

Wedding Policy



St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Parish

750 Bright Road

(617 W. Main Cross Street. – Downtown Chapel address)

Findlay, Ohio 45840

419-422-2646

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#1 INTRODUCTION & AGREEMENT PLEDGE

Congratulations on your engagement!

We are honored that you have chosen to celebrate the Sacrament of Matrimony at Saint Michael the Archangel Parish. Marriage is a lifelong commitment, and the Catholic Church calls couples to prayerfully prepare so that their union is rooted in faith, love, and mutual respect.

This is a sacred and joyful occasion, and our parish is committed to providing a Christ-centered setting for your wedding. The following wedding guidelines reflect our Catholic Christian beliefs and ensure a smooth preparation process for both you and our parish community.

By presenting yourself for matrimony at Saint Michael Parish, you commit to following these guidelines with respect and cooperation. We pray that this time of preparation will be filled with joy and grace, and that your wedding will be the beginning of a lifelong vocation of love and faith.

Submit to PWC
at final meeting

Agreement Pledge

Commitment to Parish Guidelines

We agree to abide by all the **guidelines in this packet** as we prepare for and participate in our wedding day. We will also **communicate these expectations** to everyone involved in our celebration.

Bride: _____

Date: _____

Groom: _____

Date: _____

#2 PARISH WEDDING COORDINATOR (PWC) ROLE & MEETINGS

Wedding Coordinator

Your Parish Wedding Coordinator (PWC) is your go-to resource for any wedding-related questions. Always refer to this packet for details throughout the planning process. The PWC or an Assistant Wedding Coordinator (AWC) will guide you through the planning, run your rehearsal, and coordinate the liturgy on your wedding day. They ensure everything stays on schedule, assist with organizing the bridal party, and are familiar with all aspects of our wedding liturgies.

Required Meetings with the Wedding Coordinator

First Meeting – Setting the Date

- This in-person meeting is your first step.
- The PWC will help you **set the date, place, and time** for your ceremony.
- *Reminder: Weddings are not permitted during Lent.*

Final Meeting – One Month Before the Wedding

- The PWC will finalize your wedding planning sheet with you.
- **All required documents and fees** will be collected at this time.
- **Please note:** This fee becomes non-refundable beginning on the day of the rehearsal.

Your PWC is your go-to resource for wedding-related questions. Always refer to this packet for details throughout the planning process.

#3 CLERGY MEETINGS AND VISITING CLERGY

Once you and your Parish Wedding Coordinator (PWC) have determined which priest or deacon will preside at your wedding, the PWC will introduce you via email to the priest or deacon. After this introduction, all further communication and scheduling will be between you and the priest or deacon.

When to Schedule:

- Your first meeting should take place at least six months before your wedding date.

Reservation Policy:

- After your initial meeting with the PWC, you must make contact with your assigned priest or deacon *within one month* to continue with the preparation process.
- Failure to do so may result in the release of your wedding reservation.

What to Expect:

At your first meeting, the priest or deacon will:

- Complete the canonical investigation to ensure no impediments to marriage exist.
- Explain the marriage preparation process, which varies slightly depending on the clergy member but generally includes:

- Multiple meetings with the priest or deacon.
- Completion of the Prepare/Enrich assessment tool to help guide discussions.
- Attendance at the Engaged Couples Retreat (or another approved workshop).

These meetings are an essential part of preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Be sure to stay in touch with your priest or deacon and complete each step as scheduled.

Visiting Priests & Deacons

If you would like a priest or deacon from outside Saint Michael Parish to officiate your wedding, the PWC will facilitate initial contact with our pastor for approval. The visiting clergy must meet the following requirements:

Approval Process:

- Submit a letter to the pastor of Saint Michael Parish requesting permission to preside.
- Be in good standing within his diocese or religious order.
- Provide a letter of suitability from his bishop or religious superior.

Responsibilities of the Visiting Priest/Deacon:

- Oversee all marriage preparation unless other arrangements are made.
- Review Saint Michael's wedding guidelines, which will be sent via email by the PWC.
- Submit the marriage file to Saint Michael Parish at least one month before the wedding (or two months if a dispensation is required).

Important:

- The visiting priest or deacon must follow Saint Michael's Wedding Protocol and does not set additional guidelines.
- The couple is responsible for any expenses the visiting priest may incur (travel, lodging, stipend, etc.).

#4 MARRIAGE PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS

Prepare/Enrich Assessment

As part of your marriage preparation, Saint Michael Parish uses the Prepare/Enrich assessment tool. This online questionnaire is designed to help you strengthen your relationship, improve communication, and grow together in happiness.

How It Works

- ✓ Both of you will complete the assessment individually online.
- ✓ You should not discuss the questionnaire with each other until both of you have completed it.
- ✓ Once finished, feel free to talk about your responses together.
- ✓ Your priest or deacon will receive the results and guide a discussion with you about them.

This assessment is a valuable opportunity to deepen your understanding of each other and prepare for a strong, faith-filled marriage.

Engaged Couples Retreat

As part of your marriage preparation, you are **required** to participate in an Engaged Couples Retreat. This retreat is designed to help you grow in your relationship, strengthen your commitment, and deepen your understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony.

Retreat Options

 Our parish offers two retreats per year—one in the **fall** and one in the **spring**.

 **Scheduling:** To register for the Saint Michael Parish retreat, please contact: **Deacon Matt Kettinger** at 419-672-1497 (preferred) or mkettinger@findlaysstmichael.org to reserve your spot.

Alternative Options

While we strongly encourage attending our parish retreat, if that is not possible, you may attend:

- ♦ A diocesan-level workshop or a retreat hosted by another parish.
- ♦ Visit toledodiocese.org/engaged-couples-workshop for available options.

Special Circumstances

If either of you has been married before and received a declaration of nullity (annulment) from the Catholic Church, you may be required to attend a special conference tailored to your situation. The priest or deacon preparing you will guide you on this requirement.

This retreat is an important step in your journey toward marriage—be sure to plan ahead and register early.

#5 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

☛ Due at the Final Meeting with the PWC:

1. Baptismal Certificates

If you were **baptized Catholic**, you must provide a **parish-certified copy** of your baptismal certificate with all notations.

This certificate must be **issued within six (6) months** of your wedding date.

☛ **How to Obtain It:**

- Contact the parish where you were baptized.
- Request a *newly issued baptismal certificate with all notations*.
- Have it mailed directly to:

Saint Michael Parish

ATTN: Parish Wedding Coordinator

750 Bright Road

Findlay, OH 45840

💡 **Why a New Certificate Is Needed:**

Catholic baptismal records are updated throughout life with notations of confirmation, marriage, religious vows, or annulments.

A newly issued certificate ensures this record is current and complete.

♦ **If one of you is not Catholic:**

A **photocopy** of your original baptismal certificate is sufficient.

If you don't have one, contact the church where you were baptized—they can usually provide a **letter confirming your baptism**, stating it was performed with water “*in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit*,” along with the baptism date.

If no record exists, a **witness statement** from a parent or relative is acceptable.

💬 **Note for Non-Catholic Parties:**

This documentation simply verifies your baptism and allows us to record it in the marriage file. No further action or updates are needed from your church.

2. Certificate from Engaged Couples Retreat

If you attend Saint Michael's retreat, the team will notify the PWC of your participation.

If you attend elsewhere, request a **certificate of participation** and have it sent to the parish office (ATTN: PWC).

3. Civil Marriage License

Since your officiant (priest or deacon) serves as both a minister of the Church and a representative of the State of Ohio, you must obtain a **civil marriage license**.

Where to Apply:

- **Hancock County Residents:** Hancock County Probate Court (308 Dorney Plaza, Findlay)
- **Other Ohio Counties:** Apply in your home county
- **Out-of-State Couples:** Apply in Hancock County (wedding must take place within Hancock County)

Important:

- The license is valid for **60 days only**.
- Do not apply until you are **within 60 days of your wedding date**.

 **Tip:** The PWC will confirm that all documents have been received and filed before your final meeting.

#6 PLANNING THE WEDDING CEREMONY

Scheduling Times

-  **Weddings are scheduled for 2:00 PM on Saturdays.**
-  **Couples have the church reserved from Noon to 4:00 p.m.—no earlier, no later.**
-  **Refer to the attached wedding schedule for a complete timeline.**

Why 2:00 p.m.?

- Mornings are reserved in case of funerals.
- Evenings allow time for the priest to celebrate the Vigil Mass.

Liturgical Season Restrictions

No Weddings During Lent or Advent

Weddings are **not permitted during the liturgical seasons of Lent or Advent**, including **Holy Week**.

Why?

- Lent and Advent are seasons of **penance, preparation, and solemn reflection** in the Church.
- The Church's focus during these seasons is on prayer and repentance, not celebration.
- Church décor, music, and liturgical norms during these times do not support a wedding celebration.

 Couples are encouraged to choose a wedding date outside these seasons to allow for the full joy and festivity of the sacrament.

Setting Your Date

- You will schedule your wedding date with the Parish Wedding Coordinator (PWC).
- The presider (priest or deacon) has final approval on the date.

Friday Afternoon & Evening Weddings

- Friday weddings are permissible in the afternoon or evening

Sunday Mass Weddings

- Weddings may take place during a regularly scheduled Sunday Mass, but this is uncommon.
- Important Considerations:
 - ✓ The readings and music from the Sunday liturgy must be used.
 - ✓ Parishioners attending Mass will be present, as it remains a public liturgy.
 - ✓ Speak with the PWC and the presider if considering this option.

Planning the Readings

As part of your wedding preparation, you will choose Scripture readings for your ceremony. These readings are now **included at the end of this packet** to help you make your selections.

Reading Selection Requirements:

- You must choose **one reading from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament (Epistles), and one from the Gospels.**
- At least **one of your chosen readings must be marked with an asterisk (*)**, indicating that it explicitly speaks about marriage. This ensures that your wedding liturgy reflects the sacramental nature of your union.

Your priest or deacon will guide you if you need assistance in selecting your readings.

Worship Aids / Programs

Couples are welcome (but not required) to create a worship aid (program) for their wedding. This can help guests follow along with the liturgy—especially those unfamiliar with a Catholic ceremony—and invite fuller participation.

 **Please note:** *The parish does not design, print, or provide worship aids.* This is entirely the couple's responsibility.

You may include helpful notes like:

- "Please, no flash photography."
- "Please silence all devices."

Program Template:

A sample worship aid layout is included in this packet to guide you. An editable version can be emailed to you upon request.

Sacrament of Reconciliation / Confession

As you prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony, Roman Catholics are encouraged to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before the wedding. This removes any obstacles of sin, allowing Christ to be at the heart of your marriage and fill your union with His grace.

Receiving the Sacrament:

- You may go to Confession with any priest before your wedding.
- If you'd like to have Confession offered **before your rehearsal**—for either just the couple or the couple and the bridal party—this **must be scheduled in advance**.
- Speak with your priest or deacon to see if this can be arranged.

Starting your marriage with a pure heart strengthens your love and commitment in Christ.

If you're unsure about what is permitted during the liturgy, check with your PWC before making plans.

Traditions Not Part of the Rite of Marriage

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony is the official ritual text approved by the Catholic Church. Because of this, the Diocese of Toledo does not permit additional symbolic actions such as:

- Lighting a unity candle
- Mixing colored sand
- Pouring colored water
- Using a unity cross

What Is Allowed?

- The devotional custom of presenting flowers before a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is permitted. This may take place after the liturgy has concluded and before the recessional.

Alternative Option:

If you had hoped to include a unity candle, sand ceremony, or similar tradition, consider incorporating these elements at your reception instead.

Attire

As you prepare for your wedding, please choose attire that is respectful and appropriate for a church setting.

Bride & Groom Responsibility:

- You are responsible for ensuring that your wedding party dresses modestly and appropriately for the sacredness of the ceremony.
- Your flower girls and ring bearers should also be dressed appropriately—no costumes or signs.
- If you have any questions about attire, don't hesitate to ask.

Wedding Party Guidelines

Your best man and matron/maid of honor do not need to be Catholic.

- Please note: The Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor do not have to serve as the official witnesses on your marriage license. If others will serve as witnesses, please let your Parish Wedding Coordinator know in advance.
- Witness Requirements: You must have two witnesses for the marriage license. They must be at least *16 years old* and present for the ceremony. Witnesses do not need to be Catholic.

Bridesmaids & Groomsmen:

- It is recommended to have no more than 5-6 bridesmaids and 5-6 groomsmen in your wedding party.

Flower Girl & Ring Bearer:

- Must be at least 5 years old to participate in the ceremony.
- The flower girl may carry flowers only.
 - Throwing flower petals is not permitted

Procession Guidelines:

- The church is a sacred space, so the following are not permitted in the procession:
 - ✗ Bicycles
 - ✗ Wagons
 - ✗ Signs

#7 REHEARSAL & WEDDING DAY LOGISTICS

Scheduling & Timing

- Your rehearsal must be scheduled with the PWC.
- Rehearsals take place between 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM, with 5:30 PM as the latest start time and 6:30 PM as the exit time.
- They typically last about one hour and are held the evening before your wedding.
- Decoration setup is not permitted during the rehearsal. All decorating must occur the day of the wedding during the assigned setup window.

Who Should Attend?

- All members of the wedding party
- Anyone with a role in the liturgy, including readers

Be on Time

- Punctuality is important to ensure everything runs smoothly within the scheduled time frame.

Respect for the Sacred Space

- Proper dress and behavior are expected in the church.

Dressing Areas and Arrival Times

These spaces will be shown to you at the rehearsal:

Bride & Bridesmaids

- Dressing areas are **available starting at Noon**.
 - Main Church: The Family Room will be used.
 - Downtown Chapel: The Hope House (with the Choir Loft available afterward as a waiting area for the bride)

Groom & Groomsmen

- Please arrive already dressed.
- A designated space will be provided for small personal belongings.

 **Important Note:** The parish is not responsible for any lost or stolen items.

Alcoholic Beverages / Substance Usage

Strictly Prohibited:

- No alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed anywhere on church property. This includes:
 - The church building
 - Parking lots
 - Sidewalks surrounding the church

Serious Consequences:

- Under Canon Law, if the bride or groom has consumed alcohol on the day of the wedding, they are considered impaired from giving full consent to their vows. As a result, the wedding will be canceled.
- If any wedding party member is intoxicated, smells of alcohol, or appears impaired, they will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

Please ensure that you and your wedding party respect these guidelines to protect the integrity of your wedding ceremony.

Post-Wedding Celebrations

Receiving Line Considerations

- If you choose to have a receiving line after the ceremony, keep in mind that it will reduce your time for pictures.
- To ensure ample time for photos, many couples prefer to greet guests at the reception instead.

What Is Not Allowed?

- No items may be thrown, including:
 -  Birdseed
 -  Rice
 -  Flower petals

What You Can Provide Instead:

- Guests may celebrate with:
 - Ribbons
 - Bells
 - Bubbles

These alternatives allow for a joyful send-off while keeping church grounds clean and safe.

Clean-Up

Your Responsibility:

- As the couple, you must designate a team to clean up all areas and remove any decorations you have provided.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Flowers & plants
- Bows & ribbons
- Worship aids/programs
- Baskets & personal items
- All trash must be removed from the church

Saturday Weddings:

- All decorations and trash must be removed by 3:45 PM to allow for church preparations.

 Make sure your clean-up team knows their responsibility so the space is left clean and ready for the next liturgy.

Fees

Each person assisting with your wedding is offering a service, and it is important to compensate them appropriately for their time, talent, and experience.

Payment Information:

- All fees (except server stipends) are due at the final meeting with the PWC.
- Please make checks payable to **St. Michael Parish**.

Standard Wedding Fee: \$525 (*This fee includes the following services:*)

- Church Offering
- Music Director/Organist
- Vocalist/Cantor
- Parish Wedding Coordinator & Assistant Wedding Coordinator

Altar Server Stipend (*This stipend is separate from the standard wedding fee.*)

- **\$40 cash stipend (\$20 per server)**
- Required for the two altar servers who assist at every wedding **when servers are provided by the parish**

Additional Fees (if applicable):

- Non-Parishioner Fee: **\$1,000**
- Priest/Deacon Offering: At the couple's discretion (**\$100–\$150 typical**)

 **Note:** The Standard Wedding Fee becomes **non-refundable as of the day of your rehearsal**.

#8 Schedule for 2:00 P.M. Weddings

All times listed are the earliest you may arrive

 Decoration setup occurs on the wedding day only (not during the rehearsal).

 **11:45 AM – PWC/AWC arrives** to begin setup.

 **12:00 PM – Bride and her party may arrive.**

- **Changing Rooms:**

- Downtown Chapel – Hope House
- Main Church – Family Room

- **Florist & photographer may arrive.**

-  Photographer must meet briefly with the Wedding Coordinator upon arrival before beginning photos

 **12:15 PM – Groom & Groomsmen arrive (dressed)**

- **Changing Areas:**

- Downtown Chapel – Small Confessional & Narthex
- Main Church – Vesting Sacristy & Narthex

 **12:30 PM – Formal Photos Begin**

 **1:20 PM – Final Touches / Transition**

- Bride moves to Choir Loft (DTC) or remains in Family Chapel (MC)

 **1:30 PM – Guest Arrival**

- All wedding party and immediate family must be *on-site by this time*
- Dressing areas should be tidy; belongings tucked neatly in a corner for easy cleanup

 **1:40 PM – Instrumental Music Begins**

- *The 20 minutes prior to the ceremony are firm due to liturgical and music scheduling*

 **1:50 PM – Wedding Party Prep**

- Wedding party should stay nearby and be ready for lineup
- Final adjustments or touch-ups before processional

 **2:00 PM – Wedding Begins**

-  Mass – typically concludes around **3:45 PM**
-  Ceremony – typically concludes around **3:30 PM**

 ***3:30 PM / 3:45 PM – Finish Photos & Depart for Celebration**

 **4:00 PM – Church Must Be Cleared**

- All belongings, décor, and trash must be removed.
- *Please take everything with you—including any boxes, water bottles, and flower stems.*

 **Please be mindful of this schedule to avoid any difficult situations.**

The timeline is set to accommodate other liturgical services and ensure proper preparation for them.

#9 Vendor Policy

Outside vendors play an important role in your wedding, but they must follow Saint Michael Parish procedures at all times.

Vendor Compliance:

- All vendors must abide by parish procedures.
- Vendors who violate our procedures will be asked to leave immediately.
- Any vendor who does not follow the rules will not be permitted to participate in future ceremonies at Saint Michael Parish.

Photographers & Videographers

- Photographers must be approved by the PWC before they are permitted to work at Saint Michael Parish.
- Please see the attached Photographer/Videographer Guidelines.
- The couple is responsible for ensuring their photographer/videographer receives a copy.

Florists & Decorators

- Please see the attached Florist/Decorator Guidelines.
- The couple is responsible for ensuring their florist/decorator receives a copy.

Outside Wedding Coordinators

- Outside wedding coordinators are not permitted at Saint Michael Parish.
- The PWC/AWC is the only authorized coordinator for all wedding-related activities on parish grounds.

#10 PHOTOGRAPHER & VIDEOGRAPHER REGULATIONS

We are happy to welcome you to help capture the memory of this celebration. To respect this **sacred place** and keep the focus **first on God** and then on the couple, photographers and videographers are expected to honor the following guidelines:

Schedule

- 📌 **12:00 PM** – Meet with the **Wedding Coordinator** to review expectations and regulations.
- 📌 **12:30 PM** – Setup and begin pre-ceremony pictures.
- 📌 **1:30 PM** – Complete formal pictures (*Guests will begin arriving, and prelude music will be playing*).
- 📌 **2:00 PM – 3:00 PM** – Ceremony pictures.
- 📌 **3:00 PM – 3:30 PM** – Family pictures.
- 📌 **3:45 PM** – **Church must be cleared** to allow preparations for Confession/Mass.

Protocol

Professionalism & Attire

- Photographers and videographers must be **professional, modest, and preferably dressed in all black**.
- Proper behavior and respectful movement are expected **before, during, and after the wedding**.

Photography & Videography Rules

- **Flash photography is ALLOWED** during the **Processional and Recessional**.
- **Flash photography is NOT ALLOWED** during the **Ceremony/Mass**.
- **Video camera lights must remain OFF**.
- **Do not stop or slow down** the processions.

Respecting the Sacred Space

- **The Sanctuary must remain untouched**—no entry or equipment placement in this area.
- **Ceremony pictures must be taken on the lower steps**.
- **Red areas** (marked on the provided diagram) indicate **off-limit** zones for photography.
- **Yellow dots** signify **approved locations** for stationary, unmanned cameras.
- **The Choir Loft** in both churches **may be used**, but:
 - **Musicians have priority in this space**.
 - **The Director's stand and any musical equipment may NOT be moved**.

General Conduct

- Move **quietly and respectfully**, ensuring that you **do not distract from the ceremony**.
- **Noise and conversations should be kept at a respectful level** at all times.

⚠️ Violations of these guidelines will result in immediate removal from the premises, and you will no longer be permitted to photograph or film at Saint Michael Parish.

**ABOVE ALL, PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE CHURCH AS A PLACE OF WORSHIP.
THANK YOU!**

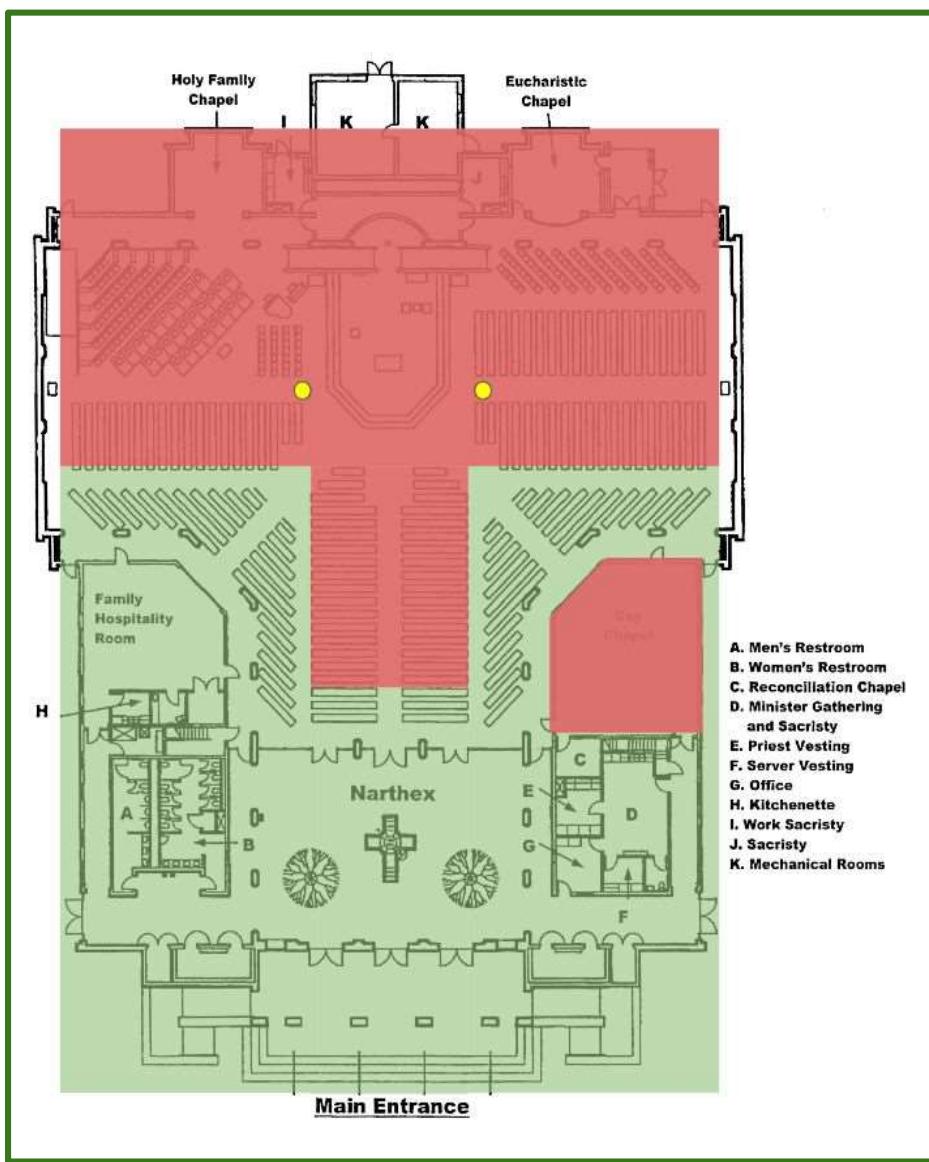
To be given to
photographer &
videographer

ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHER PROTOCOL



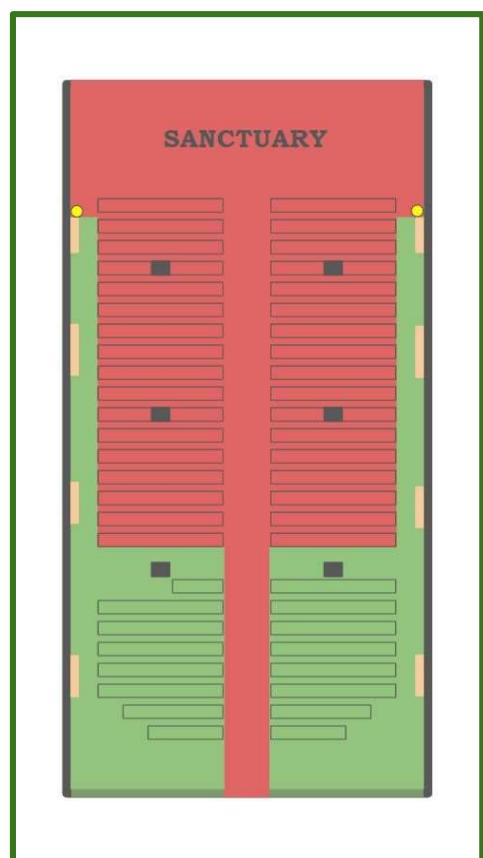
Stationary, unmanned station
Downtown Chapel: Camera stand cannot block walkway

Main Church



Max: 3,000 people

Downtown Chapel



Max: 300 people

#11 FLORIST & DECORATOR GUIDELINES

Welcome to Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church! We're excited for you to help create a beautiful wedding setting while honoring the sacred space of our church.

Arrival & Setup

- The church opens at **12:00 p.m.** for the bride and her party.
- Flowers may be delivered at this time.
- The **Parish Wedding Coordinator** (or assistant) can help set up flowers and pin corsages/boutonnieres.

Church Environment

- The church is sacred—decorations must be tasteful and appropriate for the **Liturgical Season** (Advent, Easter, Christmas, etc.).
- **No flowers or decorations** are allowed during **Lent** (Ash Wednesday–Easter Sunday).

What's Allowed & Not Allowed

 **Flowers & Plants:** Bring your own vases. Keep arrangements below altar height and avoid blocking the altar or lectern.

 **Pew Bows:** Must not damage pews—**no tape or wire**.

 **Aisle Runners:** Not permitted due to safety concerns.

 **Flowers, candles, or objects on the altar:** The altar is consecrated and must remain clear.

To be given to
florist &
decorator

Donations

If you'd like to donate floral arrangements, we'd be grateful—but it's not required.

Thank you for helping make this day beautiful while respecting our sacred space!

#12 RULES FOR WEDDING MUSIC

Music plays a vital role in your wedding liturgy and should reflect the sacredness of the celebration.

Music Requirements

- Sacred & Classical Music Only – All music must be appropriate for a Catholic wedding.
- Contemporary Christian Music – Allowed *only as a prelude* if it aligns with the liturgy.
- No Secular or Recorded Music – Popular songs and recorded tracks are *not permitted*.

Making Music Arrangements

- Contact the Director of Music and Liturgy, Brandon Vennink (bvennink@findlaysmichael.org) to plan your wedding music.
- **All music selections must be approved** by the Director of Music and Liturgy.

Guest Musicians

- Guest musicians must be familiar with the Catholic wedding liturgy and require approval.
- Approval may be given through discussion, video recordings, or an in-person meeting.
- If extra rehearsal is needed, an **additional \$100 fee** applies.

Music Director Requirement & Fees

- **Music Director Presence:** Required at all weddings to assist with sound and musical arrangements.
- **Fee:** \$175 per wedding (already included in the Standard Wedding Fee).

Additional Musicians:

- Paid separately by the couple
- Rates determined directly between the musicians and the couple

Song Suggestions & Musicians

A list of suggested songs, cantors, and available musicians is provided on the next page. You can look up songs online or wait until your meeting with the Director of Music and Liturgy to review them.

Prelude Music

- Instrumental music will begin approximately **20 minutes before the ceremony**.
- If specific songs are requested for **family seating (e.g., grandparents, parents)**, they must be coordinated directly with the **Director of Music and Liturgy**.
- Requests should be submitted in advance to allow time for approval and planning.

Family entrance music requests discussed (if applicable)

*Processional – select 2

One for bridesmaids (BM)

One for bride (B)

- Air from Water Music – Handel
- Canon in D – Pachelbel
- Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring – Bach
- Prelude in C – Bach
- Sheep May Safely Graze – Bach
- Trumpet Tune – Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary – Clarke
- No preference

Responsorial Psalm – select 1

- Psalm 33 The Earth Is Full of the Goodness
- Psalm 34 Taste and See
- Psalm 103 The Lord is Kind and Merciful
- Psalm 112 Blest the Man Who Greatly Delights
- Psalm 128 Blest Are Those Who Love You (#86)
- Psalm 145 The Lord Is Compassion
- Psalm 148 Let All Creation Praise the Lord
- No preference

*Recessional – select 1

- Allegro Maestoso – Handel
- Lift High the Cross - Manz
- Ode to Joy – Beethoven
- Now Thank We All Our God – Bach
- Psalm XIX - Marcello
- Rondeau – Mouret
- Spring from The Four Seasons –Vivaldi
- Trumpet Tune – Purcell
- Trumpet Voluntary – Clarke
- No preference

MASS ONLY

Offertory Hymn - select 1

- On Eagle's Wings (#691)
- Panis Angelicus – Franck
- Prayer of St. Francis (#828)
- The Servant Song (#751)
- The Summons (#790)
- When Love Is Found (#966)
- No preference

Communion Hymn - select 1

- Eat This Bread (#941)
- Here I Am, Lord (#777)
- I Am the Bread of Life (#945)
- I Have Loved You (#588)
- One Bread, One Body (#932)
- Taste and See (#930)
- You Satisfy the Hungry Heart (#940)
- No preference

To be given to
Music Director

*NOTE:

These selections are *suggestions*, please contact the Director of Music and Liturgy if you have questions about another song.

CANTORS Please select your top three in order of preference

- Michaela Flowers
- Matt Carson
- Richard Hopkins
- Geri Leibfarth
- Megan Meyer
- Darcy Smith
- Jan Steinman
- Craig VanRenterghem
- Brandon Vennink
- No Preference

ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS

I would like to have the following individuals involved in my wedding:
(Please include experience level and a way to contact these individuals – all cantors must be familiar and comfortable with the Rites of the Catholic Church and approved by the Director of Music and Liturgy)

INSTRUMENTALISTS

I would be interested in adding the following to my wedding:

- Violin
- Cello
- Flute
- Trumpet
- String Quartet

**Please note that the fees for instrumentalists are negotiated separately from the church.*

#13 WEDDING PLANNING SHEET

>Please complete this form carefully and submit it to the PWC at least one month before your wedding. A final meeting will be scheduled to review all details and ensure a smooth ceremony.

Couple Information

Bride: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Groom: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Home Parish after Marriage: _____

Time of Rehearsal: _____

Location: Parish Church Downtown Chapel

Date of Wedding: _____ **Time:** _____ **Estimated Attendance:** _____

Ceremony Details

Mass (Only if both parties are Catholic) **Ceremony** (For all other circumstances)

Presiding Priest/Deacon: _____

Bride's Parents: _____ Married Divorced

Groom's Parents: _____ Married Divorced

Number of Groomsmen: _____

Number of Bridesmaids: _____

Altar Servers:

Couple will provide trained altar servers Request parish-provided altar servers

Readings: One of your readings must have an asterisk to indicate it explicitly speaks about marriage.

First Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Responsorial Psalm (sung): _____

Second Reading: _____

Reader: _____

Gospel: _____

Consent Option: Recitation Question

Prayers and Petitions (J2) Reader: _____

Flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary? Yes No

 A vase is optional, and couples must provide it. Flowers may be laid by the statue instead.

At the end of the ceremony, they may be taken or left as an offering

How should the couple be introduced at the end of the ceremony?

Send-Off Option

Will you be using bubbles, bells, or ribbons for your send-off?

Yes – What will you provide? _____

Who will hand out items? _____

No

To be given to
PWC

Main Church: Seating, Vow, & Nuptial Positions

Couple Seating Options:

- Prie-dieu (facing the altar)
- First pew

Exchange of Vows Positioning:

- Facing the congregation (top step, bridal party one step below, angled)
- Facing the altar (foot of steps, bridal party in a straight line)

Main Church:

- Couple kneels at their **pew**
- Couple kneels at a **prie-dieu (kneeler)**
- Standing (if kneeling is not possible due to medical needs or the bride's gown)

Briefly note reason: _____

Downtown Chapel: Nuptial Blessing Positions

- Couple kneels at the **center aisle** (invited forward by the deacon or priest)
- Couple remains at their **pew** to kneel
- Standing (if kneeling is not possible due to medical needs or the bride's gown)

Briefly note reason: _____

For Wedding Mass Only

Will the couple receive the Precious Blood? Yes No (Congregation does not receive)
Estimated number receiving Communion: _____

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Cue: After priest drinks from chalice and server rings bell

- Yes (provided by the couple - encouraged to attend the rehearsal)
- No

Names of Ministers & Church Where They Serve:

Holy Communion Plan

Reception Style:

- Remain kneeling at your place
- Come forward to stand/kneel

Reception Method:

- In the hand
- On the tongue

Music Selections

Even if you have already completed the blue music form with the Music Director, please list your selections here. This ensures the **Parish Wedding Coordinator** has your final music selections for:

- procession timing
- cueing the bridal party
- coordinating with the celebrant and cantor on the wedding day

Prelude (Optional): _____

Processional Music (Select up to two):

- **Bridesmaids' Entrance Song:** _____
- **Bride's Entrance Song:** _____

Responsorial Psalm: _____

Recessional: _____

(For Masses Only – There will also be an Entrance Antiphon and Gloria.)

Offertory Hymn: _____

Communion Hymn: _____

Liturgical Roles

(If known; many of these will be confirmed after your final planning meeting.)

Wedding Coordinator: _____

Altar Server(s): _____

Cantor: _____

Accompanist: _____

Vendor Information

Florist: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Photographer: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Videographer: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Additional Information

Marriage License will be handed to: _____

Marriage License Witnesses

Please list the full names of the two people who will serve as your official witnesses. These may be your Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man or any other adults (*18 years or older*) you've chosen to fulfill this role:

- **Witness #1:** _____
- **Witness #2:** _____

Is there anything the Wedding Coordinator, Priest, or Deacon should know to help the ceremony run smoothly? (e.g., family seating arrangements, estranged parents, special accommodations, ect.)

To be given to
PWC

#14 WEDDING ENTRANCE ORDER



📌 Important Notes:

- **All grandparents and parents** (not escorting the bride) **must be seated in their pews before the Entrance Procession begins.**
- Couples may choose one of the two standard options below or adapt them as needed to best suit their ceremony. Adjustments (such as merging both options or having the groom enter through the back sacristy) are welcome—please discuss them with the Wedding Coordinator during your final meeting.

Option 1 (Preferred):

1. **Altar Servers** (with Cross)
2. **Priest/Deacon & Groom**
3. **Wedding Party** (in pairs)
4. **Maid/Matron of Honor**
5. **Bride** (Accompanied by Father and/or Mother)

Option 2:

1. **Altar Servers** (with Cross)
2. **Priest/Deacon** (leads groomsmen to sanctuary)
3. **Bridesmaids**
4. **Maid/Matron of Honor**
5. **Flower Girl and/or Ring Bearer**
6. **Bride** (Accompanied by Father and/or Mother)

Bridal Party Names (*List in the order they will be in the procession*)

The *first* person listed will enter *first* and move to the end of the pew. The *last* person listed—typically the Maid/Matron of Honor or Best Man—will enter *last*—closest to the inner aisle.

Option 1 List

Altar Server with Cross Priest/Deacon & Groom

Bridesmaids + Groomsmen List:

Bride with _____

Option 2 List

Altar Server with Cross Priest/Deacon & Groom

Groomsmen List:

Bridesmaids List:

★ Optional Variation:

Groom may enter through the back sacristy with the Priest/Deacon and/or with Best Man.

Flower girl(s)

Ping Bearer

Bride with

#15 COUPLE'S WEDDING CHECKLIST

This checklist will help you stay on track as you prepare for your wedding at **Saint Michael Parish**.

At Least 6 Months Ahead

- Initial Meeting with the PWC** (Completed)
- Wedding packet reviewed** (Completed)
- Date, time, and location secured** (Completed)

Next Steps:

- Priest/Deacon assigned by the PWC**
- Meet with your Priest or Deacon** to begin marriage preparation
- Complete the PREPARE/ENRICH assessment**
- Begin marriage preparation meetings** with your Priest/Deacon

At Least 3 Months Ahead

Request Baptismal Records (Bride & Groom):

- **Catholic:** Contact your **church of baptism** to request a **current** copy (issued within 6 months of the wedding)
- **Non-Catholic:** Provide a **copy** of your original baptism certificate

- Attend the Engaged Couples Retreat** (Certificate Required if outside Saint Michael Parish)
- Meet with the Director of Music and Liturgy** to finalize music selections

2 Months Ahead

- Complete all marriage preparation meetings with your Priest/Deacon**

Within 60 Days of Your Wedding Date

Schedule your final meeting with the PWC and bring the following:

- Marriage License**
- Planning Sheet**
- Agreement Pledge Form**
- Engaged Couples Retreat Certificate**
- Church Fees: \$525 (Cash or check payable to St. Michael Parish)**
- Altar Server Fees: \$20 cash each for 2 servers**
- Non-Parishioner Fee (if applicable): \$1,000**

Rehearsal (Evening Before Wedding)

- Bring pew bows, guest book, or other approved items** (if applicable)
- Ensure all wedding party members & readers attend and arrive on time**

Wedding Day

- Bride & bridesmaids arrive** (No earlier than Noon)
- Groom & groomsmen arrive** (No earlier than 12:15 PM)
- Relax and rejoice in the beginning of your marriage!**

After the Wedding

- Apply for your official Marriage License** from Probate Court
- Update bride's name** on all necessary documents (if applicable)

#16 Catholic Wedding Ceremony & Mass Program Examples

Catholic Wedding Ceremony Without Mass Program Example

Front

The celebration of the union of
BRIDE and GROOM
in Holy Matrimony
DATE

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
Findlay, Ohio

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
First Reading
Genesis 2:18-24
Responsorial Psalm
Second Reading
Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b
Gospel
John 16:9-12

THE RITE OF MATRIMONY
The Questions Before the Consent
The Consent
The Blessing and Giving of Rings
The Universal Prayer
The Nuptial Blessing
The Lord's Prayer

FINAL BLESSING

Flowers to Mary (optional)
Introduction (optional)

RECESSIONAL

Back

Wedding Party

OFFICIANT
Name

PARENTS OF THE BRIDE
Names

PARENTS OF THE GROOM
Names

MAID OF HONOR
Name

BRIDESMAIDS
Names

BEST MAN
Name

GROOMSMEN
Names

RING BEARER
Name

FLOWER GIRL
Name

USHERS
Names

Thank You!

To our friends and family, we thank you for being here to celebrate our union before God. We feel blessed to have you with us today and in our lives every day.

With love, names

Catholic Wedding Mass Program Example

Front

The Nuptial Mass celebrating the union of
BRIDE and **GROOM**
in Holy Matrimony
DATE

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish
Findlay, Ohio

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 2:18-24

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

Gospel

John 16:9-12

THE RITE OF MATRIMONY

The Questions Before the Consent

The Consent

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

The Universal Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

The Nuptial Blessing

Holy Communion

FINAL BLESSING

Flowers to Mary (*optional*)
Introduction (*optional*)

RECESSIONAL

Back

Wedding Party

OFFICIANT
Name

PARENTS OF THE BRIDE
Names

PARENTS OF THE GROOM
Names

MAID OF HONOR
Name

BRIDESMAIDS
Names

BEST MAN
Name

GROOMSMEN
Names

RING BEARER
Name

FLOWER GIRL
Name

USHERS
Names

Thank You!

To our friends and family, we thank you for being here to celebrate our union before God. We feel blessed to have you with us today and in our lives every day.

With love, names

#17 Reading Selections (Instructions)

Reading Selections

You will choose **three Scripture readings** for your wedding liturgy.

The full list of options is located at the end of this packet, along with the **J2 Prayers and Petitions** and **Consent (Vow) Options**.

For your wedding ceremony, you are required to select:

1. **One reading from the Old Testament**
2. **One reading from the New Testament (Epistles)**
3. **One reading from the Gospels**

J2 Prayers and Petition

When honoring deceased loved ones in the J2 Universal Prayer:

- If **more than two names** are being remembered, please use **the couple's last name** (for example, "the deceased members of the Smith and Johnson families").
- This helps keep the prayer **clear and reverent** during the liturgy.

If your wedding programs are not yet finalized, you may include the **individual names** of your deceased loved ones there, which is often a meaningful and beautiful option.

★ Important: At least **one of your readings must be selected from those marked with an asterisk (*)**, which indicate passages that explicitly speak about marriage.

Please:

- Record your selections on the **Wedding Planning Sheet**
- Be prepared to review them at **your final meeting with the PWC**
- Submit them to your **priest or deacon at least one month prior to your wedding**

#18 Scripture Reading Options

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

* GENESIS 1:26-28, 31A	B1
* GENESIS 2:18-24	B2
* GENESIS 24:48-51, 58-67	B3
* TOBIT 7:6-14	B4
* TOBIT 8:4B-8	B5
* PROVERBS 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31	B6
*SONGS OF SONGS 2:8-10, 14, 16A; 8:6-7A	B7
* SIRACH 26:1-4, 13-16	B8
JEREMIAH 31:31-32A, 33-34A	B9

Male and female he created them.

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

*B1

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 two of them become one body.

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

*B2

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.

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

*B3

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.

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

*B4

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.

Allow us to live together to a happy old age.

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

*B5

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 woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

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

*B6

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.

Stern as death is love.

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

*B7

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."

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

*B8

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.

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

B9

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.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

ROMANS 8:31B-35, 37-39	D1
ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-13 (SHORT FORM)	D2
ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-18 (LONG FORM)	D2
ROMANS 15:1B-3A, 5-7, 13	D3
1 CORINTHIANS 6:13C-15A, 17-20	D4
1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:8	D5
EPHESIANS 4:1-6	D6
EPHESIANS 5:2A, 25-32 (SHORT FORM)	D7
EPHESIANS 5:2a, 21-33 (LONG FORM)	D7
PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9	D8
COLOSSIANS 3:12-17	D9
HEBREWS 13:1-4A, 5-6B	D10
* 1 PETER 3:1-9	D11
1 JOHN 3:18-24	D12
1 JOHN 4:7-12	D13
REVELATION 19:1, 5-9A	D14

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

D1

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.

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (SHORT FORM)

D2

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.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (LONG FORM)

D2

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.*

Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.

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

D3

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.

Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians - 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

D4

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.

If I do not have love, I gain nothing.

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians - 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

D5

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.

One Body and one Spirit.

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

D6

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.

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

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

D7

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.

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

D7

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. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

The God of peace will be with you.

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

D8

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.

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

D9

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.

Let marriage be held in honor by all.

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

D10

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.

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

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

***D11**

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.

Love in deed and in truth

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John - 1 John 3:18-24

D12

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.

God is love.

A reading from the First Letter of Saint John - 1 John 4:7-12

D13

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.

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

D14

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

MATTHEW 5:1-12A	F1
MATTHEW 5:13-16	F2
MATTHEW 7:21, 24-25 (SHORT FORM)	F3
MATTHEW 7:21, 24-29 (LONG FORM)	F3
* MATTHEW 19:3-6	F4
MATTHEW 22:35-40	F5
* MARK 10:6-9	F6
* JOHN 2:1-11	F7
JOHN 15:9-12	F8
JOHN 15:12-16	F9
JOHN 17:20-23 (SHORT FORM)	F10
JOHN 17:20-26 (LONG FORM)	F10

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

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

F1

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.”

You are the light of the world.

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

F2

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 lampstand, 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.”

A wise man built his house on rock

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:21, 24-23 (SHORT FORM)

F3

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.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:21, 24-25 (LONG FORM)

F3

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.*

What God has united, man must not separate.

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

***F4**

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.”

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

F5

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.”

They are no longer two, but one flesh.

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

*F6

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."

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

*F7

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.

Remain in my love.

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

F8

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."

This is my commandment: love one another.

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

F9

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."

That they may be brought to perfection as one.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-23 (SHORT FORM)

F10

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."

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-26 (LONG FORM)

F10

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." 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."

#19 Prayers & Petitions with Consent Options

PRAYERS & PETITIONS (J2)

PRESIDER:

Dear brothers and sisters, let us accompany this new family with our prayers, that the mutual love of this couple may grow daily and that God in his kindness will sustain all families throughout the world.

Say before beginning: **Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer**

For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this couple, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all families throughout the world and for lasting peace among all people, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

CONSENT OPTION

RECITATION (The couple will **repeat after the priest or deacon** — memorization is **not required**.)

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

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

QUESTION

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

Groom: I do.

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

Bride: I do.