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PREPARING FOR MARRIAGE CEREMONY

In a Catholic Church a marriage ceremony can take place during Mass or outside Mass. Catholic couples may opt for the first choice. If one spouse is non-Catholic, we suggest having a ceremony outside Mass, giving the fact that probably half of those attending may not share in our religious tradition.

Since the order and rite of celebrating marriage is very important, we prepared two outlines helping you decide your wedding ceremony. Please choose one outline which applies to you (with Mass or outside Mass). Please check with the wedding coordinator and the presiding priest for the final touch, or for any change in the liturgy.

In this booklet you are offered a great variety of Scripture readings and other choices during the liturgy of marriage. Feel free to choose any Scripture readings which are not provided here.

Please complete the marriage ceremony worksheet provided below, and give a copy to the wedding coordinator and to the priest. Check with the presiding minister regarding suggestions or cultural adaptations.

We hope that the information provided below will help you make the ceremony of your wedding meaningful and beautiful! Congratulations!

MARRIAGE CEREMONY WORKSHEET

Please go over the entire booklet and choose your own readings, vows, intercessions and nuptial blessing. Fill out this form and provide a copy to the presiding minister and wedding coordinator. Thank you.

DATE / TIME / LOCATION

Date of marriage: _____ Time of marriage: _____

Marriage during Mass Marriage outside Mass (ceremony only)

Rehearsal Date & Time: _____

Marriage location if outside San Carlos Cathedral: _____

PERSONAL DATA *(for Church Records/Certificate no abbreviations please)*

GROOM

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last/Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

BRIDE

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last/Family Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Best Man's Full Name: _____

Maid of Honor Full Name: _____

MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Priest's full name (if visiting): _____

Number of Groomsmen: _____

Number of Bridesmaids: _____

Ring Bearer: YES; NO

Flower girl/s: YES; NO

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading (Old/New Testament) # ____; Read by: _____

Responsorial Psalm: Sung or Read. If "read": # ____; Read by: _____

Second Reading (Old/New Testament) # ____; Read by: _____

Gospel Reading: #G ____ (Read by the presiding priest/deacon)

Consent: # ____ Blessing and Exchange of Rings: # ____

Unity Candle: YES NO (bring the unity candle & the marriage license at the rehearsal)

Cultural Adaptations: YES / NO If "Yes" coin/arras veil/lazo

Intercessions: # ____; Read by: _____ or Read by the priest

Nuptial Blessing: # ____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST *(only for Marriage during the Mass)*

Gifts of bread and wine brought forward by: _____

Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary: Yes NO (usually after Communion)

RITE OF MARRIAGE WITH MASS - OUTLINE

Entrance Procession

Welcoming & Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (*can be from the Old or New Testament*)

Psalm (*may be sung by our organist or cantor of your choice*)

Second Reading (*can be from the Old or New Testament*)

Gospel Reading (*read by the presiding priest or deacon*)

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Statement of Intentions

Exchange of Consent

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

Unity candle lit by the bride and groom (*optional*)

Cultural symbols such as the veil, cord coin, etc. (*optional*)

General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Procession of the Gifts (*optional*)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing (*the presider may opt to have the blessing at the end*)

The Communion Rite

Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary (*optional*)

Commissioning

Prayer after Communion

Announcements: Thank you, Invitation to reception, etc. (*optional*)

Blessing and Dismissal

Presentation of the couple

Recessional

RITE OF MARRIAGE OUTSIDE MASS - OUTLINE

Entrance Procession

Welcoming & Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (*can be from the Old or New Testament*)

Psalm (*may be sung by our organist or cantor of your choice*)

Second Reading (*can be from the Old or New Testament*)

Gospel Reading (*read by the presiding priest or deacon*)

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Statement of Intentions

Exchange of Consent

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

Unity candle lit by the bride and groom (*optional*)

Cultural symbols such as the veil, cord coin, etc. (*optional*)

Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary (*optional*)

General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful

The Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Commissioning

Announcements: Thank you, Invitation to reception, etc. (*optional*)

Blessing and Dismissal

Presentation of the couple

Recessional

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

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.

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.

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-Iahai-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.

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.

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.

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.

A reading from the Songs 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.

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.

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.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

*(PLEASE CHOOSE ONE TO BE READ ONLY IF
THE PSALM IS NOT SUNG BY A
SOLOIST/CANTOR)*

READER:

The response is:

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

ALL: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

**Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.
But see, the eyes of the LORD are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness.**

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

**Our soul waits for the LORD,
who is our help and our shield,
For in him our hearts rejoice;
in his holy name we trust.**

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

**May your kindness, O LORD,
be upon us
who have put our hope in you.**

All: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

READER:**The response is:****I will bless the Lord at all times*****All: I will bless the Lord at all times*****I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.*****All: I will bless the Lord at all times*****Glorify the LORD with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.*****All: I will bless the Lord at all times*****Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.*****All: I will bless the Lord at all times*****The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the LORD is;
blessed the man who takes refuge in him.*****All: I will bless the Lord at all times***

READER:

The response is:

The Lord is kind and merciful

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

**Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.**

**Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.**

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

**Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
As a father has compassion on his children,
so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.**

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

**But the kindness of the LORD is from eternity
to eternity toward those who fear him,
And his justice towards children's children
among those who keep his covenant.**

All: The Lord is kind and merciful

READER:**The response is:****Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands***All: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands***Blessed the man who fears the LORD,
who greatly delights in his commands.
His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;
the upright generation shall be blessed.***All: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands***Wealth and riches shall be in his house;
his generosity shall endure forever.
Light shines through the darkness for the upright;
he is gracious and merciful and just.***All: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands***Well for the man who is gracious and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice;
He shall never be moved; the just one shall be in everlasting
remembrance.
An evil report he shall not fear.***All: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands***His heart is firm, trusting in the LORD. His heart is steadfast;
he shall not fear till he looks down upon his foes.
Lavishly he gives to the poor;
his generosity shall endure forever;
his horn shall be exalted in glory.***All: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands*

READER:

The response is:

Blessed are those who fear the Lord

ALL: Blessed are those who fear the Lord

**Blessed are you who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
blessed shall you be, and favored.**

ALL: Blessed are those who fear the Lord

**Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants
around your table.**

ALL: Blessed are those who fear the Lord

**Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.**

ALL: Blessed are those who fear the Lord

READER:

The response is:

The Lord is Compassionate toward all his works

ALL: The Lord is Compassionate toward all his works

**The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.**

**The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.**

ALL: The Lord is Compassionate toward all his works

**Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
The eyes of all look hopefully to you
and you give them their food in due season.**

ALL: The Lord is Compassionate toward all his works

**The LORD IS just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.**

ALL: The Lord is Compassionate toward all his works

READER:

The response is:

Let all praise the name of the Lord.

ALL: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights;
Praise him, all you his angels,
praise him, all you his hosts.**

ALL: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

ALL: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**You mountains and all you hills,
you fruit trees and all you cedars;
You wild beasts and all tame animals,
you creeping things and winged fowl.**

ALL: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**Let the kings of the earth and all peoples,
the princes and all the judges of the earth,
Young men too, and maidens, old men and boys,
Praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted.
His majesty is above earth and heaven,
and he has lifted his horn above the people.**

ALL: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

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,
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.

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.

A reading from the first 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.

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.

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.

A reading form 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.

A reading form 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.

A reading form 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.

A reading form 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.

A reading form 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.

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.

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.

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.

GOSPEL READINGS

(READ BY THE PRESIDING PRIEST/DEACON)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

A reading from the 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.

A reading from the 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.

A reading from the 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.

RITE OF MARRIAGE

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS

**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.**

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT

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

The bridegroom and bride join their right hands.

There are four alternative marriage vows. Choose only one.
(MARRIAGE VOWS #1)

MARRIAGE VOWS (1)

Bridegroom:

**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.**

Bride:

**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.**

There are four alternative marriage vows. Choose only one.
(MARRIAGE VOWS #2)

MARRIAGE VOWS (2)

Bridegroom:

**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.**

Bride:

**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.**

There are four alternative marriage vows. Choose only one.
(MARRIAGE VOWS #3)

MARRIAGE VOWS (3)

The minister obtains the consent of the contracting parties through questioning. First he asks the bridegroom:

**N., do you take N., to be your wife?
Do you promise to be faithful to her
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love her and to honor her
all the days of your life?**

The bridegroom replies:

I do.

Next, the minister asks the bride:

**N., do you take N., to be your husband?
Do you promise to be faithful to him
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love him and to honor him
all the days of your life?**

The bride replies:

I do.

There are four alternative marriage vows. Choose only one.
(MARRIAGE VOWS #4)

MARRIAGE VOWS (4)

The minister obtains the consent of the contracting parties through questioning. First he asks the bridegroom:

**N., do you take N., for your 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 you part?**

The bridegroom replies:

I do.

Next, the minister asks the bride:

**N., do you take N., for your 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 you part?**

The bride replies:

I do.

RECEPTION OF 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.

The minister invites those present to praise God:

Let us bless the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God.

THE BLESSING OF RINGS

There are three alternative blessings of rings. Choose only one.
(BLESSING OF THE RINGS #1)

Presider:

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

There are three alternative blessings of rings. Choose only one.
(BLESSING OF THE RINGS #2)

OR:

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.

There are three alternative blessings of rings. Choose only one.
(BLESSING OF THE RINGS #3)

OR:

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 GIVING OF RINGS

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying the following:

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 the following:

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.

OPTIONAL / HISPANIC TRADITION

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF ARRAS

If the occasion so suggests, the rite of blessing and giving of the arras (coins) may take place following the blessing and giving of rings. The minister says:

Bless, ✠ O Lord, these *arras* that **N. and **N.** will give to each other and pour over them the abundance of your good gifts.**

The husband takes the arras and hands them over to his wife, saying:

N., receive these *arras* as a pledge of God's blessing and a sign of the god gifts we will share.

The wife takes the arras and hands them over to the husband, saying:

N., receive these *arras* as a pledge of God's blessing and a sign of the god gifts we will share.

OPTIONAL / HISPANIC TRADITION
**THE BLESSING AND PLACING OF THE *LAZO*
OR THE VEIL**

The Lazo or the wedding garland or the veil. Spouses remain at their place and kneel then the Lazo is placed over the head of the wife and the shoulders of the husband, symbolizing the bond that unites them. The minister says:

**Bless, ✠ O Lord, this *lazo* (*or*: this veil),
a symbol of the indissoluble union
that **N.** and **N.** have established from this day forward
before you and with your help.**

There are three alternative Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful. Choose only one.
(INTERCESSIONS #1)

INTERCESSIONS (1)

PRESIDER:

Now that we have heard God's word in the Bible and experienced the Lord's presence in this exchange of vows, let us present these prayerful petitions for people in the world today. The response is "*Lord, hear our prayer.*"

LECTOR:

For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, we pray to the Lord.

For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, we pray to the Lord.

For this newly married couple now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until a ripe old age, we pray to the Lord.

For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, we pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of the bride and groom and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, we pray to the Lord.

For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (*PAUSE...*), we pray to the Lord.

PRESIDER:

O ever-living and caring God, Jesus taught us to ask, to seek, and to knock. We have just done so, confident that you will now look upon our many needs, consider our trusting faith, and in your great love grant these requests which we present to you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There are three alternative Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful. Choose only one.
(INTERCESSIONS #2)

INTERCESSIONS (2)

PRESIDER:

We have listened to the word of God. Let us now ask God to listen to us, to bless our words of prayer which we offer for the people of the world. The response is, “*Lord, hear our prayer.*”

LECTOR:

For leaders of Church and state, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us, we pray to the Lord.

For all married people, for those who married yesterday, for this newly married couple, for those who will marry tomorrow, that they may savor the joy of being together, warm love, and children, a long life, wine, and friends, and a new day, every day, we pray to the Lord.

For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love, we pray to the Lord.

For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us, we pray to the Lord.

For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires, we pray to the Lord.

PRESIDER:

These are our words of prayer today for ourselves and all human beings. Tomorrow there will be others. Lord God the beloved of humankind who has first loved us, give our words by your listening the power of your word, so that all things may be accomplished sweetly and gently for the happiness of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

There are three alternative Intercessions/Prayer of the Faithful. Choose only one.
(INTERCESSIONS #3)

INTERCESSIONS (3)

PRESIDER:

God has given us His promises in the word of Scripture. This newly married couple have given their promises to each other in their marriage. This hour of promise is also a time of prayer. We turn to God our Father and make our response by saying, “*Lord, hear our prayer.*”

LECTOR:

For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord.
For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord.
For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord.
For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord.
For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord.
For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, we pray to the Lord.
For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, we pray to the Lord.
For this newly married couple, to keep the promise of marriage, we pray to the Lord.

PRESIDER:

Loving God, your Son taught us to ask, to seek and to knock. We have just done so, praying for our newly married couple. Confident that you will look upon them, consider our trusting faith, and in your great love grant these requests which we present to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

There are three alternative Nuptial Blessings. Choose only one.
(NUPTIAL BLESSING #1)

NUPTIAL BLESSING (1)

The minister, standing and facing the bride and bridegroom invokes upon them God's blessing. If one or both of the spouses will not be receiving Communion the words in parentheses are omitted. The minister says:

**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.**

All pray in silence for a while. Then the minister, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

**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. Amen.

There are three alternative Nuptial Blessings. Choose only one.
(NUPTIAL BLESSING #2)

NUPTIAL BLESSING (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.**

All pray in silence for a while. Then the minister, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

**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 sacrament sign, the mystical marriage of Christ
and 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. Amen.

There are three alternative Nuptial Blessings. Choose only one.
(NUPTIAL BLESSING #3)

NUPTIAL BLESSING (3)

**Let us humbly invoke 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.**

All pray in silence for a while. Then the minister, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

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. Amen.