which follow.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS *(these or similar words may be used)*

This is said by the priest or deacon.

Dearly beloved,
you have come together into the house of the Church,
so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community
your intention to enter into Marriage
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.
Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.
Through a special Sacrament,
he enriches and strengthens those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism,
that they may be faithful to each other for ever
and assume all the responsibilities of married life.
And so, in the presence of the Church,
I ask you to state your intentions.

N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say: I have.

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say: I am.

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say: I am.

CONSENT

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his Church.

I-1

The bridegroom says:

I, N., take you, N., to be my wife.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honor you
all the days of my life.

The bride says:

I, N., take you, N., to be my husband.
I promise to be faithful to you,
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love you and to honor you
all the days of my life.

I-2

The bridegroom says:

I, N., take you, N., for my lawful wife,
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 do us part.

The bride says:

I, N., take you, N., for my lawful 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 do us part.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR CHOICE FOR YOUR CONSENT.

THE RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT

May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church,
and graciously bring to fulfillment his blessing within you.
What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Or:

May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob,
the God who joined together our first parents in paradise,
strengthen and bless in Christ
the consent you have declared before the Church,
so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.

Acclamation by the Assembly, Praising God

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -

BLESSING OF THE RINGS

Next, read through the prayers for blessing the rings:

J-1

May the Lord bless these + these rings,
which you will give to each other as a sign of love and fidelity.

J-2

Bless, O Lord, these rings,
which we bless + in your name,
so that those who wear them
may remain entirely faithful to each other,
abide in peace and in your will,
and live always in mutual charity.
Through Christ our Lord.

J-3

Bless + and sanctify your servants
in their love, O Lord,
and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,
remind them of their love for one another.
Through Christ our Lord.

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR CHOICE FOR THE PRAYER
FOR THE BLESSING OF THE RINGS.**

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

After the blessing of rings, the assembly affirms the newly married couple by singing a hymn of thanksgiving. Please consider one of the following:

- I Have Loved You
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkMBSCHV0Hc>
- When Love is Found
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pHRWiYU8gA>
- Set Your Hearts on Higher Gifts
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SVx_WnbOuBc

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND SELECT THE YOUR CHOICE FOR THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Next, you must prepare the Universal Prayer. Sample forms are given here, which may be used. These forms may also be adapted, and these adaptations may be made with the assistance of the priest or deacon who is officiating at your liturgy; discuss this with him.

K-1

- That these faithful Christians, *N.* and *N.*, newly joined in Holy Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.
- That he will bless their covenant as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.
- That they be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength, and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian, let us pray to the Lord.
- That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help of grace from above, let us pray to the Lord.
- That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in all married persons here present, let us pray to the Lord.

K-2

- For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family, let us pray to the Lord.
- For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this couple, let us pray to the Lord.
- For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all families throughout the world and for lasting peace among all people, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
- For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

K-3

- For the Church throughout the world: may our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another, let us pray to the Lord.
- For peace in our world: may all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation, let us pray to the Lord.
- For the poor, the homeless, and for those who are unemployed: may our care and concern for those in need be a sign of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death: may all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony: may they grow in wisdom and grace, and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
- For *N.* and *N.*, who begin their married life together this day: may they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessings of children, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all those who have died, especially *N.*: may they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

K-4

- For the Church and its leaders: may our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God, let us pray to the Lord.
- For our world and its leaders: may all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children, let us pray to the Lord.
- For our country and those who defend it: may our men and women who serve in the military be kept safe from all harm, let us pray to the Lord.
- For those who are sick, lonely or depressed: may they be strengthened by God's love and aided by friends and family, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all of our guests gathered here today: may they enjoy the warm company of family and friends and have safe travel on their journey home, let us pray to the Lord.
- For *N.* and *N.*: may they live long, blessed lives together, may their love grow stronger each and every day, and may they build a family rooted in faith and unconditional love, let us pray to the Lord.
- For all who have died, especially *N.*: may they know the peace and fullness of eternal life with God, let us pray to the Lord.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND INDICATE THE FORM FOR THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER AND WHO WILL BE ANNOUNCING THE INTERCESSIONS.

IF YOUR WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN MASS, PLEASE CONTINUE ON TO THE NEXT PAGE. IF YOUR WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE WITHOUT MASS, PLEASE SKIP TO PAGES 59-63.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Spring 2020: In light of extreme precautions taken for the safety of those who attend the liturgy, the Presentation of the Gifts is omitted. Our music ministers will select an appropriate instrumental hymn. When this is lifted, we will once again permit the procession with gifts as well as an appropriate hymn.

The gifts (offerings) of bread and wine are brought forward in procession. There are two gifts to be carried, the bread and the wine, although as few as one and as many as four gift bearers may be selected.

It is highly appropriate that you, the bride and groom, present the gifts at the Mass, although other people may be selected.

If you do choose others, they should be selected not simply as an honor, but because of a faith connection they represent.

Those presenting the gifts should be Catholics who will be receiving Holy Communion at the Mass.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND INDICATE WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THE GIFTS OF BREAD AND WINE.

PREPARATION HYMN *(Masses Only)*

- Ave Maria (if not chosen as a prelude)
- Eye Has Not Seen
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7jYgOQC82aU>
- Here I Am, Lord (Schutte)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zBg-yDhM2KY>
- Joyful, Joyful We Adore You (Beethoven)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SXOUICjsFrg>

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND INDICATE THE PREPARATION HYMN

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Read through the choices for the Prayer over the Offerings:

L-1

Receive, we pray, O Lord,
the offering made on the occasion
of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage,
and, just as your goodness is its origin,
may your providence guide its course.
Through Christ our Lord.

L-2

Receive in your kindness, Lord,
the offerings we bring in gladness before you,
and in your fatherly love
watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.
Through Christ our Lord.

L-3

Show favor to our supplications, O Lord,
and receive with a kindly countenance
the oblations we offer for these your servants,
joined now in a holy covenant,
that through these mysteries
they may be strengthened
in love for one another and for you.
Through Christ our Lord.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

PREFACE

Read through the choices for the Preface, which is the first part of the Eucharistic Prayer:

M-1

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you have forged the covenant of marriage
as a sweet yoke of harmony
and an unbreakable bond of peace,
so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony
may serve to increase the children you adopt as your own.
By your providence and grace, O Lord,
you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design:
that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the world,
their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church,
through Christ our Lord.
Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

M-2

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.

For in him you have made a new covenant with your people,
so that, as you have redeemed man and woman
by the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection,
so in Christ you might make them partakers of divine nature
and joint heirs with him of heavenly glory.

In the union of husband and wife
you give a sign of Christ's loving gift of grace,
so that the Sacrament we celebrate
might draw us back more deeply
into the wondrous design of your love.

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we praise you, and without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

M-3

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you willed that the human race,
created by the gift of your goodness,
should be raised to such high dignity
that in the union of husband and wife
you might bestow a true image of your love.
For those you created out of charity
you call to the law of charity without ceasing
and grant them a share in your eternal charity.
And so, the Sacrament of holy Matrimony,
as the abiding sign of your own love,
consecrates the love of man and woman,
through Christ our Lord.
Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise,
as without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM, PAGE 4, AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE PREFACE.

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

Read through the choices for the Nuptial Blessing:

N-1

(Note: This Nuptial Blessing may not be used in the same celebration as the first Collect, D-1 above)

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord
that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out
the blessing of his grace
and make of one heart in love
(by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)
those he has joined by a holy covenant.

O God, who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place
the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,
and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favor on these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.

Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into their hearts,
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace

abide in your daughter *N.*,
and let her always follow the example of those holy women
whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband entrust his heart to her,
so that, acknowledging her as his equal
and his joint heir to the life of grace,
he may show her due honor
and cherish her always
with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you:
may these your servants
hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh,
may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
(may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children).
And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which they hope,
they may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

N-2

Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,
that (partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ)
they may always be bound together by love for one another.

Holy Father,
who formed man in your own image,
male and female you created them,
so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart,
they might fulfill their calling in the world;

O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love,
willed that the love of spouses for each other
should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people,
so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign,
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church
might become manifest
in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;

Graciously stretch out your right hand
over these your servants (*N.* and *N.*), we pray,
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O Lord,
that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,
they may share with one another the gifts of your love
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,
become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds
the home they are forming
(and prepare their children
to become members of your heavenly household
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).

Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter *N.*,
so that, by being a good wife (and mother),
she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure
and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord,
on *N.*, your servant,
that he may be a worthy, good and
faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father,
that, desiring to approach your table
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,
they may one day have the joy
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

N-3

Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters,
God's blessing upon this bride and groom,
that in his kindness he may favor with his help
those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,
we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, *N.*,
and upon *N.*, her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,
they may (adorn their family with children and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil
and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

**GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE
NUPTIAL BLESSING.**

**IF YOUR WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN MASS, PLEASE CONTINUE
TO THE NEXT PAGE.**

**IF YOUR WEDDING WILL TAKE PLACE WITHOUT MASS, PLEASE SKIP
PAGES 66-67 TO SELECT THE FINAL BLESSING.**

COMMUNION RITE

Communion under both species (that is, having the opportunity to receive the Precious Blood as well as the Body of Christ) is the norm for the celebration of Mass. In light of the pandemic of 2020, we will only offer the sacred host. In the future, we hope to return to offering communion under both forms.

If there will be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion among your guests, they may be invited to assist with Holy Communion.

COMMUNION HYMN

During the distribution of Holy Communion, a hymn is sung by the assembly. Please consider one of the following.

- Come to The Banquet – no link available



- Gift of Finest Wheat
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nVw9CQresQ>

- I Am the Bread of Life
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWKz7F3go5A&ab_channel=VisitStPeters

- Alleluia! Sing To Jesus (*not during lent*)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh61poqcnpA>

- Draw Near
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mBBaeqTrkbA&ab_channel=LauraOsterlund

- Take and Eat
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6EJJRaK69U>

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE COMMUNION HYMN.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Next, read through the choices for the Prayer after Communion:

O-1

By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,
accompany with your loving favor
what in your providence you have instituted,
so as to make of one heart in love
those you have already joined in this holy union
(and replenished with the one Bread and the one Chalice).
Through Christ our Lord.

O-2

Having been made partakers at your table,
we pray, O Lord,
that those who are united by the Sacrament of Marriage
may always hold fast to you
and proclaim your name to the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

O-3

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that the power of the Sacrament we have received
may find growth in these your servants
and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered
may be felt by us all.
Through Christ our Lord.

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION.

FINAL BLESSING

Read through the choices for the Final Blessing:

P-1

May God the eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully
into the eternal dwelling of God.

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

P-2

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy
and bless you in your children.

May the Only Begotten Son of God
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

May the Holy Spirit of God
always pour forth his love into your hearts.
And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

P-3

May the Lord Jesus,
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,
bless you and your loved ones.

May he, who loved the Church to the end,
unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

May the Lord grant
that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.
And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**GO TO THE SELECTION FORM, PAGE 4, AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR
THE FINAL BLESSING.**

RECESSIONAL

As the newly married couple, and their wedding party, process down the aisle at the end of the wedding, the Recessional is played.

The choices for the Recessional are:

- Wedding March (Mendelssohn)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4tDYMayp6Dk&ab_channel=BernardHui
- Rondeau (Mouret)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UMPKwcMONM&ab_channel=bishfan
- Ode To Joy (Beethoven)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EDDiNRBY14&ab_channel=MetzgerMusi
- Organ Improv/Toccata on sacred tune

GO TO THE SELECTION FORM AND MARK YOUR SELECTION FOR THE RECESSIONAL.

Copyright Acknowledgements

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