

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY



AT CHURCH OF THE GESU

Dear Couples,

On the day of your wedding, you will say to each other:

*"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."*

The promises of marriage, once made, are to be lived out faithfully. This booklet will help you understand Christian marriage as a total commitment of your love and life to each other in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It also anticipates many of your questions and gives practical suggestions so that your wedding day will be joyful and memorable for you, your family, and your friends.

The most important aspect of Christian marriage is that it is a sacrament, and that Jesus Christ is intimately involved in your married life. Sacraments are opportunities given by Christ to come to a deeper knowledge and love of Him. They are a source of strength to live beyond the limits of our human nature. They are gifts of God's love for each of you, similar to the lives you give each other.

It is through the sacrament of marriage and as a married person that each of you comes closer to Christ and grows in your life with God, individually and as a Christian couple. The basic Christian vocation is to be Christ for others and to communicate Christ's love to all. Marriage is a specific way to live your Christian life rooted in your baptism. Marriage is a life of constant love and self-giving.

Church of the Gesù Parish Staff

Revised March 2023



YOUR RESPONSIBILITY NOW

Because you intend to be married in the Catholic Church, and because marriage in the Church is a sacrament, and because Jesus Christ is the center and model of Christian marriage, we encourage you to take time to reflect on your relationship with Christ, alone and together. Keeping this in mind, Catholics who wish to marry should practice their faith in these ways:

- Practice a regular routine of personal prayer.
- Participate at Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- Receive the sacraments regularly.

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

Completion of the PREPARE-ENRICH Marriage Preparation Inventory:

Good communication is key in a successful marriage. Communication is the total effort that a couple makes in conveying to each other who they are, how they feel about things in their lives, and what they need and expect.

A PREPARE-ENRICH premarital inventory is a **mandatory** tool used in the diocese to help couples improve their communication skills. The online inventory contains brief statements to which people respond separately. Each one's responses enable both people to discover different and similar attitudes, values and beliefs regarding married life so that they can build a solid life together.

PREPARE-ENRICH arranges responses in "content areas" to assist the priest or pastoral minister to frame three or four conversations with the couple.

A PREPARE-ENRICH inventory is not a test. It assists your growth in understanding each other and it helps you determine where you might need to grow individually and as a couple. It assists both your discussions together and those with the pastoral minister or priest helping you prepare for the sacrament of Marriage. There is a charge for this.

PLEASE NOTE: For those who choose to do Marriage Preparation outside of the Diocese of Cleveland, the premarital inventory (which is known by various names depending on the particular Diocese) is **STILL MANDATORY**. The completed paperwork **MUST** be sent to Gesu Parish prior to the ceremony.

Attendance at one of the following instructional sessions is required:

Pre-Cana Day: The Jesuit Retreat Center in Parma, Loyola of the Lakes in Clinton, Ohio, and several parishes throughout the diocese offer a one-day program which satisfies the requirements for marriage preparation as stipulated by the Diocese of Cleveland. The website for the Jesuit Retreat Center is www.jesuitretreatcenter.org/calendar/pre-cana. The website for Loyola of the Lakes is www.loyolaretreathouse.com.

Cana II: The Diocesan Department for Marriage & Family Ministry offers this for couples entering a second marriage. The website is www.dioceseofcleveland.org/offices/parish-life/marriage-and-family-ministry/marriage/cana-ii.

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Catholics are required to present a recent copy of their baptismal certificates. **These certificates must be issued within six months of the date of the marriage.** A recent copy of your baptismal certificate can be obtained from the parish at which you were baptized. Those baptized in another Christian faith must also submit a letter or certificate from their church attesting to their baptism.

For the marriage of two Catholics, at least one partner of the couple must be a registered member of a Catholic Parish. If neither is registered at Gesu, then 1) at least one of them must be registered in a Catholic Parish; and 2) we will need a letter of permission from that Pastor. For a marriage of a Catholic to a member of a non-Christian faith or someone who is unchurched, this must be discussed with the priest who is handling the case.

PERMISSION FOR INTERFAITH MARRIAGES

A permission is obtained as follows: The minister preparing the couple has the Catholic party sign a form asking for a dispensation to marry a non-Catholic. Then the minister forwards the petition to the bishop's office. Notification of approval is sent back to the parish and recorded.

WEDDING BANNES

Wedding banns are official notices of proposed weddings published in the bulletins at the parishes where the parties are registered. Brides or grooms from parishes other than Gesu should notify their parish of the wedding so they can publish the banns there as well. For those from Gesu, we will publish the banns automatically in the Gesu Church Bulletin.

CIVIL DOCUMENTS

Ohio Residents: State law requires that the marriage license be obtained from the Marriage License Bureau of any Ohio county in which at least one person of the couple has a residence. Once granted, the license permits the marriage to be held in any county of Ohio. **Non-Residents:** If both are residing out of Ohio, then the couple must obtain the license in the county where the ceremony will be held. (Gesu is in Cuyahoga County.)

Application: Parties seeking a marriage license must make application for it not less than five nor more than 30 days before a license can be issued. Both parties applying for a marriage license must appear in person in the probate court. Both of them must have with them their social security numbers. For information regarding Cuyahoga County's other requirements call 216-443-8920 or check www.cuyahogacounty/probate. An Ohio marriage license is valid for up to sixty (60) days from its date of issue. The couple must submit this license to Gesu Parish no later than the night of the wedding rehearsal.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE

You will receive a certificate from Gesu Church as well as a document from the State of Ohio indicating you have been married. Inform your best man to pick up these documents from the officiating minister at the end of the ceremony.

PLACES FOR WEDDINGS

Gesu has a chapel that seats approximately 150 comfortably. For a wedding of this size or smaller, you may prefer this to the Church.

SCHEDULING YOUR WEDDING

Weddings are only scheduled after the couple has met with the priest, deacon or pastoral minister, and it has been determined that the couple is free to marry. **Preparation for marriage should begin at least six months before the wedding.**

Options for the time of your wedding are: *Saturday afternoons: 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 6:30 pm*
Friday evenings: 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm

All events (such as receiving lines and family photographs) must be completed in a timely manner out of consideration for those attending the next liturgy. Therefore, for 12:00 pm weddings, activities should be completed by 1:30 pm and for 2:00 pm weddings, completed by 4:00 pm. Weekday weddings may be scheduled with the presider.

GUEST PRIESTS OR DEACONS

If you decide to have a priest or deacon from outside the parish witness your marriage vows, he is asked to prepare you for marriage, plan the liturgy with you, complete all necessary paperwork and **be present at the rehearsal**. If he is unable to do any of these, please notify him that he must contact one of the Gesu priests. If a visiting priest or deacon is from out of state, the State of Ohio requires him to have an Ohio license to witness weddings. He also needs a Letter of Suitability from the Diocese or his religious order. In addition, he needs Delegation from the pastor of the Church of the Gesu. All visiting clergy who preside at weddings at Gesu are to abide by the guidelines in this booklet.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY

This booklet describes possible selections of Scripture readings, prayers, and blessings for the wedding ceremony. The priest or pastoral minister will be happy to help you in this planning.

Those who are to read the *Scriptures* and the *General Intercessions* should be present at the rehearsal. Readers should be chosen for their ability to proclaim Scriptures clearly and with understanding because they are performing a liturgical ministry.

BRIDE'S ROOM

There is a special room for the bride and her bridesmaids located at the left side of the narthex (main vestibule) of the church. Due to space constraints, we encourage the bridal party (and bride if possible) to come to the church dressed in their attire for the wedding.

THE REHEARSAL

Wedding rehearsals are held on Thursday or Friday evening at 4:00, 4:30, 5:30, or 6:00 pm. Please arrive 15 minutes early so that your rehearsal can begin on time, as another rehearsal or service may follow your rehearsal. While in church, the wedding party is asked to act in a manner appropriate to the sacred task and place. Wedding rehearsals are to be conducted by the presiding minister or the Gesu Rehearsal and Day of Coordinator, Colleen Hogan.

WEDDING CEREMONY PROGRAMS

Some couples print a ceremony program to help their guests participate. If you have questions about program content or format, you may discuss your concerns with the priest or deacon officiating at your ceremony. *All music and lyrics that appear in your ceremony program must list copyright permissions. Contact Mark Ehrbar, Gesu's Director of Music Ministries to obtain copyright permissions.*

PHOTOGRAPHS AND VIDEO TAPING

Photographers and videographers are asked to confer with the priest, deacon, or wedding coordinator at least fifteen minutes before the wedding begins. Taking photographs should not distract from the worship service. Photographs may be taken at any time during the service. Photographers and videographers may not go beyond the sanctuary railing during the service. We presume that they will exercise restraint and common sense while they are photographing the ceremony. Please convey our expectations to them personally when you hire them.

FLOWERS

When ordering flowers, please keep in mind that it is customary to have arrangements on each side of the altar. Please note that taking flowers to the statue of Mary is not a part of the marriage ritual, but is certainly optional. Large plants that are rented just for the wedding celebration and placed in the sanctuary are to be removed immediately following the wedding. Please remember to advise florists that they may not set up for the wedding until 30 minutes prior to the service if there is another wedding on that day. Pew decorations are to be removed from the church after the ceremony.

If more than one couple is marrying on a weekend, you are encouraged to plan your floral arrangements together and share the expense of the flowers. Please check with the person preparing you. **Gesu offers beautiful pre-designed silk flower altar arrangements of an appropriate size that you may rent for \$100.00.** Contact Susie Thompson, Marriage Coordinator at the parish office, for more information.

No rice, birdseed, balloons, flower petals, bubbles or aisle runners will be permitted inside of the church. Bubbles are allowed outside of the church.

There may be restrictions on wedding decorations because of the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, or other holy days. If you have any questions regarding altar décor or liturgical environment, contact the Marriage Coordinator at the parish office.

MUSIC

The music in a wedding helps people enter into prayer celebrating a Sacrament of the Church. Remember that your wedding is a service of worship and prayer. Your music selections should be of a religious nature and help all join with you in giving praise to God for the sacred gift of married life. Therefore, secular music is not permitted during the wedding ceremony.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN to plan the music for your wedding, you **MUST** contact Gesu's Director of Music Ministries, Mark Ehrbar (216-932-0617 or mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org). All arrangements for music selections, vocalists, and instrumentalists must be arranged with him.

People involved

Cantor: The person who will lead the singing

Principal Musician: The organist/pianist

Other musicians from Gesu such as trumpeters or violinists are often included upon request.

Outside hired musicians are not permitted.

MUSIC ELEMENTS OF A WEDDING

Prelude Music:

Before the service begins it is customary to set a prayerful mood with music as people are gathering and waiting. Music appropriate for worship may be used. Most commonly this is left to the musician to choose instrumental music.

Entrance Processional:

This is music used to accompany the procession that begins the wedding. Dignified instrumental music may be used. *The Trumpet Tune*, *Trumpet Voluntary*, *Canon in D*, and *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* are pieces frequently requested for this procession. Your organist will be able to recommend other pieces.

Gloria: (sung):

Responsorial Psalm:

The cantor sings this with the congregation participating in the response. Choose this with the help of the Music Director. The first section of our blue "Gather" hymnal has many selections.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! (sung)

Music during the presentation of gifts:

Any worship song may be used at this point. It may be either sung or an instrumental.

The Lamb of God and Eucharistic Acclamations: (sung)

Communion Song:

Select psalms or a Eucharistic song are most appropriate here. The only music prohibited would be devotional songs to a saint, such as Ave Maria.

Song of Praise after Communion: *(optional)*

Any type of religious music or song may be here, including an Ave Maria or other Marian song.

Recessional Music:

This is music played during the final procession. Any dignified music as in the entrance procession may be used. Your organist can help you make this selection.

WEDDING FEES

	Parishioners	Non-Parishioners
Fee for use of church, presiding clergy, coordinator, principal musician & cantor.	\$1,050	\$1,250
Flower rental (optional)	\$100	\$100
Live Stream (optional) (If technician is available.)	\$100	\$100
If additional instrumentalists are requested, fees are arranged individually.	Please consult the music director.	Please consult the music director.
Couples prepared at Gesu and married elsewhere	\$250	N/A

Checks should be made payable to Church of the Gesu. All fees will be due one month before your wedding.

There is an additional fee of \$20.00 for each altar server. (Gesu will arrange for one server for Gesu priests and two servers for visiting priests).

Wedding Fee Worksheet			
	<u>Parishioners</u>	<u>Non-Parishioners</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Fee for use of church, presiding clergy, coordinator, principal musician & cantor.			
Flower Rental (optional)			\$ _____
Live stream (optional) (If technician is available.)	\$100	\$100	\$ _____
If additional instrumentalists are requested, fees are arranged individually. Please consult the music director.			
Instrumentalist			\$ _____
Instrumentalist			\$ _____
Instrumentalist			\$ _____
Couples prepared at Gesu and married elsewhere	\$250	N/A	\$ _____
Total Due:			\$ _____
Checks should be made payable to Church of the Gesu. All fees will be due one month before your wedding.			
There is an additional fee of \$20.00 cash for each altar server payable on the day of the wedding. (Gesu will arrange for one server for Gesu priests and two servers for visiting priests.)			



CHURCH of the GESU

Parish Office: (216) 932-0617

Director of Music Ministries: Mark Ehrbar
mehrbar@churchofthegesu.org

Marriage Office Coordinator: Susie Thompson
sthompson@churchofthegesu.org

Rehearsal and Day-Of Coordinator: Colleen Hogan
chogan@churchofthegesu.org

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

OT1.

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.

OT2.

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.

OT3.

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.

OT4.

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:
“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.

OT5.

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.”

OT6.

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.

OT7.

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.
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.”

OT8.

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.

OT9.

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.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

NT1.

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.

NT2. (*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.

NT2A (*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.

NT3.

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.

NT4

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.

NT5.

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.

NT6.

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.

NT7. (*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.

NT7A A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians
(*Short Form*)

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.

NT8.

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.

NT9.

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,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

NT10.

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.

NT11.

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.

NT12.

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.

NT 13.

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.

NT14.

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.”

GOSPEL READINGS

G1.

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:
“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.”

G2.

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.”

G3 (*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.

G3A (*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 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.”

G4

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.”

G5

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.”

G6

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.”

G7.

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.

G8.

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."

G9.

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.”

G10.

(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.”

G10A (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.”

QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT (only one option)

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

R: I have

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

R: I am.

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

R: I am.

THE CONSENT (choose one of the following options)

C-1 I, N., take you N. to be my (wife/husband). I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

C-2 I, N., take you N. for my lawful (wife/husband), to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.

C-3 N, do you take N to be your (wife/husband)? Do you promise to be faithful to (him/her) in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love (her/him) and honor (her/him) all the days of your life?

C-4 N, do you take N for your lawful (wife/husband), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part?

RECEPTION OF THE CONSENT

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

THE BLESSING OF RINGS

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

THE GIVING OF RINGS

N, receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity.

[In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.]

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

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

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

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

Option 2 (if one is not baptized)

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 Marriage covenant.

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 be known for the integrity of their conduct (and be recognized as virtuous parents).

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; and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (also called the Universal Prayer)

These may be adapted by the couple.

Presider: As we pray to the Lord for N. and N. on their wedding day, let us also remember the needs of the Church and the world.

- For Christians everywhere, that the world may see our love for one another and come to believe, we pray to the Lord.
- For peace among nations, that there be an end to the violence that divides us, we pray to the Lord.
- For all who are marginalized or forgotten by our society, and for all to love and pray for them, that God will use us to raise them up, we pray to the Lord.
- For all who are part of our lives, our parents, friends, and companions along the way, and for all who have helped to bring us to this day, we pray to the Lord.
- For N. and N., that the love they pledge to each other today may bring light and joy into their lives and the lives of others, we pray to the Lord.
- For all our beloved dead, especially [], we pray to the Lord.

Wedding Planning Sheet

This is a “worksheet” to be discussed with the presider when you meet at least 2 weeks before the wedding itself. The letter/numbers refer to the readings and ritual prayers in this planning book.

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Date & Time of Rehearsal: _____

Date & Time of Wedding: _____

Officiant: _____

1st Reader (OT): _____

2nd Reader (NT): _____

Reader(s) Prayers of the Faithful: _____

Gift Bearers: _____

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion: _____

Selection Form

After you have selected the Scripture readings and the prayers you would like to use at your wedding, you will need to record them on this form and give it to the priest or deacon who is presiding at your wedding.

The Readings

Old Testament reading (OT-1 to OT-9) _____

New Testament reading (NT-1 to NT-13) _____

Gospel reading (G-1 to G-10) _____

The Celebration of Matrimony

The Consent C-1 C-2 C-3 C-4

Reception of Consent

Blessing of Rings

Nuptial Blessing

The Prayer of the Faithful (See Samples)

A Few Questions to Answer for the Presiding Priest/Deacon:

What do both of you do for a living?

What have your faith lives been like in your families and personally?

When and how did you meet?

Tell me a little about the engagement?

What do you most look forward to about married life?

Share something about yourselves that everyone knows about you and something that very few know about you (that could be shared)?
