

READINGS AND PRAYERS FOR YOUR WEDDING LITURGY



ST. MICHAEL'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA

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THE ORDER OF CELEBRATION

Marriage with Mass

Introductory Rites

Rite of Welcome
Gloria
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Homily

Wedding Rite

Introduction
Questions Before Consent
Consent
The Blessing & Giving of Rings
General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preface
Eucharistic Prayer
Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rites

Solemn Blessing
Signing of the Register

Marriage without Mass

Introductory Rites

Rite of Welcome
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading
Psalm
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation
Gospel
Homily

Wedding Rite

Introduction
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General Intercessions
The Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing

Concluding Rites

Solemn Blessing
Signing of the Register

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Greeting at the Entrance to the Church

Those who will be acting as your ushers should be at the church one half-hour before the ceremony begins to seat your guests. Be sure to ask your ushers to seat your guests as close to the front of the Cathedral as possible so they will form a united gathering.

Entering the Church

The bride and the groom are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage. Please use option 1 or option 2 for your entrance procession.

If children are a part of the procession, they must be five years of age or older.

Below are the 2 options we normally use for entrances into the Cathedral.

Option 1

Father – Bride – Mother *(end)*
Best Man and Maid of Honour
Ring Bearer and Flower Girl
Groomsman and Bridesmaid
Groomsman and Bridesmaid
Father – Groom - Mother
Priest
Altar servers (if any)
Cross Bearer *(front)*

Option 2

Bride and Groom *(end)*
Parents of the Bride
Parents of the Groom
Best Man and Maid of Honour
Ring Bearer and Flower Girl
Groomsman and Bridesmaid
Groomsman and Bridesmaid
Priest
Altar servers (if any)
Cross Bearer *(front)*

If there are other attendants, such as Junior Bridesmaids and sponsors, they should be placed in front of the Groomsmen and Bridesmaids.

If you have other ideas about the entrance procession, please discuss them at the second interview with the Priest conducting your ceremony, rather than at the last minute at the rehearsal.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Just as there are three readings at Mass, so too are three readings a part of the wedding service. You will need to choose:

- One reading from the Old Testament
- A responsorial psalm (*if this is not sung by the cantor/choir, a lector must be chosen*)
- A reading from the New Testament

The Gospel will be chosen by the presider priest only

The first reading is chosen from the Old Testament, except in the Easter Season, when the first reading is traditionally chosen from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. At least one reading must speak explicitly of marriage. If your wedding is celebrated with a Mass, and it falls on a Solemnity, then the readings of the Solemnity are chosen.

You will also need to select people to do these readings at your celebration. Make sure that those you choose are comfortable reading in front of a group of people, have an understanding of the Catholic liturgy, and are able to attend the wedding rehearsal to practice their reading.

Make sure you provide your readers with a copy of the readings you have chosen from this booklet. They do not have to bring their copies on the day of the wedding as these readings will be placed in a binder on the Ambo where they will proclaim the Word.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Male and female God created them (Genesis 1:26-28, 31a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said,
“Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness;
and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
and over the birds of the air,
and over the cattle,
and over all the wild animals of the earth,
and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”
So God created man in his image,
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.
God blessed them, and God said to them,
“Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it;
and have dominion over the fish of the sea
and over the birds of the air
and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.”
God saw everything that he had made,
and indeed, it was very good.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

2. They become one flesh (Genesis 2:18-24)

A reading from the book of Genesis

Then the Lord God said,
“It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper as his partner.”
So out of the ground
the Lord God formed every animal of the field
and every bird of the air,
and brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
and whatever the man called every living creature,
that was its name.
The man gave names to all cattle,
and to the birds of the air,
and to every animal of the field;
but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.
So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,
and he slept;
then he took one of his ribs and close up its place with flesh.
And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man
he made into a woman and brought her to the man.
Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”
Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother
and clings to his wife,
and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

3. The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67)

A reading from the book of Genesis

Abraham's servant said to Laban,
"I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord,
and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham,
who had led me by the right way
to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.
Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me;
and if not, tell me,
so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."
Then Laban and Bethuel answered,
"The thing comes from the Lord;
we cannot speak to you anything bad or good.
Look, Rebekah is before you,
take her and go,
and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."
Rebekah's mother and brother called her, and asked her,
"Will you go with this man?"
She said, "I will."
So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse
along with Abraham's servant and his men.
And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,
"May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."
Then Rebekah and her maids rose up,
mounted the camels, and followed the man;
thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

(Continued on next page.)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

3. The Marriage of Isaac and Rebekah (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67)

(Continued from previous page.)

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi,
and was settled in the Negev.
Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field;
and looking up, he saw camels coming.
And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac,
she slipped quickly from the camel,
and said to the servant,
“Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?”
The servant said, “It is my master.”
So Rebekah took her veil and covered herself.
And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.
Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent.
He took Rebekah, and she became his wife;
and he loved her.
So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

4. The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah (Tobit 7:6-14)

A reading from the book of Tobit

Raguel jumped up and kissed Tobias and wept.
He also spoke to him as follows,
“Blessings on you, my child,
son of a good and noble father!
O most miserable of calamities
that such an upright and beneficent man has become blind!”
He then embraced his kinsman Tobias and wept.
His wife Edna also wept for him,
and their daughter Sarah likewise wept.
Then Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock
and received them very warmly.
When they had bathed and washed themselves
and had reclined to dine, Tobias said to Raphael,
“Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah.”
But Raguel overheard it and said to the lad,
“Eat and drink, and be merry tonight.
For no one except you, brother,
has the right to marry my daughter Sarah.
Likewise I am not at liberty to give her
to any other man than yourself
because you are my nearest relative.
But let me explain to you the true situation more fully, my child.
I have give her to seven men of our kinsmen,
and all died on the night when they went in to her.
Bu now, my child, eat and drink,
and the Lord will act on behalf of you both.”

(Continued on next page.)

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

4. The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah (Tobit 7:6-14)

(Continued from previous page.)

But Tobias said,
“I will neither eat nor drink anything
until you settle the things that pertain to me.”
So Raguel said, “I will do so.
She is given to you in accordance with the decree in the book of Moses
and it has been decreed from heaven that she be given to you.
Take your kinswoman;
from now on you are her brother and she is your sister.
She is given to you from today and forever.
May the Lord of heaven, my child,
guide and prosper you both this night
and grant you mercy and peace.”
Then Raguel summoned his daughter Sarah.
When she came to him
he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias saying,
“Take her to be your wife
in accordance with the law and decree written in the book of Moses.
Take her and bring her safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven prosper your journey with his peace.”
Then Raguel called her mother
and told her to bring writing material;
and he wrote out a copy of a marriage contract,
to the effect that he gave Sarah to Tobias as wife
according to the decree of the law of Moses.
Then they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

5. Grant that we may grow old together (Tobit 8:4b-8)

A reading from the book of Tobit

On their wedding night,
Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah,
“Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord
that he may grant us mercy and safety.”
So she got up,
and they began to implore that they might be kept safe.
Tobias began by saying,
“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.
You made Adam,
and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.’
I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust, but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together.”
And they both said, “Amen, Amen.”

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

6. A Woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

A capable wife who can find her?
She is far more precious than jewels.
The heart of her husband trusts in her,
and he will have no lack of gain.
She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.
She seeks wool and flax,
and works with willing hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.
She opens her hand to the poor,
and reaches out her hands to the needy.
Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain,
but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a share in the fruit of her hands,
and let her works praise her in the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

7. Love Is A Divine Fire (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a)

A reading from the Songs of Songs

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face, let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.”
My beloved is mine and I am his.
“Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Love’s flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it.”

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

8. Woman; The Light of the Home (Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16)

A reading from the book of Sirach

Blessed is the husband of a good wife;
the numbers of his days will be doubled.
A loyal wife brings joy to her husband,
and he will complete his years in peace.
A good wife is a great blessing;
she will be granted among the blessings of the man who fears the Lord.
Whether rich or poor, his heart is content,
and at all times his face is cheerful.
A wife's charm delights her husband,
and her skill puts flesh on his bones.
A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,
and nothing is so precious as her self-discipline.
A modest wife adds charm to charm,
and no scales can weigh the value of her chastity.
Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord,
so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

The word of the Lord.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

9. God Makes a Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a)

A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are surely 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 that I made with their fathers
when I took them by the hand
to bring them out of the land of Egypt.
But this covenant
that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,
says the Lord:
I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other,
“Know the Lord,”
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

The Responsorial Psalms give us words for responding to the Old Testament readings.

10. Psalm 33

***Refrain:* The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.
Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love.

***Refrain:* The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.

***Refrain:* The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

***Refrain:* The earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

11. Psalm 34

Refrain: I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

Refrain: I will bless the Lord at all times.

O magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me,
And delivered me from all my fears.

Refrain: I will bless the Lord at all times.

Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
The poor one called, and the Lord heard,
and saved that person from every trouble.

Refrain: I will bless the Lord at all times.

The Angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed are those who take refuge in him.

Refrain: I will bless the Lord at all times.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

12. Psalm 103

Refrain: The Lord is merciful and gracious.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits.

Refrain: The Lord is merciful and gracious.

The Lord is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

Refrain: The Lord is merciful and gracious.

The steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant.

Refrain: The Lord is merciful and gracious.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

13. Psalm 112

***Refrain:* Blessed is the one who greatly delights in the Lord's commandments.**

Blessed is the one who fears the Lord,
who greatly delights in his commandments.
Their descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

***Refrain:* Blessed is the one who greatly delights in the Lord's commandments.**

Wealth and riches are in their house,
and their righteousness endures forever.
Light rises in the darkness for the upright:
gracious, merciful and righteous.

***Refrain:* Blessed is the one who greatly delights in the Lord's commandments.**

It is well with the person who deals generously and lends,
who conducts their affairs with justice.
For the righteous person will never be moved;
they will be remembered forever, unafraid of evil tidings.

***Refrain:* Blessed is the one who greatly delights in the Lord's commandments.**

(Continued on next page.)

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

14. Psalm 112

(Continued from previous page.)

Their heart is firm, secure in the Lord.
That person's heart is steady and will not be afraid;
In the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

***Refrain:* Blessed is the one who greatly delights in the Lord's commandments.**

One who has distributed freely, who has given to the poor,
their righteousness endures forever:
their name is exalted in honour.

***Refrain:* Blessed is the one who greatly delights in the Lord's commandments.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

15. Psalm 128

***Refrain:* Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.**

Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord,
who walks in his ways.
You shall eat the fruit of the labour of your hands;
you shall be happy, and it shall go well with you.

***Refrain:* Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.**

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine
within your house;
your children will be like olive shoots
around your table.

***Refrain:* Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.**

Thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion.
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

***Refrain:* Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

16. Psalm 145

Refrain: The Lord is good to all.

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

Refrain: The Lord is good to all.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.

Refrain: The Lord is good to all.

The Lord is just in all his ways,
and kind in all his doings.
The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth.

Refrain: The Lord is good to all.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

17. Psalm 148

***Refrain:* Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!
Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

***Refrain:* Let them 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!

***Refrain:* Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!
Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

***Refrain:* Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

***Refrain:* Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

(Continued on next page.)

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

18. Psalm 148

(Continued from previous page.)

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted.
His glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people.

***Refrain:* Let them praise the name of the Lord.**

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

19. Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

(Romans 8:31b-35,37)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son,

but gave him up for all of us,

will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?

It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn?

It is Christ Jesus, who died,

yes, who was raised,

who is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,

or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

20a. The New Life of Christians – long version (Romans 12:1-2,9-18)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.
Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God -
what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour.
Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.
Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Live in harmony with one another;
do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly;
do not claim to be wiser than you are.
Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
But take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.
If it is possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

20b. The New Life of Christians – short version (Romans 12:1-2,9-13)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God,
to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God,
which is your spiritual worship.
Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God -
what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour.
Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
be patient in suffering,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

21. Welcome one another just as Christ has welcomed you **(Romans 15: 1b-3a, 5-7, 13)**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

We ought not to please ourselves.

Each of us must please our neighbor
for the good purpose of building up the neighbour.

For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus,
so that together you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore,
just as Christ has 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

22. Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20)

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

Brothers and sisters:

The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord,
and the Lord for the body.

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

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

But anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Shun fornication!

Every sin that a person commits is outside the body;
but the fornicator sins against the body itself.

Or do you not know

that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
which you have from God,

and that you are not your own?

For you were bought with a price;
therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

23. Faith, hope and love abide; the greatest of these is love (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a)

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

Brothers and sisters,
strive for the greater gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.
If I speak in the tongues of human beings and of Angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
If I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.
Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.
It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.
Love never ends.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

24. Unity in the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 1-6)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

I, the prisoner in the Lord,
beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling
to which you have been called,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another in love,
making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit
in the bond of peace.

There is one body and one Spirit,
just as you were called to the one hope of your calling,
one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
one God and Father of all,
who is above all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

25a. Live in Love, Like Christ – long version (Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife

just as Christ is the head of the Church,

the body of which he is the Saviour.

Just as the Church is subject to Christ,

so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

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

and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy

by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,

so as to present the Church to himself in splendour,

without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind –

yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives

as they do their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hates his own body,

but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it,

just as Christ does for the Church,

because we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother

and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

This is a great mystery,

and I am applying it to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

25b. Live in Love, Like Christ – short version (Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and gave himself up for us.

Husbands, love your wives,
just as Christ loved the Church
and gave himself up for her,
in order to make her holy
by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,
so as to present the Church to himself in splendour,
without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind –
yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.
In the same way, husbands should love their wives
as they do their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hates his own body,
but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it,
just as Christ does for the Church,
because we are members of his body.

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

This is a great mystery,
and I am applying it to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

26. The God of Peace will be with you (Philippians 4: 4-9)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sister:

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything, but in everything

by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God,

which surpasses all understanding,

will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just, whatever is pure,

whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable,

if there is any excellence

and if there is anything worthy of praise,

think about these things.

Keep on doing the things that you have learned

and received and heard and seen in me,

and the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

27 ■ Love is the Bond of Perfection (Colossians 3:12-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and,
if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other;
just as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;
and with gratitude in your hearts
sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.
And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

28. Let marriage be held in honour by all (Hebrews 13: 1-4a, 5-6b)

A reading from the first Letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained angels
without knowing it.

Remember those who are in prison,
as though you were in prison with them;
those who are being tortured,
as though you yourselves were being tortured.

Let marriage be held in honor by all,
and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled;
Keep your lives free from the love of money,
and be content with what you have;
for he has said,

“I will never leave you or forsake you.”

So we can say with confidence,
“The Lord is my helper;
I will not be afraid.”

The word of the Lord.

29. The Unity and Peace of the Christian Home (1 Peter 3:1-9)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved:

Wives, accept the authority of your husbands,
so that, even if some of them do not obey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct,
when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair,
and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing;
rather, let your adornment be the inner self
with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,
which is very precious in God's sight.

It was in this way long ago,
that the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves
by accepting the authority of their husbands.

Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord.

You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good
and never let fears alarm you.

Husbands, in the same way,
show consideration for your wives in your life together,
paying honour to the woman as the weaker sex,
since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life -
so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit,
sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse;
but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.

It is for this that you were called -
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

30. A True Love (1 John 3:18-24)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Little children, let us love,
not in word or speech, but in truth and action.
And by this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him
whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts,
and God knows everything.
Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God;
and we receive from him whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.
And this is his commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.
Whoever obeys his commandments abides in him,
and he abides in them.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

31. God Is Love (1 John 4:7-12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved,
let us love one another,
because love is from God;
everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.
Whoever does not love does not know God,
for God is love.
God's love was revealed among us in this way:
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world
so that we might live through him.
In this is love,
not that we loved God but that he loved us
and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.
Beloved, since God loved us so much,
we also ought to love one another.
No one has ever seen God;
if we love one another, God lives in us,
and his love is perfected in us.

The word of the Lord.

32. The Wedding Feast (Revelation 19:1,5-9a)

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this, I, John, heard what seemed to be the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying,
“Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power to our God.”
And from the throne came a voice saying,
“Praise our God, all you his servants,
and all who fear him, small and great.”
Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,
like the sound of many waters
and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,
“Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure” –
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
And the Angel said to me,
“Write this:
Blessed are those
who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

The word of the Lord.

HOMILY

The homily is an important moment in your marriage ceremony. The Priest will reflect and comment on the Christian meaning of your marriage, and its sacramental nature, in the light of God's Word.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

The Liturgy of the Word resumes as the community who are present offer their prayers for the newlywed couple. These prayers are directed toward your new life and happiness together.

Choose either option A or option B. You will also need to choose someone to read these prayers. If combining options A and B (a maximum of 6 intercessions), the couple needs to prepare the prayers themselves and bring the printed copy to the wedding rehearsal.

The response to each prayer is: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Option A.

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.
2. That God will bless their covenant as He chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

(Continued on next page.)

Option B.

1. For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this couple.
Let us pray to the Lord.
2. 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.
3. For all families throughout the world and for lasting peace among all people. Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the faithful departed. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians.
Let us pray to the Lord.

