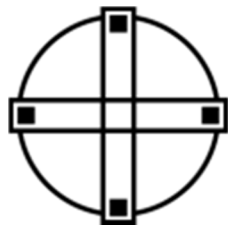


# *The Sacrament of Matrimony*

## *Preparation and Parish Guidelines*

September 2020



CHRIST  
THE  
REDEEMER

2700 Waldon Rd  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  
[www.ctredeemer.org](http://www.ctredeemer.org)

## **Matrimony is a Sacrament**

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father and  
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.  
And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28: 19-20*

**This is our mission. And this is Christ's promise to us.**

As Catholics we believe that Christ is truly present to us throughout our lives but most explicitly in the sacraments which we celebrate. When we come together as Church, the Body of Christ, for the celebration of a sacrament, we believe that Christ is really present sharing his life, his word, his love and his spirit as we receive that sacrament. **Sacraments belong to the Church not to an individual.**

Sacraments make known **who we are**; they are **expressive**.

We are sinners. We are sick. We are hungry. We are alone; etc.

- Sacraments make us **who we are meant to be**...they are **constitutive**
- We confess, are absolved and become those forgiven by God, reconciled to the Church and welcomed to the table of the Eucharist.
- We are anointed with blessed oil and become those who trust in God and share in Christ's redemptive suffering.
- We are fed and become the Body of Christ.
- We are married and become a community of persons, a sign of God's *agape* (love) in our midst.

However, reception of a sacrament is not an end in itself. It is the beginning of a growing, maturing process that makes us more like Christ. In a Lenten Message 2015, the bishops of Kenya writing about the Sacrament of Marriage said:

*"....many (young people) concentrate on their wedding day  
and forget the life-long commitment they are about to enter into."*

They need to be encouraged to see the sacrament not as a single moment that then becomes a part of the past and its memories, but rather as a reality that

permanently influences the whole of married life. (Pius XI Encyclical Letter *Casti Connubii*)

### **Marriage as a Sacrament**

At Vatican II, in the document *Gaudium et Spes* (#48) we read:

*“God himself is the author of Marriage.” God created humankind 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... (Gn 1: 26-28)*

Man and woman were created for each other. “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him...The two of them become one body” (Gn 2: 18; 24). Woman and man are equal in human dignity, and in marriage both are united in an unbreakable bond. (USCCB Catholic Catechism for Adults, p. 279)

But original sin had grave consequences for married life. “...there was a rupture of the original communion between man and woman. Their relations were distorted by mutual recriminations; their mutual attraction, the Creator’s own gift, changed into a relationship of domination and lust; and the beautiful vocation of man and woman to be fruitful, multiply, and subdue the earth was burdened by the pain of childbirth and the toil of work. (CCC, #1607)

Jesus restored marriage and the family to their original form (Matthew 19: 3-6) and raised marriage to the sacramental sign of his love for the Church. It is through the Church that “marriage and the family receive the grace of the Holy Spirit from Christ, in order to bear witness to the Gospel of God’s love.” (*Amoris Laetitia*, 71).

Pope Francis, in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia*, teaches us about the Sacrament of Matrimony. He writes:

*The sacrament of marriage is not a social convention, an empty ritual or merely the outward sign of a commitment. The sacrament is a gift given for the **sanctification and salvation of the spouses**, since “their mutual belonging is a real representation, through the sacramental sign, of the same relationship between Christ and the Church. The married couple is therefore a permanent reminder for the Church of what took place on the cross; they are for one another*

and for their children **witnesses of the salvation** in which they share through the sacrament". (#72)

*...The sacrament is not a "thing" or a "power", for in it Christ himself "now encounters Christian spouses...He dwells with them, gives them the strength to take up their crosses and so follow him, to rise again after they have fallen, to forgive one another, to bear one another's burdens". Christian marriage is a sign of how much Christ loved his Church in the covenant sealed on the cross, yet it also makes that love present in the communion of the spouses. (#73)*

*...the sacrament of marriage flows from the incarnation and the paschal mystery whereby God showed the fullness of his love for humanity by becoming one with us. Neither of the spouses will be alone in facing whatever challenges may come their way. Both are called to respond to God's gift with commitment, creativity, perseverance and daily effort. They can always invoke the assistance of the Holy Spirit who consecrated their union, so that his grace may be felt in every new situation that they encounter. (#74)*

*...Lovers do not see their relationship as merely temporary. Those who marry do not expect their excitement to fade. Those who witness the celebration of a loving union, however fragile, trust that it will pass the test of time. Children not only want their parents to love one another, but also to be faithful and remain together. (#123)*

Men and women marry and they have done so since the beginning of time. Today's media has created its vision of what happens or should happen at the marriage ceremony. And through the years, customs have been invented and spread like wildfire, each bride and groom investing a huge amount of time and money to make their ceremony unique and memorable. But none of these trends toward individuality can claim to be a sacrament.

When a couple comes to the Church and enters the process of preparing for their marriage they are preparing to celebrate a Sacrament in the context of the Christian community.

## ***The Sacrament of Matrimony at Christ the Redeemer Parish***

We take our responsibility for your sacramental preparation very seriously, just as we do the preparation necessary before any sacrament is celebrated. This booklet provides an overview of the timeline, requirements, and details of your preparation to be married in the presence of God and the Church.

### ***Requirements***

Either the bride or groom must be a Baptized Catholic and a member of our parish. Recent Baptismal certificates (dated within six months of the wedding date) are required from Catholics and any record of Baptism for non-Catholic Christians.

- The couple must be eligible to marry in accord with the *1983 Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church*. If either party has been married previously, their freedom to marry must be determined by processes that may take up to one year. If a previous marriage ended in death, the death certificate must be made available. If a previous marriage ended by divorce and was annulled by the church, the Declaration of Nullity must be available.
- The couple must participate in the marriage preparation process as outlined in this booklet.
- The couple intends to practice their faith as part of our worshipping community throughout the preparation process.

### ***Marriage Preparation Process***

During the first meeting with Fr. William Promesso, the couple will provide information for the pre-marriage investigation paperwork, such as residency, birth date, Baptism, and previous marriages.

When the requirements of church law have been satisfied, we will make every effort to see that your desired wedding date is available. Weddings with or without Holy Communion are scheduled for Fridays (usually 5PM) and Saturdays (usually 2PM) except during Advent and Lent. The Rite of Marriage may also be celebrated during our weekend liturgies with the larger community gathered.

### ***Pre-Marriage Evaluation***

At your first meeting with Fr. Bill, he will discuss use of the pre-marriage relationship evaluation tool. **PREPARE** is a multiple-choice questionnaire designed to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of a relationship and assist you in addressing potential problems and delight in relationship strengths. Your **PREPARE** relationship evaluation tool is administered online, through use of your personal email and credit card. Once we receive notification that you've completed the tool, you will be contacted by Deacon John Santeramo to discuss the results during one or two meetings with him. Those results and his observations become part of your pre-marriage file.

### ***Sponsor Couples***

Many parishes have developed excellent pre-marriage seminars and workshops that help couples to dig more deeply into the spirituality of marriage and the role of faith in a couple's life together. Here at CTR we are blessed to have several couples with many years of successful marriage meet with individual engaged couples to discuss the challenges and blessings of Christian marriage. You will be assigned a Sponsor Couple who will meet with you several times then submit a certificate of completion along with any observations for your pre-marriage file

### ***Liturgy Preparation***

In this packet you will find all the preparation options for your wedding liturgy: Scripture readings, intercessions, and music. When two Catholics marry, we usually celebrate Marriage within a Mass. When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic or a non-Christian, Eucharist is usually not celebrated since the non-Catholic person cannot receive communion. Before the wedding day, you'll need to meet with Fr. Bill and Mari Reyes, our Director of Worship & Music, to finalize these details and choices. See the Wedding Data Form inside.

### ***Musicians***

All music for the Liturgy is provided by Mari Reyes, our Director of Worship & Music. Mari can perform in a solitary capacity, being both the organist/pianist and singer for your wedding, or one of our talented cantors (solo vocalists) may be obtained to sing. Instrumentalists are also available to be added to the music, from a single additional musician to ensembles of multiple instrumentalists. All

musicians are scheduled through Mari. If you are interested in additional musicians, please contact her regarding scheduling and fees.

### ***Marriage License***

If either the bride or groom lives in Oakland County, information on obtaining a marriage license may be found at [www.oakgov.com](http://www.oakgov.com). Other counties also have websites with information regarding their licensing.

### ***Rehearsal***

Most weddings are rehearsed one or two days before the wedding. This takes about 45 minutes and is meant to familiarize the wedding party with the words, rituals, and processions that are part of a wedding liturgy. Fr. Bill will set the day and time with you as soon as the wedding day is scheduled.

### ***The Wedding Day: Flowers, Bows, and other Decorations***

An aisle runner is not used. You are welcome to have your florist bring one or two FRESH flower arrangements to church for the wedding. We hope you'll leave the flowers in church so the whole community can celebrate with you throughout the weekend. We have white bows which will be placed on selected chairs for the wedding party. We do not permit candelabras, floral or balloon arches, nor anything that would impede the movement or visibility of the liturgy, wedding party or people in attendance. There must be no throwing of flower petals, rice, confetti, seed, nor blowing of bubbles before, during, or after the wedding, whether indoors or outdoors.

If you choose to have a Unity Candle, please do not place it within a flower arrangement. The parish provides the two smaller candles and we have the large "Unity" candle available for purchase from the parish office.

If you are unsure, please consult with Mari Reyes before finalizing your plans.

### ***Greeting your Guests***

A receiving line is not permitted. Immediately after the wedding, you have 30 minutes for photography. We encourage you to greet your guests at the reception.

### ***Photos and Videos***

We recognize your desire to capture this special day on film and video and encourage the tasteful use to photography and videography. Please inform your photographer and/or videographer to consult with Fr. Bill before the liturgy to review our rules for them, including 30 minutes for photography after the wedding.

### ***Fees and Costs***

While there is no actual fee for the celebration of a sacrament, there are costs associated with the preparation, for the required ministers, and for the use of the building. To make it easier for you, here's a breakdown of the expenses you can anticipate:

***Administration and scoring PREPARE Pre-Marriage evaluation tool.....\$35***

***Meetings to discuss PREPARE results with Deacon John.... \$0***

***Sponsor Couple Meetings..... \$0***

***Some couples choose to make gifts to the parish and liturgical ministers in thanksgiving for their wedding. The following information is offered as a guideline. Any gifts should be brought to the rehearsal.***

*Christ the Redeemer Church for marriage prep services, rehearsal, wedding, utilities, maintenance.....\$300-500*

*Customary gift to the Minister of Music (Mari Reyes).....\$250*

*Customary gift to the Priest (Rev. William Promesso).....\$250*

### ***Miscellaneous***

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the marriage preparation process or the wedding day, contact Fr. Bill at 248-391-1621 ext.21 or by email at [frbill@ctredeemer.org](mailto:frbill@ctredeemer.org)

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**Rite of Marriage**  
**Liturgical Preparation Guide**

Please choose from one of the following options:

- ☐ Option 1: Rite of Marriage during Mass  
(2 Catholics marrying on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon)
- ☐ Option 2: Rite of Marriage outside of Mass  
(without Communion for a Catholic/Non-Catholic marriage on Friday evening or Saturday afternoon)
- ☐ Option 3: Rite of Marriage at Weekend Mass\*
- \*In choosing this option, your wedding will take place during one of our weekend Liturgies: Saturday at 5:00pm or Sunday at 9:00am or 11:00am. This option is available when two Catholics are marrying.

If you choose option 1 or 2, the following pages will guide you in selecting music, readings and intercessions that are appropriate for the liturgy in which the Sacrament of Marriage takes place. When option 3 is selected, the readings and music for the Sunday liturgy are used.

# Wedding Data Form

## General Information

Please **print** all information

Wedding Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_

Rehearsal Date & Time \_\_\_\_\_

Presider Rev. Dr. William Promesso

Musician Mari Reyes

Groom \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Bride \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

## **Timeline**

**60 Days before:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Schedule an appointment with Fr Bill to finalize the wedding liturgy details. 248-391-1621 ext 21 or  
frbill@ctredeemer.org

**30 Days before:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Schedule an appointment with the Director of Worship & Music to discuss your musical choices. Contact Mari Reyes at  
music@ctredeemer.org

**Day & Time of the Rehearsal:**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

☐

Bring Marriage License to the rehearsal

☐

Bring all church and music donations to the rehearsal

☐

Bring Unity Candle to the rehearsal (if chosen)

## **Wedding Party**

Please provide the names of your wedding party. The only wedding party needed is one witnesses each, (Best Man/Maid of Honor). The wedding party participates in the processional and serves as ministers of hospitality before the liturgy. Names are listed in order of procession.

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|----------------|-------|----------------|
| <hr/>          |       |                |
| Cross Bearer   |       |                |
| <hr/>          |       |                |
| Priest         |       |                |
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| <hr/>          | <hr/> | <hr/>          |
| Groom's Father | Groom | Groom's Mother |
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| <hr/>          | <hr/> | <hr/>          |
| Groomsman 1    |       | Bridesmaid 1   |
| <hr/>          |       |                |
| <hr/>          | <hr/> | <hr/>          |
| Groomsman 2    |       | Bridesmaid 2   |
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| Groomsman 3    |       | Bridesmaid 3   |
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| Groomsman 4    |       | Bridesmaid 4   |
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| Groomsman 5    |       | Bridesmaid 5   |
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| Jr. Groomsman  |       | Jr. Bridesmaid |
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| Ring Bearer    |       | Flower Girl    |
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| Best Man       |       | Maid of Honor  |
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| Other Witness  |       | Other Witness  |
| <hr/>          |       |                |
| <hr/>          | <hr/> | <hr/>          |
| Bride's Father | Bride | Bride's Mother |

## Liturgy Selections

**Prelude:** Music begins ten minutes before the Liturgy. Prelude selections are made by the Director of Worship & Music.

**Procession:** One piece of music is used for the procession. The procession includes the priest, the bride and groom, their parents and attendants. Mari Reyes will offer you several musical options.

**Liturgy of the Word:** Please refer to the section of readings beginning on page 15. Scripture readings include a reading from the Old or New Testament, a responsorial psalm, and a gospel reading. The reading is proclaimed by a person you choose. The responsorial psalm is sung by the cantor and the gospel is proclaimed by the priest.

**Please choose your options:**

Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

Gospel: \_\_\_\_\_ Read by: Priest

**Ritual of Marriage:** Consent, Exchange of Vows, Exchange of Rings

**Unity Candle:** The lighting of the Unity Candle is not part of the Catholic Marriage Rite, however, we do permit it. Choose two people (often mothers of bride and groom) to light the smaller candles. The couple lights the large candle.

Circle One: Mothers/Fathers      Godparents      2 Others

**Universal Prayers:** These prayers of petition are read by one person.

Circle One: Set A      Set B      Set C

Reader: \_\_\_\_\_

**If the wedding will be during Mass, the following information applies:**

**Presentation of the Gifts:**

The Altar is prepared and gifts of bread and wine are placed upon it by the presider.

**Eucharistic Acclamations (Sanctus, Memorial, Great Amen & Lamb of God)** change seasonally with parish life.

**Song during Communion**

Mari Reyes will offer you options for this song.

**Recessional:** One piece of music is used for sending forth.

Mari Reyes will offer you several musical options while you leave the church

**Postlude:** Music selections are made by the Director of Music & Worship.

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# Bible Readings

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## Reading A

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**Genesis 2:18-24**

*Summary: The two of them become one body.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

The word of the Lord.

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**Reading B**

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*Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a*

*Summary: Love cannot be quenched.*

A reading from the Song of Songs

Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; For  
stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is  
devotion; its flames are a blazing fire.

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

The word of the Lord.

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**Reading C**

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*Sirach 6:5-6, 14-17*

*Summary: Faithful friends assist us in our lives.*

A reading from the Book of Sirach (see-rock)

A kind mouth multiplies friends, and gracious lips  
prompt friendly greetings.

Let your acquaintances be many, but one in a  
thousand your confidant.

A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter; those who find one  
find a treasure.

A faithful friend is beyond price, no sum can balance  
his or her worth.

A faithful friend is a life-saving remedy, such as those  
who fear God find;

For those who fear God behave accordingly, and their  
friends will be like themselves.

The word of the Lord

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## Reading D

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*Colossians 3:12-17*  
*Summary: Do as Christ does*

### A reading from the letter of St. Paul to the Colossians

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

### The Word of the Lord

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**Reading E**

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*1 John 4:7-12*  
*Summary: God is love.*

A reading from the first Letter of St. John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us. We also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

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## Reading F

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*1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a*

*Summary: If I do not have love, I gain nothing.*

### A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

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# Gospel Readings

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## Gospel A

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**Mark 10:6-9**

*Summary: They are no longer two, but one flesh.*

A reading from the Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said:

*“From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh.*

*Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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## Gospel B

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**Matthew 5:13-16**

*Summary: You are the light of the world.*

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste. With what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand. Where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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## **Gospel C**

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John 15:9-12  
*Summary: Remain in my love.*

A reading from the Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and remain in his love. “I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

The Gospel of the Lord

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## **Gospel D**

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Luke 14:7-14  
*Summary: The Wedding Feast*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke

Jesus told a parable to those who had been invited, noticing how they were choosing the places of honor at the table.

“When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not recline at table in the place of honor. A more distinguished guest than you may have been invited by him, and the host who invited both of you may approach you and say, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you would proceed with embarrassment to take the lowest place.”

“Rather, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place so that when the host comes to you he may say, ‘My friend, move up to a higher position.’ Then you will enjoy the esteem of your

companions at the table. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.” Then he said to the host who invited him, “When you hold a lunch or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or your wealthy neighbors, in case they may invite you back and you have repayment. Instead, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

The Gospel of the Lord

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## Universal Prayers: Set A

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**Reader:**

For Church leaders, that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our president and persons in government, that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For married people that they may continue to give, be able to forgive and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day.  
We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For N & N, now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others and good health until a ripe old age. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends. Especially: \_\_\_\_\_  
We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For those who have died -- that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We remember: \_\_\_\_\_  
We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (*pause for five seconds*) we pray to the Lord.

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## Universal Prayers: Set B

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**Reader:**

For leaders of Church and state for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households, that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple N & N, married today,  
for those who will marry tomorrow. . .  
that they may savor the joy of being together, a long life, constant love, children, friends, and a new day, every day.  
We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us.  
We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires. We pray to the Lord.

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## Universal Prayers: Set C

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**Reader:**

For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:** For our world, to keep the promise of peace.

We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our country, to keep the promise of freedom. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For this parish, to keep the promise of service. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our hands, to keep the promise of giving. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our lives, to keep the promise of growing. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For N and N to keep the promises of marriage. We pray to the Lord.

**Reader:**

For our families and friends, those who are sick and those have gone before us in death. We remember...

We pray to the Lord.