



St.Emily's
Catholic Church

Immaculate Heart
Catholic Church



Wedding Inquiries
Call: 218.568.4760

Wedding arrangements for Immaculate Heart Church and St. Emily's are also handled through the parish office of Our Lady of the Lakes for the Northern Lakes Mission Field.

(The wedding preparation checklist is the last page of this packet)

Congratulations on your decision to answer God's call to marriage. What God is preparing you for is very important to the Church. Since marriage is both a vocation and a sacrament, the Church takes it very seriously. Our goal is to help you prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony in such a way that your love for God and each other will continue to grow strong.

GOSPEL VALUES

Your wedding day is an important day for you and your family. You certainly want your wedding to be celebrated in a memorable and dignified manner. Often couples begin their planning with the resolve to keep it simple, but the wedding list grows, the reception menu expands, and there are numerous options for the little extras, etc. Pretty soon you can become overwhelmed.

Our Christian way of life places great value on simplicity, an honest and humble presentation of ourselves, a real concern for those who are less fortunate than we are.

It is our hope that you won't let commercialism and current fads pressure you or your families to lose sight of the spiritual dimension of what you are doing.

This is particularly true when it comes to what the bride, groom, and attendants wear for the wedding. The church is a sacred space; your dress should be modest and should reflect the sacred nature of the wedding ceremony or Mass.

WHO MAY MARRY AT OUR PARISHES?

The answer to this question is governed by the Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church and the policies of the Diocese of Duluth. As you come to the Church seeking to be married, we trust God has called you, as his children, to enter into the sacrament of marriage within the Church. We all live out our faith in community, specifically a parish community, through which our faith grows and is continually nourished, especially through our celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays. Membership in a parish keeps us active in our faith and makes the vocation of marriage much easier to live out.

Members of our parishes may celebrate their weddings at Our Lady of the Lakes, Immaculate Heart Church, or St. Emily's.

Former parish members, who now live in another place, must have the written permission of both their current pastor (from the community in which they reside) and the Pastor of our parishes, in order to celebrate a marriage here.

Other Catholics, not of this parish may celebrate their weddings here, if the church is available, they are free to marry, and they have the written permission of both their current pastor (from the community in which they reside) and the Pastor of our parishes. Wedding requests for other Catholics are considered on a case-by-case basis.

INITIAL MEETING

Contact Our Lady of the Lakes or Immaculate Heart parish office at least 9 to 12 months before your proposed wedding date to schedule an initial meeting with a priest or deacon. **This meeting is required before your wedding date and time can be finalized on the parish calendar.**

It is important to have this meeting before you arrange for caterers, hall rentals, etc. At this initial meeting, the priest or deacon will interview you to become acquainted with both of you and explain the marriage preparation process.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS

The marriage preparation process is intended to help couples discern their readiness for marriage and to prepare them for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Following completion of the initial interview with the priest or deacon, the marriage preparation process begins at least 6 months prior to the planned date of the wedding.

1. Completion of a premarital inventory followed by feedback sessions with priest/deacon/mentor couple
2. Completion of the necessary diocesan pre-nuptial forms, including those for permissions and dispensations, if required
3. Instruction in the Catholic Faith
4. Liturgical preparation for the wedding
5. Participation by the couple in an approved engaged couples retreat is also required. You will receive information from the priest or deacon about possible retreat dates.
6. Instruction in & learning of natural family planning (NFP), if applicable (more info to follow)
7. Couples registered at a different parish and/or who live outside of the area of Our Lady of the Lakes, Immaculate Heart, and St. Emily's are normally prepared by the pastor of the parish where they currently reside.
8. Please be aware that a pre-nuptial agreement renders marriage invalid.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

A wedding date cannot be confirmed until the initial meeting with the priest or deacon has been completed and approval granted. Please be aware that Saturday is a busy day in the Church. Weddings at **Our Lady of the Lakes** locations are scheduled for: **Saturdays at 1:00 PM, 1:30 PM, or 2:00 PM.** Weddings at **Immaculate Heart or St. Emily** are scheduled for **Saturdays at 1:00pm.**

For Friday weddings, please contact the parish office to determine a time. No more than one wedding may be scheduled on a Friday or Saturday. Weddings are generally not scheduled during the seasons of Advent or Lent. Weddings are also not scheduled during Holy Week, Sundays, or Holy Days of Obligation. If you must schedule a wedding during these times of the liturgical year, the priest or deacon will inform you of restrictions that may apply.

REQUIRED FORMS

Baptismal Certificates – For Catholics, the baptism certificate must be issued within the past 6 months. You can obtain a baptism certificate by calling or writing the church in which you were baptized and have it sent directly to the parish office. Those baptized at Our Lady of the Lakes, Immaculate Heart, or St. Emily’s can simply ask the parish office to verify their baptism. For a non-Catholic, a copy of a baptismal certificate is acceptable. It need not be recent.

Marriage License – Please apply as soon as possible for the license. The marriage license is valid for a six-month period and will take some time to process. Bring the marriage license to the parish office at least two weeks prior to the wedding. You can obtain a notarized form from the parish office (or from the pastor of your parish) to receive a discount off your marriage license once you have completed pre-marital education classes. **A wedding cannot be celebrated without a valid Minnesota marriage license.**

THE WEDDING LITURGY

First Option: The Nuptial Mass

When both the Bride and the Groom are Catholic, they may celebrate the Nuptial Mass consisting of readings from Scripture, a homily, the exchange of vows, the Eucharistic prayers, the reception of communion, and selected prayers and blessings. Only a priest can celebrate a Nuptial Mass.

Second Option: Wedding without Mass

A couple (Catholic and non-Catholic) will be married in a Wedding Ceremony. The Wedding Ceremony consists of readings from Scripture, a homily, the exchange of vows, and selected prayers and blessings. It may be officiated by a priest or deacon.

THE WEDDING PARTY

General Guidelines

All members of the wedding party are expected to be prompt, so the rehearsal and wedding can start on time. All members of the wedding party need to pay attention to directions given at the rehearsal. If members of the wedding party are not at the rehearsal, the best man and maid/matron of honor will be expected to inform them of any instructions prior to the wedding. The best man is responsible for having both wedding rings in his pocket. The maid/matron of honor is expected to assist the bride with her train. The maid/matron of honor and best man must sign the marriage license immediately following the ceremony in the sacristy. Wedding participants are expected to conduct themselves with respectful behavior in the church and on parish grounds.

Best Man’s Duties

1. Deliver the envelopes with the offering for the presiding clergy before the wedding begins.
2. Have both wedding rings in your pocket. Make sure to double-check.
3. Make sure the groom and all groomsmen are in their respective places no later than 10 minutes before the start of the wedding.
4. If needed, assist the ushers in seating guests.
5. Sign the wedding license immediately after the ceremony in the sacristy.
6. After the wedding, make sure the church is as clean as you found it.

Maid/Matron of Honor's Duties

1. Assist the bride with her train. During the ceremony, receive the bouquet from the bride and then pass to the next bridesmaid, so you are available to assist the bride with her train.
2. Make sure the bride and bridesmaids are in their respective places no later than 10 minutes before the start of the wedding.
3. Sign the wedding license immediately after the ceremony in the sacristy.
4. After the wedding, make sure the bridal dressing area is clean.
5. After the wedding, make sure the church is as clean as you found it.

Groomsmen/Bridesmaids Duties

1. Follow the general guidelines.
2. Be in your place no later than 10 minutes before the wedding begins.
3. Assist with seating guests, if needed. (Groomsmen)
4. Assist in additional ways if needed.
5. After the wedding, make sure the church is as clean as you found it.

Ring Bearer/Flower Girl Duties

1. Children under the age of 7 will sit in the pews with a family member during the wedding, after they come down the aisle in the procession.
2. Children over the age of 7 can join the wedding party in the sanctuary.
3. An adult who is familiar with the child should be ready in case there is a problem or emergency.
4. *The pillow that the ring bearer carries cannot have the actual rings tied to it.* The actual rings are the responsibility of the best man.

OTHER WEDDING PARTICIPANTS

Reader - a person or people of your choice who are Catholic and have had reader training can proclaim The Old Testament and New Testament readings. The reader(s) should be provided with an approved copy of the readings at least one week before the weekend so he/she may practice them.

Please Note: ONLY the "New American Bible" can be used in Catholic liturgies.

Greeters - Members of the bride's and groom's family or close friends of the bride and groom should be asked to serve in the role of greeter. The greeters simply stand by the doorway and greet the wedding guests, on your behalf, and may give the guests a wedding program.

Ushers - The ushers are responsible for seating guests in the pews and making sure that the wedding begins on time. Make sure you inform the ushers how you want guests to be seated (bride side, groom side, doesn't matter). The traditional seating of guests involves seating the groom's family and friends on the right side of the church as you face the altar and seating the bride's family and friends on the left side of the church. However, it is advisable to not seat the guests in the traditional manner, but rather with attention that the two sides of the church have an equal number of people. Make sure to have the ushers move people to the front of the church when they seat them. The wedding couple needs to inform the ushers of the final seating details. The ushers must also be informed if they will be involved with dismissing guests at the end of the wedding.

The ushers need to be aware of the location of restrooms, telephones, and emergency items. The ushers are also responsible for cleaning up the church after the wedding.

PROGRAM

Printed wedding programs that reflect the order of the service are helpful for your guests. They allow full participation of the assembly. Please check with the priest or deacon officiating at the wedding before finalizing the program. Please print the following notice in your program:

We respectfully ask that NO flash pictures be taken during the ceremony while the couple is in the sanctuary.

Please bring at least two copies of the program to the rehearsal.

THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are usually scheduled for the day prior to the wedding (generally Thursdays at 4:00 PM for Friday weddings and Fridays at 4:00 PM for Saturday weddings, unless there is a Friday evening wedding.) The date and time will be set during your meeting with the priest or deacon.

All members of the wedding party and wedding participants, including the reader(s), are required to attend the rehearsal. If a person cannot attend, another person stands in his or her place and instructs the person prior to the wedding on his/her responsibilities. Other friends should meet at the rehearsal dinner. Remind everyone to be punctual.

The reader will practice the Scripture readings at the ambo with the microphone.

Musicians are generally not present at the rehearsal.

The wedding rehearsal usually lasts about an hour; please plan two hours from the start of the rehearsal to the time for eating for the groom's dinner, allow decorating and confessions if desired.

BRIDE'S ROOM & SOCIAL HALL

At Our Lady of the Lakes parish sites, Immaculate Heart Church, and St. Emily's, various rooms are used for the bride, groom, and wedding party depending on the location. Rooms must be cleared before the wedding. Food and beverages are allowed in these rooms (excluding alcoholic beverages). There are trash receptacles available, and supplies for wiping down tables can be found in the social hall kitchen. Prior to the wedding, you should appoint someone who will be in charge of assuring the rooms used are left clean.

RECEIVING LINE

On Saturday afternoons, there is a 4:30pm Mass at St. Alice and a 4pm Mass at Immaculate Heart Church, therefore **it is policy that the receiving line take place at the reception not at the Church after the wedding, if the wedding is at St. Alice or Immaculate Heart.** This does not apply to weddings at Our Lady of Lourdes or St. Christopher's or St. Emily's.

LITURGY & ENVIRONMENT

The environment in the church reflects the liturgical season of the year...Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. Occasional liturgies such as weddings can influence the environment, but they should not dominate nor replace the seasonal décor.

Flowers

Flowers enhance the liturgical service but must be placed so they do not disrupt movements or the focal points of the ceremony. Floral arrangements may be placed next to the altar, but not in front of or on top of the altar. Flowers may also be placed in front of the ambo and around the tabernacle area. All flowers/greenery must be fresh and not artificial.

Candles & Candelabras

Only church owned candles are to be used and the placement of the candles is at the discretion of the rector/pastor. Candles are not allowed to be placed on the ends of the pews or in the aisles. Our Lady of the Lakes does not have candelabras for use.

Unity Candle

Unity candles are not permitted per Diocesan policy.

Aisle Runners

Aisle runners are not permitted due to safety reasons.

Pews

Bows can only be fastened to the pews with ribbon, elastic or string. No tape, tacks, brackets, or glue may be used.

Miscellaneous

Rice, birdseed, confetti, rose petals, or any other items may not be thrown inside or outside the church or on parish grounds. Balloons may not be released at church.

PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEOTAPING

The recording of any wedding ceremony through photography or videotaping must respect the sacred nature of the liturgy and must not be a distraction to the clergy, the bridal party, or the guests. The photographer may take pictures during the wedding ceremony, however, without flash or other extra lighting, and with minimum movement. **Photographers and videographers are not allowed in the sanctuary area or the choir loft during the celebration of the liturgy of your wedding.** Video cameras are allowed on tripods and only in a stationary position in the church during the ceremony.

Please plan to take all wedding pictures prior to the wedding and stop 30 minutes before the wedding. Pictures may be taken in the church after the ceremony **only** if there is sufficient time to do so before the next function. No sanctuary furniture may be moved for taking pictures. Please provide the name and phone number of your photographer to the priest/deacon.

LIVESTREAM

Livestream (for St. Christopher and Immaculate Heart weddings only) is available. The livestream of the wedding will broadcast directly on the St. Christopher's YouTube channel. A donation of \$100 for the livestream coordinator is suggested.

ETIQUETTE

Food and drink are permitted in the Bride's Room and the Social Hall, but not in the church itself. Alcohol use is not permitted in any area of the parish facilities and grounds. Please dispose of any trash and leave the church facilities in the same condition that you found them.

DONATIONS & FEES

Members of the parish are asked to pay \$250 to help defray the costs of operating. Non-members are asked to pay \$750 to help defray these costs. A \$100 non-refundable deposit should be paid at the time that the wedding is booked. The remaining portion should be paid two weeks prior to the wedding.

The couple may also optionally offer the priest or deacon an honorarium.

There is an additional charge for musicians. See below.

LITURGY PLANNING Liturgy Plans for a Nuptial Wedding Mass and a Wedding Ceremony (no Mass) are found at the end of this booklet.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Any additional requests not listed are at the behest of the rector/pastor and or the music director.

GUIDELINES FOR WEDDING MUSIC AT OLOL, IHC, AND ST. EMILY

Congratulations on your upcoming wedding! Here are some helpful things for you to know in preparation for the music for your ceremony.

Musicians – Our parishes employ musicians who will ensure that your wedding music is both beautiful and appropriate for a sacred celebration. Because the wedding is an extension of worship and not an isolated event, **staff musicians must be used for all weddings**. If unavailable, they will work with you to find an appropriate substitute. For your service, you will need at minimum a keyboardist and a cantor. The director of music at St. Christopher's and Immaculate Heart/St. Emily's is Kathy Binsfeld, and for St. Alice and Our Lady of Lourdes it is Jenny Oaks.

- **Immaculate Heart/St. Emily's cantor/vocalist \$200**
- **Our Lady of the Lakes cantor/vocalist \$200**
- **Our Lady of the Lakes instrumentalist \$200**
- **Kathy Binsfeld Organist/Pianist \$300 for St. Christopher's, Immaculate Heart, & St. Emily's**
- **Jenny Oaks Organist/Pianist \$300 for St. Alice/Our Lady of Lourdes**

Suggested Music List - All music at Our Lady of the Lakes and Immaculate Heart/St. Emily's weddings must be either sacred or classical in nature, both vocal and instrumental. Popular secular songs are not allowed, even if only instrumental versions are without lyrics. Please work with Jenny or Kathy (as per your wedding location) to select music, *at least three months before your wedding*.

Additional music guidelines and suggestions will be provided by the music director. *Please review them!*

And finally: Please do not plan any music until you work with the music director!

Checklist:

- ✓ Contact the Director of Music (jenny.oaks@duluthcatholic.org for St. Alice/Our Lady of Lourdes, or kathy.binsfeld@duluthcatholic.org for St. Christopher and Immaculate Heart/St. Emily's) to begin the process of music options and selections.
- ✓ Submit (by mail, email, or in person) Liturgy Planning Sheet to Our Lady of the Lakes office at least three months prior to your wedding date.
- ✓ Send payments to musicians for all locations (separate checks) at the parish address at least one week prior to your wedding date. All wedding files are kept in Pequot Lakes. Use this address:

Our Lady of the Lakes
Attn: Music Director
PO Box 759
Pequot Lakes, MN 56472

We look forward to helping make your wedding day at the Our Lady of the Lakes a beautiful experience!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

For insightful and helpful commentary on each reading, visit
<https://www.foryourmarriage.org/readings/>

At least one reading that explicitly speaks of marriage must always be chosen. These readings are designated by an **asterisk**.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

1. Male and female he created them.

***A reading from the Book of Genesis 1:26-28, 31a**

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.

2. The two of them become one body.

***A reading from the Book of Genesis 2:18-24**

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.

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

***A reading from the Book of Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67**

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.

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

***A reading from the Book of Tobit 7:6-14**

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:

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"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.

5. Allow us to live together to a happy old age.

***A reading from the Book of Tobit 8:4b-8**

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.

6. The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

***A reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

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.

7. Stern as death is love.

A reading from the Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

Hark! my lover—here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.

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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.

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

***A reading from the Book of Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16**

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.

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

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

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

1. What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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.

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

Long Form: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

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.

OR

Short Form: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

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.

3. Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

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.

4. Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

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.

5. If I do not have love, I gain nothing.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

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.

6. One Body and one Spirit.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-6

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.

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

***Long Form: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33**

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.

OR

Short Form: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

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.

8. The God of peace will be with you.

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Philippians 4:4-9**

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.

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

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the
Colossians 3:12-17**

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,

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giving thanks to God the Father through him.
The word of the Lord.

10. Let marriage be held in honor by all.

**A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews
13:1-4a, 5-6b**

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.

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

***A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter
3:1-9**

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.

12. Love in deed and in truth

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 3:18-24

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.

13. God is love.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 4:7-12

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.

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

A reading from the Book of Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a

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:

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“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.

2. You are the light of the world.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16

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.

3. A wise man built his house on rock.

***Long Form: A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew 7:21, 24-29***

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.

OR

***Short Form: A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew 7:21, 24-25***

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

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and acts on them

will be like a wise man who built his house on
rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse;
it had been set solidly on rock.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

4. What God has united, man must not separate.

****A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 19:3-6***

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.

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

***A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew 22:35-40***

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.

6. They are no longer two, but one flesh.

***A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark 10:6-9**

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.

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

***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 2:1-11**

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.

8. Remain in my love.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:9-12

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.

9. *This is my commandment: love one another.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:12-16

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.

10. *That they may be brought to perfection as one.*

Long Form: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-26

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.

OR

Short Form: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-23

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
“Holy Father, I pray not only for these, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me.”
The Gospel of the Lord

OPTIONS FOR VOWS

Option 1a - Repeated after priest or deacon

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Option 1b - "I do."

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) to be your wife? Do you promise to be true to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life?

Groom: I do.

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) to be your husband? Do you promise to be true to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life?

Bride: I do.

Option 2a - Repeated after priest or deacon

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), 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, until death do us part.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), 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, until death do us part.

Option 2b - "I do."

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) 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, until death do you part?

Groom: I do.

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) 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, until death do you part?

Bride: I do.

OPTIONS FOR NUPTIAL BLESSING

Option 1

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.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Then the Priest, 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,

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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.

Response: Amen.

Option 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.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Then the Priest, 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 sacramental sign,
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church
might become manifest

in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;
Graciously stretch out your right hand
over these your servants (N. and N.), we pray,
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.
Grant, O Lord,
that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,
they may share with one another the gifts of your love
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,
become one heart and one mind.
May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds
the home they are forming
(and prepare their children
to become members of your heavenly household
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).
Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter N.,
so that, by being a good wife (and mother),
she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure
and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.
Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord,
on N., your servant,
that he may be a worthy, good and
faithful husband (and a provident father).
Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,
they may one day have the joy
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Option 3

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

All pray in silence for a short while.

Then the Priest, 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.

Response: Amen.

OPTIONS FOR PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Option 1

1. For the Church throughout the world. May our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another. We pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. May they grow in wisdom and grace, and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
5. For N. and N., who begin their married life together this day. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessing of children. We pray to the Lord.
6. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

Option 2

1. For the Church and its leaders. May our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.
2. For our world and its leaders. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.
3. For those who are sick, lonely, or depressed. May they be strengthened by God's love and aided by friends and family. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all of the guests gathered here today. May they enjoy the company of family and friends and travel safely on their journey home. We pray to the Lord.
5. For N. and N., May they live long, blessed lives together, may their love grow stronger each and every day, and may they build a family rooted in faith and unconditional love. We pray to the Lord.
6. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

WEDDING PLANNING FORM

(Clergy will review this form with you approximately 4-8 weeks prior to wedding – use/click QR for online access if possible!)



The Wedding of: _____ and _____

Date, time, church of Wedding: _____

Date and time of rehearsal: _____

The Church:

- o Will there be a printed program? ___ Yes ___ No
- o Livestream the wedding? (St. Christopher/Immaculate Heart only) ___ Yes ___ No
- o Other plans? _____

Participants

Ushers: Ushers help to welcome people, to seat them, and to help clean up the Church after the ceremony.

They are: _____

Lectors: If you have one reading before the Gospel, you need one reader. If you have 2 readings before the Gospel, you may select either 1 or 2 readers. They should be accustomed to reading in Church or the public.

If your wedding is a Mass, then the Lectors MUST be Catholic.

They are: _____

Musicians: Please remember all music must be approved by our parish Music Director.

They are: _____

Attendants - They are official witnesses to your wedding.

Maid/matron of Honor: _____ Best Man: _____

Others: _____

Please list anyone else that is involved in the wedding and their role:

Catholic Mass: Yes____ No____

If yes, approximately. number of guests: _____

Altar Servers (*They must already be servers at a Catholic Church*) Yes____ No____

Gifts will be (check one) Brought in from the back____ At the credence table____

Additional ministers of Holy Communion: (*Already trained and serving in their local parish*)

Procession

Groom walks in with parents to lead procession? Yes____ No____

(*maximum of 2 trips*)

All walk in from back _____ Groomsmen up front_____

Flower girl: Yes____ No____ Ring Bearer: Yes____ No____

(*any kids under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult – no exceptions please*)

Visiting Minister? Yes____ No____ *If yes, MUST be arranged prior to wedding with parish clergy.*

Ceremony Selections:

LITURGY OF THE WORD - choose from readings on pg. 16 and following

Old Testament Reading (*unless choosing only 1 reading prior to the Gospel, then may be either from the Old Testament or New Testament Epistles*) _____

Responsorial Psalm (*sung*) -work with music coordinators.

New Testament Reading (*optional from New Testament Epistles*) _____

Gospel Acclamation (*sung*)

Gospel Reading _____

Exchange of Vows (*choose from page 24*) _____

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayers of the Faithful (*choose from page 29*) _____

Nuptial Blessing (*choose from pages 25-28*) _____

Lord's Prayer--never a solo (recited)

Couple Presented as _____

Other announcements? _____

Plans for Mass the Sunday after your marriage: _____

PROGRAM PLAN FOR A NUPTIAL MASS	PROGRAM PLAN FOR A MARRIAGE CEREMONY (<i>No Mass</i>)
<p>PRELUDE (music) Processional</p>	<p>PRELUDE Processional</p>
<p>INTRODUCTORY RITES Sign of Cross & Greeting Gloria (<i>sung</i>) Opening Prayer</p>	<p>INTRODUCTORY RITES Sign of Cross & Greeting Opening Prayer</p>
<p>LITURGY OF THE WORD Old Testament Reading Responsorial Psalm (<i>sung, response may be printed</i>) New Testament Reading Gospel Acclamation (<i>sung</i>) Gospel Reading Homily</p>	<p>LITURGY OF THE WORD Old Testament Reading Responsorial Psalm (<i>sung, response may be printed</i>) New Testament Reading Gospel Acclamation (<i>sung</i>) Gospel Reading Homily</p>
<p>MARRIAGE RITE Statement of Intentions Consent & Exchange of Vows Blessing and Exchange of Rings (<i>song of reflection optional</i>) Prayers of the Faithful</p>	<p>MARRIAGE RITE Statement of Intentions Consent & Exchange of Vows Blessing and Exchange of Rings (<i>song of reflection optional</i>) Prayers of the Faithful Lord's Prayer – (<u>never a solo</u>, recited) Nuptial Blessing</p>
<p>LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST Preparation of the Altar & Gifts Eucharistic Prayer Lord's Prayer – (<u>never a solo</u>, recited) Nuptial Blessing Sign of Peace Lamb of God (<i>sung</i>) Communion Hymn(s)</p>	<p>CONCLUDING RITES Final Blessing & Dismissal Introduction of Couple Recessional</p>
<p>CONCLUDING RITES Final Blessing & Dismissal Introduction of Couple Recessional</p>	

Marriage Preparation Checklist

Start Early

- Begin the marriage preparation process **at least 6 months in advance**, ideally 9-12 months
- Complete "Initial Marriage Form" online (see church website under Sacraments/Matrimony)
- Set your **wedding date** with the **priest or deacon**, after an initial meeting.
- Contact proper *parish* Musician to book their assistance *at least 3 months ahead*.

Church Requirements

- Pay **\$100 donation deposit** to the church (see page 8)
- Obtain **baptismal certificates** for both parties, (dated within 6 months for Catholics)
- Complete **Freedom to Marry affidavits** (if required)
- Complete the **Fully Engaged Survey**
- Attend a **Pre-Marriage Course or Retreat**
- Attend natural family planning (NFP) training, including individual sessions (if applicable)

Planning & Coordination

- Contact the **music director** early in the process as above.
- All **music selections** must be approved **8 weeks before the liturgy with music coordinator**.
- Meet with **wedding coordinator** AND/OR presiding clergy to review **Wedding Planning Sheet**
 - Must be done **4-8 weeks before the wedding**

Legal & Financial

- Obtain your MN **marriage license** *after receiving the discount form from the parish*.
 - Bring the **notarized form** from the parish to receive the MN license **discount**
- Bring license to the parish office **2 weeks before the wedding**
- Pay the **remaining church donation 2 weeks before the wedding** (see page 8)
- Pay **musician fees 7 days before the wedding** (see page 9)

Logistics & Final Details

- Inform your **photographer** of church guidelines
- Schedule the **wedding rehearsal, usually 2 hours before groom's dinner**.
- Ensure the **entire wedding party** can attend
 - Bride & Groom & Rehearsal coordinator/clergy will meet 30 minutes before others (2.5 hours before groom's dinner).
 - Appoint someone to **clean up after the rehearsal and wedding**
 - Appoint someone to **clean up the bride's room** before the ceremony