



*Together for Life*

# Sacrament of Marriage

Parish Booklet





Dear Couple,

On behalf of the community of St. John Brebeuf Parish I would like to congratulate you on this wonderful decision to be united in front of God in the Sacrament of Marriage. It is a great and pivotal moment of your life, and we want to be sure to prepare for that moment well. We know that the wedding preparation can be a stressful process and we want to assure you of our support and prayers. Catholic wedding requires some steps to be taken, and the following booklet is supposed to help you in that preparation. Use it as a tool and instrument in time of your preparation. Whenever you need anything, do not hesitate to contact the parish office at [office@sjbrebeuf.org](mailto:office@sjbrebeuf.org) or at our phone number 847-966-8145.

God Bless You,  
Fr. Zdzislaw J. Torba





# USEFUL INFORMATION

## REQUIRED CHURCH DOCUMENTS

- You will need to obtain a new copy of your Baptismal Certificate, dated within six months of the wedding date. Call the church where you were baptized and ask for this, and
- A Confirmation Certificate from the church where you were confirmed unless this is noted on the back of the Baptismal Certificate.
- A Questionnaire which is filled out by both parties at the rectory with a priest, or deacon.
- Two affidavits are usually required. These are statements that are filled out by two people who have known you well from at least the age of fifteen. Your parents are the usual witnesses, if possible. These affidavits testify that you are free to marry. They are generally filled out at the parish closest to where the witnesses reside.
- Annulment/divorce decrees, if applicable.





## CIVIL DOCUMENTS

The state of Illinois and the county of Cook require a marriage license obtained from the COOK COUNTY CLERK. The marriage license must be obtained at least one day, and not more than sixty (60) days, before the wedding. You may obtain the marriage license at any of the following locations:

Chicago.....118 N. Clark St.....(312) 603-7790  
Bridgeview.....10220 S. 7th Ave.....(708) 974-6150  
Markha.....16501 S. Kedzie Ave.....(708) 210-4150  
Maywood..... 1311 S. Maybrook Square.....(708) 865-6010  
Rolling Meadows.....2121 Euclid Ave.....(847) 818-2850  
Skokie.....5600 W. Old Orchard Rd.....(847) 470-7233

Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. You will need: proof of age - proper I.D.

### PRE-CANA

The Archdiocese of Chicago requires all couples to participate in a formal process of marriage preparation.

This is generally accomplished through the Pre-Cana programs. You should complete your Pre-Cana class well in advance of your wedding.

Link Below:

<https://themarriagegroup.com/courses/pre-cana>







## SCHEDULING THE WEDDING

When deciding on your marriage date, be mindful that, with so many Masses celebrated each weekend, we cannot accommodate Sunday weddings. Further, because of the penitential nature of Lent, and longstanding tradition, weddings are not celebrated at St. John Brebeuf Parish during this season.

Weddings are held in our church on Saturdays. If you wish to schedule your wedding on any other day, generally Fridays, arrangements are to be made with the priest or deacon who has been assigned to you.

Each wedding is allowed a total of two hours: ½ hour before the wedding for pictures and the seating of guests, one hour for the wedding itself, and ½ hour afterwards for pictures and greeting guests. Be aware that any tardiness will cut into your picture time.





## PHOTOGRAPHS/VIDEOTAPE

Pictures and videotaping are allowed during the ceremony and for a specified time after the ceremony, however, the photographer and videographer must abide by the priest or deacon's established rules, work in a non-obstructive manner and respect the sanctity of the sacraments being celebrated. Extra lighting for video cameras and flashes are NOT allowed because it is extremely distracting. It is your responsibility to advise your photographer and videographer of the parish policy. Your photographer and/or videographer need to consult with the priest or deacon prior to the beginning of the wedding ceremony to identify them and find out where the placement of equipment is allowed.

## BANNS

The public announcement of your wedding will be printed in the Sunday bulletin for three consecutive weeks prior to the wedding.

## FLOWERS

The church provides the flowers and their cost it is included in the wedding fee. Any additional arrangements must be consulted with the church.





## RICE/FLOWERS THROWING

The throwing of rice and/or any other objects is not allowed inside or outside the Church. Rice, confetti, birdseed, etc. underfoot are hazardous.

For the safety of all those using the facilities after you, please advise your guests of this request. Bubbles are the least problematic to the environment and may be used outside on the sidewalk.

## MAINTENANCE

We ask that you be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness and orderliness of the premises during your use of the facilities. If your photographer and brings any bags, boxes, or other disposable items please be sure to ask them to dispose of them properly in the receptacles in the vestibule or sacristy.





## FEEES

We would like to offer gratuitous sacramental celebrations for our parishioners, however, due to rising costs we collect traditional fees for the use of the church (i.e. baptisms, weddings, funerals).

The fee is \$600.00 for registered parishioners who have a personal history of support for this parish. It is due no later than the day of the rehearsal. The fee is a gift to the Church for operating needs. The priest or deacon does not receive a share of this fee. Thus, there is a free will fee for the priest or deacon who will help to prepare you for marriage and who will conduct your wedding. This fee is to be paid on the rehearsal day directly to the priest. The customary gift of \$20 for two altar servers, who assist during the ceremony, is also practiced at our parish. Fees for the organist, soloist and choir are assessed separately.

We accept weddings of non-parishioners or those residing out of the parish boundaries with the permission of the pastor of their parish. The fee for non-parishioners is \$800.





## CHURCH ETIQUETTE

Please remember that you are in a sacred place and that proper reverence is called for. No smoking, eating or drinking is allowed either in the church or chapel. This applies to the Bride's Room, the sacristy where the groom may be waiting, as well as the Church and vestibule.

It is uncommon, but it has happened that some members of the wedding party abuse alcohol, tobacco or drugs before the wedding ceremony. The couple themselves is prohibited by church law from abusing alcohol or drugs as that may hinder their free intention to marry. The priest or deacon **MUST** refuse to proceed with the wedding if there has been evidence of drug or alcohol use. Please choose people for your wedding party with an appropriate level of maturity.







## GUIDELINES FOR RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

The following are guidelines set forth by the National Conference of Catholic Bish-ops.

### - For Catholics

Catholics fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when they receive Holy Communion in fulfillment of Christ's command to eat His Body and drink His Blood. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, communicants should not be conscious of grave sin, have fasted for an hour, and seek to live in charity and love with their neighbors. Those conscious of grave sin must first be reconciled with God and the Church through the sacrament of Penance. A frequent reception of the sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

### - For Other Christians

We welcome to this celebration of the Eucharist those Christians who are not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions in Christianity that we cannot extend to them a general invitation to receive Communion. Catholics believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship of the community. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist, and for which we must all pray.





# CHURCH MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE

This will be given to you by the priest or deacon who witnesses your wedding. The church certificate is usually sufficient for most needs. A copy of the civil marriage license may be obtained from the County Clerk's Office for a fee about two weeks after the wedding date. Check with the clerk at the time of obtaining the license.

## READERS

It is customary at our weddings to invite members of the bridal party or family to read one or two of the scripture selections and the general intercessions that have been chosen. It would be helpful if they have done some public reading or are willing to practice. They should be present at the rehearsal. The First Reading is taken from the Old Testament and the Second from the New Testament. Below you will find the examples of readings and general intercessions to choose.





## REHEARSAL

At the rehearsal, the marriage license, church fees and altar server gratuity must be given to the priest or deacon or person conducting the rehearsal if you have not already done so. The time for your rehearsal is to be arranged with your priest or deacon. Please be prompt. Your rehearsal and wedding are probably not the only one that day, or the priest has other scheduled obligations, so please do not delay others because you, or members of your bridal party, are late! The time of the rehearsal is about 30 minutes long.

## WEDDING MUSIC

The most important goal of liturgical music is to help people pray. Additionally, musical selections should express not only the faith of the couple, but also the common faith of the whole Church regarding the sacrament of Marriage. It is for this reason that most secular music is NOT appropriate during the Mass or ceremony. Music should be scripturally based, simple, and singable so that those assembled may actively participate. The parish organist will help you choose appropriate music that is within general liturgical guidelines and answer any questions you might have in this matter. The parish has highly trained and experienced instrumentalists and singers available.





**WEDDING/MARRIAGE FORM**  
**ST. JOHN BREBEUF PARISH**  
8305 N. Harlem Avenue, Niles, IL 60714  
kwojcik@sjbrebeuf.org  
847-966-8101

Proposed Marriage Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

(Date is not confirmed until you speak with a secretary)

Language: ☐ English ☐ Polish ☐ Bi-lingual

Priest Preference: \_\_\_\_\_

**Groom:**

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Parishioner? ☐ Yes OR ☐ No

Previous Marriage? ☐ Yes OR ☐ No

How Did It End? \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Marriage With One Another? ☐ Yes OR ☐ No

**Bride:**

First & Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Parishioner? ☐ Yes OR ☐ No

Previous Marriage? ☐ Yes OR ☐ No

How Did It End? \_\_\_\_\_

Civil Marriage With One Another? ☐ Yes OR ☐ No

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Wedding Fee: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit: Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Final Payment: Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# THE WEDDING PREPARATION PROCEDURE

ST. JOHN BREBEUF PARISH  
8305 N. Harlem Avenue, Niles, IL 60714  
office@sjbrebeuf.org  
847-966-8145

## **Standard Requirements:**

- ☐ Baptismal Certificates (obtained within 6 months of the Wedding Date)
- ☐ Confirmation Certificates
- ☐ PreCana Class
  - Online: [www.themarriagegroup.com/courses/pre-cana/](http://www.themarriagegroup.com/courses/pre-cana/)
- ☐ In case of Validation of the Marriage - Civil Marriage Certificate
- ☐ In case of previous marriage - Marriage Certificate; Annulment/Divorce or Death Certificate of previous spouse
- ☐ Marriage License (valid for 60 days should be brought no later than on the rehearsal)
- ☐ Four Witness Affidavits

## **Financial Expectations:**

- ☐ **Registered Parishioners:**
  - ☐ \$600.00 Parish Fee (Includes: Mass Fee, Church Decoration)
  - ☐ Priest - Free will donation
  - ☐ \$20.00 Altar Servers
- ☐ **Non-Registered:**
  - ☐ \$800.00 Parish Fee
  - ☐ Priest - Free will donation
  - ☐ \$20.00 Altar Servers

**Non refundable deposit of \$150.00 is required. Balance is due one month before the wedding.**

- ☐ Organist \$200.00
- ☐ Rafal Woznik, Phone: 708-983-4641
- ☐ Bartek Ciezobka, Phone: 630-306-3985
- ☐ Cantor: \$150.00





# **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**





## OT ONE (Genesis 1:26-28, 31a)

### **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.**





## OT TWO (Genesis 2:18-24)

### **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-lahai-roi and was living in the region of the Negeb. One day toward evening he went out . . . in the field, and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching. Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?" "That is my master," replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil. The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her, and thus she became his wife. In his love for her Isaac found solace after the death of his mother Sarah.

**The word of the Lord.**



**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 seal. Afterward they began to eat and drink.

**The word of the Lord.**





## OT FIVE (Tobit 8:4b-8)

### **A reading from the Book of Tobit**

The parents meanwhile had gone out and shut the door behind them. Tobias rose from the bed, and said to Sarah, 'Get up, my sister! You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and his protection.' She stood up, and they began praying for protection, and this was how he began: 'You are blessed, O God of our fathers; blessed, too, is your name for ever and ever. Let the heavens bless you and all things you have made for evermore. It was you who created Adam, you who created Eve his wife to be his help and support; and from these two the human race was born. It was you who said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make him help mate like himself". And so I do not take my sister for any lustful motive; I do it in singleness of heart. Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me and bring us to old age together.' And together they said, 'Amen, Amen',

**The word of the Lord.**



OT SIX (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)

**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.**



## OT SEVEN (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a)

### **A reading from the Song of Songs**

Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,

Let me see you,  
let me hear your voice,  
for your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely.”

My lover belongs to me and I to him.

He says to me:

“Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;

For stern as death is love,  
relentless as the nether world is devotion;  
its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away.”

**The word of the Lord.**



## OT EIGHT (Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16)

### **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.**



## OT NINE (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a)

### **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.**







# **NEW TESTAMENT READINGS**



**NT ONE (Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39)**

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

Brothers and sisters:

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

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

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

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly

through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT TWO (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18)

### **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.**



## NT THREE (short - Romans 12:1-2, 9-13)

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
that you may discern what is the will of God,  
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere;  
hate what is evil,  
hold on to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection;  
anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit,  
serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope,  
endure in affliction,  
persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,  
exercise hospitality.

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT FOUR (Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13)

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans**

Brothers and sisters:

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to  
please ourselves;

let each of us please our neighbor for the good,  
for building up.

For Christ did not please himself.

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

that with one accord you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.

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

**The word of the Lord.**



NT FIVE (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20)

**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.**



NT SIX (1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8a)

**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.**



## NT SEVEN (Ephesians 4:1-6)

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

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

**The word of the Lord.**





## NT EIGHT (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 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.**



NT NINE (short - 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 handed himself over for us.

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

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

He who loves his wife loves himself.

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

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

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

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT TEN (Philippians 4:4-9)

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians**

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

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

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

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

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

Then the God of peace will be with you.

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT ELEVEN (Colossians 3:12-17)

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians**

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and  
patience,

bearing with one another and forgiving one another,  
if one has a grievance against another;  
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

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

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

And be thankful.

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

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

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT TWELVE (Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b)

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,

for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,

and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,

for you also are in the body.

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

Let your life be free from love of money

but be content with what you have,

for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.

Thus we may say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper,

and I will not be afraid.

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT THIRTEEN (1 Peter 3:1-9)

### **A reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter**

Beloved:

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

Your adornment should not be an external one:  
braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine  
clothes, but rather the hidden character of the heart,  
expressed in the imperishable beauty  
of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight  
of God. For this is also how the holy women who hoped in  
God once used to adorn themselves

and were subordinate to their husbands;  
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."

You are her children when you do what is good  
and fear no intimidation. Likewise, you husbands should live  
with your wives in understanding, showing honor to the  
weaker female sex, since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,  
so that your prayers may not be hindered.

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

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

that you might inherit a blessing.

**The word of the Lord.**



## NT FOURTEEN (1 John 3:18-24)

### **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.**



## NT FIFTEEN (1 John 4:7-12)

### **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.**





**NT SIXTEEN (Revelation 19:1, 5-9a)**

**A reading from the First Letter of Saint John**

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.**





# **GENERAL INTERCESSIONS**



## OPTION 1

**Priest: 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.**

**Lector: Our response is: "Lord, hear our prayer."**

1. 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, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our president and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For N. and N., 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, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
7. For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (pause), let us pray to the Lord.

**Priest: 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.**

**All: Amen.**



## OPTION 2

**Priest: 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.**

**Lector: Our response is: "Lord, hear our prayer."**

1. 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 let us pray to the Lord.
2. For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple N. and N., married today, 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 - let us pray to the Lord.
3. For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love - let us pray to the Lord.
4. 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 - let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires - let us pray to the Lord.

**Priest: These are our words of prayer today for ourselves and all human being 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. Through Christ our Lord.**

**All: Amen.**



## OPTION 3

**Priest: God has given us promises in the word of scripture. N and N 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, have mercy."**

**Lector: Our response is: "Lord, hear our prayer."**

1. For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord.
2. For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord.
3. For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord.
4. For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord.
5. For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord.
6. For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, we pray to the Lord.
7. For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, we pray to the Lord.
8. For this couple, to keep the promise of marriage, we pray to the Lord.

**Priest: Father, You have chosen us and given us your love, the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Hear our prayers today and keep us open. May our faith issue forth in action, our love show itself in deeds, and our hope give us courage. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

