

*Holy Family
Catholic Community
Marriage Preparation*

*“Marriage In the
Lord”*

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SPIRITUALITY OF BECOMING MARRIED IN THE LORD

“Married in the Lord” is how the early followers of Jesus described their spirituality-based marriages. In fact, in the first centuries of Christianity, in the Roman Empire, Christians would experience two ceremonies. They first would marry civilly, but later would seek out a bishop or priest who would assist them in becoming “married in the Lord”. To be married in the Lord, then and now, adds a huge qualitative difference to a married relationship. In a Catholic marriage, or in a marriage between a Catholic and a Christian from another denomination, the ideal is that both parties are fully initiated into the Body of Christ. In Catholic culture, this means that the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist have been celebrated. Christian marriage is a sacrament of vocation. Having been fully initiated into the Body of Christ, the Church, a person, a couple through marriage, celebrate how they are going to live out their discipleship, as a couple, in a small cell of the Church, the domestic Church of the home.

Becoming married in the Lord is an important notion. Marriage is a process that really begins in our families of origin and continues in patterns of friendships, through dating. Eventually there is the experience of attraction to a special someone, exclusive dating, engagement, the public celebration of vows of commitment, and then the months and years after the ceremony of growing more deeply in love and commitment. A couple simultaneously develops home and family, and grows to be an active witness of God’s love for His people.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, the notion of covenant is important. The Old Testament Jewish people believed God was in covenant with them. His love for them was an unbreakable bond. The Old Testament prophet Hosea, and also Isaiah and Jeremiah, began to see in marriage a reflection of God’s covenant love. A couple are to have that same kind of unbreakable, faithful love for each other as God had for His people of the Old Testament. St. Paul and the early Christians taught in a similar way, that the marriage covenant is a reflection of the covenant love that Jesus Christ has for us, His Church. In marriage, a couple enters a covenant with each other and with God as Parent (Father), Lord (Jesus), and Companion (Spirit).

Becoming “Married in the Lord” is to experience what the Church calls a Sacrament. A sacrament is much more than a ritual in Church. A sacrament also is to be understood as a process, like the entire marital relationship. There are the months and years of childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood which are preparation time for the sacrament of marriage. There are the weeks and months of immediate preparation. There is the actual ceremony. Then begins marriage as a way of life. The Church never prepares people just for rituals. We prepare for the way of life that follows the ritual moments. The way of life that is this Sacrament of marriage is a life-long, unbreakable bond of faithful love that is both creative for the couple and procreative for society and the Church. A couple, becoming married in the Lord, is a sign to the world of the possibility of committed love and the reality of God’s love.

Classically, the word sacramentum (Latin) has connoted two realities. The root meaning in ancient Rome was “vow”, or “pledge”. In each sacrament, a disciple is vowing to God, and the Body of Christ, the Church, to live in a certain way. The vow dimension of sacraments is quite clear in marriage. Sacramentum also connotes the sign function of the sacramental life. Sacramental people live as signs to the world.

Becoming married in the Lord is a process, a covenant, a sacrament, and a mission to the world and Church. Couples do not just marry for each other. Marriage in the Lord sends a couple out in mission to the world, and the Church, to enrich society and the Church with the depth and quality of their self-sacrificial commitment of love to each other. The world and Church ought to be enriched because a man and a woman become married in the Lord, and create home and family with each other.

As is clear, many profound, deep realities are going on in a couple who have decided to become married in the Lord. We in the Marriage Preparation Ministry praise God for your relationship. We will walk with you in preparation and also later when you have joined those who are living the sacrament of marriage.

Holy Family Marriage Preparation Team

Holy Family Parish Office of Adult Faith
2515 W. Palatine Road
Inverness, IL 60067
(847) 907-3450

CONGRATULATIONS! Becoming engaged is a big step! All of us who work with you during the marriage preparation process are eager to help you during the coming months. We know that planning a wedding can be a very hectic time for you. It is also a time that you will learn a great deal about one another and your families. You may be wondering where to begin. Before you check out possible dates/times for reception facilities, it is important to see if the church building is available.

WEDDING REGISTRATION: In order for a wedding date and time to be reserved, the bride, groom or their family ought to be registered at Holy Family and be a weekly participant at mass. People wishing to join the community must participate in the *Welcoming Process* before they are considered registered. Contact the Office of the Pastor at 847-907-3416 to see if the date and time you want is available. It is best to do this at least one year before your desired wedding date.

WEDDING TIMES: The time slots for weddings are:

Friday	5:00 p.m. (rehearsal is Wednesday prior at 6:00 p.m.)
Saturday	12:00 p.m. (rehearsal is Thursday prior at 5:45 p.m.)
Saturday	2:30 p.m. (rehearsal is Friday prior at 6:30 p.m.)
Sunday	2:30 p.m. (rehearsal is Friday prior at 7:30 p.m.)

On your wedding day, the church is reserved for you for two hours. You will have access to the church 30 minutes before your wedding to allow for flower placement, and 30 minutes after your wedding to allow for wedding party photos in the church.

The bride should arrive 45 minutes before the wedding and the groom should arrive at least 30 minutes before the wedding. Please eat prior to coming to the church and do not bring food or beverages to the church.

WEDDING FEES: Before a date can be held, the wedding fee must be paid in full. You will receive a form for payment of these fees prior to receiving a letter confirming your date. These fees are not refundable. There is also an additional fee if you are not a registered member of the parish.

PREVIOUS MARRIAGES: If one of you has been married before, you may be required to obtain a Church annulment. The Catholic Church recognizes the marriages of non-Catholics as valid. If your fiancée is not a Catholic, their previous marriage in another church or even a simple court ceremony may require a Catholic Church annulment or a declaration of nullity. To determine the validity of a previous marriage, call the pastor's office at 847-907-3416. If an annulment is needed, you will be asked to make an appointment with the pastor to begin the annulment process. The granting of annulments generally takes **at least** one year in this Archdiocese, but we have Annulment Ministry leaders who will help you through this experience.

BLESSING OF ENGAGED: There is a blessing for engaged couples three times a year (fall, winter, and summer) during Mass. You will receive an email invitation to these events when they are scheduled. On the days of the special blessing, our Marriage Prep Leaders will be there to answer any questions you have. We encourage you to invite family and friends to join us for the mass. All are welcome!

MEETINGS WITH PRESIDER: Holy Family will schedule a priest for your wedding once you have officially registered your wedding date. Occasionally we have couples who request an outside priest. You are welcome to invite a close personal friend or family member who is a Catholic priest or deacon to preside at your wedding, but we do need to know well in advance if you are doing this so we don't schedule one of our priests. Please contact Paula Nowicki in the Office of the Pastor to let her know. **If you bring an outside priest or deacon in for your wedding, you are responsible for any fees or travel expenses for that priest.**

You will need to make an appointment with your priest before your marriage. We recommend that you try to do this approximately 4-6 weeks before your wedding. At this time you will complete an official church document called a pre-nuptial questionnaire. Each of you will fill this out in the presence of a priest and swear that your answers are truthful. It is the official record of your wedding in this Church. This document attempts to discern if there are any reasons that you are not able to enter into a sacramental marriage in the eyes of the Catholic Church. In inter-faith marriage, the couple should have serious ongoing discussion regarding the faith of future children. When doing the pre-nuptial questionnaire, the Catholic party will be asked to sign a form or give verbal consent promising to do all in one's power to pass on his or her faith to their children, have them baptized in the Church and raised in Catholic practices.

Depending on your priest, you may need to meet a second time to go over your wedding liturgy. This can also be done at your first meeting if it is within a month or two of your wedding date.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required from those planning to marry in the Catholic Church. Numbers 1 -3 should be mailed to Paula Nowicki, Assistant to the Pastor, **three to four months prior to your wedding day.** Number 4 should be brought to your wedding rehearsal.

1. Catholics: Six months before your wedding date please request a newly issued baptismal certificate from the church in which you were baptized. To obtain a **newly issued** baptismal certificate, call or write the parishes at which each of you received this sacrament and ask them to mail you a newly issued certificate. A copy of your original baptismal certificate is NOT acceptable. The certificate must be issued within 6 months of your wedding date.

Non-Catholics: the original or a copy of the baptismal certificate from the church in which you were baptized - this does not have to be newly issued. We will make a copy of it for our records and return it to you.

2. A Confirmation certificate. This can be your original certificate. If you do not have verification of Confirmation, contact the church where you were confirmed for a new certificate.

3. Proof of completion of a Catholic Marriage Preparation Program (only if you have chosen a program outside of Holy Family's program).

4. Civil Marriage License from Cook County (please bring this to the wedding rehearsal).

MARRIAGE PREPARATION PROCESS: Shortly after your wedding date is confirmed, you will be contacted by a representative from our Marriage Preparation Ministry. You will be given information about your choices for marriage preparation. If you choose to go through Holy Family's program, you will be assigned a Sponsor Couple who will meet with you and 2-3 other couples on topics such including communication/conflict resolution, family of origin, balancing practical issues, intimacy/sexuality, values in marriage, and spirituality. The process generally takes about five sessions lasting for two hours each. It is also perfectly acceptable to choose another Catholic Marriage Prep program if our program doesn't work for your schedule. The Catholic Couple Checkup Premarital Inventory is also part of our program and is required for **all** couples getting married at Holy Family. See "Catholic Couple Checkup" for more information.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION OPTIONS:

Holy Family Marriage Prep "Marriage in the Lord" – Five sessions (two hours each) in a Sponsor Couple home with a small group of engaged couples. Sessions are flexibly scheduled according to the schedule of the group. The one on one review of a Pre-Marital Inventory with a Sponsor Couple is also included in this program.

Contact: Mary Whiteside, Office of Adult Faith, Holy Family Parish
847-907-3450
mwhiteside@holyfamilyparish.org

There is no additional cost for this program if you are getting married at Holy Family. If you are going through Holy Family's Marriage Preparation Program, but getting married outside of Holy Family, please contact Mary Whiteside for the current fees.

Rockford Engaged Encounter – Weekend retreat held at the Bishop Lane Retreat Center in Rockford
Friday evening to late Saturday

Contact: Office of Family Life
www.fltest.dpsrfd.org (click on Engaged Encounter tab)
Please see website for current fees.

Pre-Cana through the Archdiocese of Chicago – Saturday class (one day only) held in various church locations.

Also have special classes available for couples who are living together, have children, or are older when they marry.

Contact: Family Ministry Office
312-751-8201
www.familyministries.org
Please contact the Family Ministry Office for current fees.

**On-line marriage preparation is also available through the archdiocese of Chicago for those couples separated by great distance. See www.familyministries.org for more information.

CATHOLIC COUPLE CHECKUP: The directions for taking the Catholic Couple Checkup Premarital Inventory on-line are found below. **All couples getting married at Holy Family are required to take this inventory, whether you are going through Holy Family's marriage preparation program or another program.** A private meeting will be set with your Sponsor Couple to review the results of CCC if you are going through Holy Family's program. We also have trained Sponsor Couples who will be happy to go over the results of the CCC with anyone who is going through another program for marriage prep if you would like to discuss your results with a more experienced married couple.

The Catholic Couple Checkup (CCC) Pre-Marital Inventory is a tool used to help you understand your relationship and develop conversation around some of the issues that married couples face. The inventory is quite comprehensive, but it is NOT a test. You can't fail this! It is simply a program used to help couples focus on topics that will help them form the marriage they want to have for a lifetime together.

If you are going through Holy Family's Marriage Preparation Program, we ask that you take the CCC prior to your first meeting with your Sponsor Couple. If you are going through another marriage prep program outside of Holy Family, please forward the results to Holy Family as directed below and let us know if you would like to meet privately with a trained Sponsor Couple to go over the results.

Directions for taking the Catholic Couple Checkup Pre-marital Inventory

1. Go to www.familyministries.org.
2. Click on "Catholic Couple Checkup."
3. Click on "engaged."
4. Check box to accept the terms and conditions of the inventory.
5. You will not need a "voucher code," so when you see the request for that, just go down to the bottom of the page and click "continue" and follow the directions for registering. You will be given an account number that each of you will use to access the inventory to take it. **You should not take it together.** Be open and honest with your responses to the inventory. Each of you should take it on your own using the account number given to you, and the results will be sent to your email address.
6. Payment – **There is a processing fee of \$29.95 for the CCC Inventory. You will need to pay that on-line with a credit card.** This fee is not part of your Holy Family wedding fees.
7. After you take the inventory and receive your results, you will need to forward the results to Mary Whiteside at the church office. Please forward the electronic results (or bring in a printed copy) to mwhiteside@holymfamilyparish.org. This should be done prior to your first meeting with your Sponsor Couple if you are going through Holy Family's marriage prep program.

If you do not have internet access, please contact us and we will be happy to assist you with this process at the church.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mary Whiteside at 847-907-3450 or mwhiteside@holymfamilyparish.org.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: We encourage engaged couples to take advantage of opportunities to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation prior to the wedding day. You will receive an email update when the All Parish Reconciliation services are scheduled, or your Sponsor Couple can give you the dates.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not available on the night of the wedding rehearsal. If you or someone in your family/wedding party would like to take advantage of the opportunity for reconciliation, you can attend a parish wide reconciliation service, make an appointment with one of the priests, or attend between 3:30 and 4:15 p.m. on Saturday afternoons.

PLANNING YOUR WEDDING DAY

CHOOSING CULTURAL TRADITIONS: Many cultural traditions have developed over the years. It is important that you choose what makes sense to you. Begin by understanding what the tradition means and how it developed. Many traditions have been encouraged by the businesses that profit from their use (photography, florists, wedding coordinators, and caterers).

OTHER TRADITIONS: Balloon launches are environmentally incorrect. Throwing confetti, flower petals, rice, birdseed or silly string in or immediately outside of the church is not permitted. No bubbles are allowed inside of the Church building or in the Courtyard. If you wish to distribute bubbles to your guests, you will need to do so outside once your guests have left the building. Some of these traditions are more appropriate as you leave the reception. Please inform your guests that there will not be a receiving line at the church.

If you are having a Unity Candle at your wedding, you must bring your candles (large center pillar candle and two small taper candles) with holders to the wedding rehearsal. The set will be returned to you right after the wedding along with any leftover wedding programs.

RUNNERS: A runner is not necessary. The tradition of having a runner came from the desire to keep the bride's dress clean as she walked from her parent's home across a dirt road to her future spouse's home. Since this is no longer the case, the runner is an unnecessary expense that you can eliminate. If you do choose to have a runner, you or someone you designate will need to be responsible for the placement and removal of the runner. The aisle in the Church is 100 feet and the Chapel aisle is 36 feet. The runner will need to be tacked down with straight pins at the base of the altar. Be careful to choose a material for your runner that will allow you to walk on it without slipping. Plastic runners are prohibited as they are extremely slippery on our tile floor.

BOWS: Bows are allowed on the pews in the front section of the church to distinguish "family seating". They must be secured with rubber bands, elastic or ribbon. No tape or wire can be used on the pews because they damage the wood. Due to the fire code Holy Family does not allow the center aisle to be roped off or draping of the pews.

CHURCH DECORATIONS: The Worship Office works very hard to make sure that the decorations in the church are appropriate for the liturgical season. If you are getting married during the Easter or Christmas season, purchasing flowers of your own for the altar may not be necessary. During ordinary time, you may wish to add flower arrangements to the altar area. **The church environment (backdrops, statues, current floral arrangements or seasonal decorations, etc...) may not be removed for weddings.** Any decorations other than flowers or pew bows that you may want to add to the worship space must be approved by the Worship Office. Please keep in mind that there is only a 30 minute window to gather decorations after the wedding and you will most likely be working with your photographer at that time. Some couples have chosen to purchase their own tablecloth for the altar that they keep after the wedding. This is perfectly acceptable, but totally optional. If you do decide to do that, the tablecloth should be 60 x 120.

WEDDING PROGRAMS: The wedding program serves as a worship aid for those attending your wedding. If you have many people attending who are not Catholic and may not be familiar with our responses during mass, you may want to include the responses in your program so that everyone can fully participate. Holy Family does not provide programs for you, but we do have samples from other weddings and you are welcome to borrow them for ideas. Contact Mary Whiteside at 847-907-3450 or mwhiteside@holymfamilyparish.org to see samples.

WEDDING REHEARSALS: Members of our Rehearsal Ministry community conduct wedding rehearsals. These individuals are volunteers who have chosen this ministry to help make your wedding day a memorable one. Your rehearsal time is assigned when you book your wedding date. Your rehearsal minister will call you a week or two before the rehearsal to talk about the options that you have for procession, seating, and to answer any questions that you still have. Because the church is used for many events, it is important that your wedding party arrive **promptly** for rehearsal. Your wedding party includes all that have a part in your wedding (including those doing the readings). Your rehearsal will last approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Please bring the following items with you to your Wedding Rehearsal:

- **Marriage License from Cook County**
- **Unity Candle (with tapers and stand)**
- **Wedding programs/basket**
- **Bubbles/basket**
- **Copies of your first and second readings and Prayers of the Faithful**
- **Letters to each other (if Fr. Terry is presiding)**
- **Permanent Address form (found in the front pocket of your wedding manual)**

AUDIO SUPPORT

Weddings have special technical support needs, requiring you to have a trained technician in the audio/visual loft during your wedding. This is included in your wedding fees.

VIDEO-GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

- Anyone videotaping the ceremony, whether they be a videographer you hire or a relative or friend, is not permitted to enter the audio/visual loft or place a camera in the loft without a Holy Family Audio Visual Technician on hand.
- All outside videographers should coordinate with the A/V technician, should he or she wish to place a camera in the loft.
- All videographers are responsible for bringing their own cameras, and equipment such as batteries, connections, adapters, and recording media.

If you have questions about the audio-video portion of your wedding, please call Lorraine Soderlund at 847-907-3444.

PHOTOS AT YOUR WEDDING

This day of celebration is so very important in your lives, and you will undoubtedly want pictures of your church ceremony. Holy Family has set up some guidelines that help maintain the sacredness of your ceremony.

- Anyone taking pictures during the ceremony, whether they are a photographer hired by you or a relative or friend, must exercise discretion and respect at all times. Photographers may not enter the audio-visual loft or place a camera there unless there is a Holy Family Audio Visual Technician on hand.
- There is no flash photography allowed during the ceremony/Mass, but flash may be used once the wedding is over and family/wedding party pictures are being taken.
- During the ceremony, no photographer is allowed in the sanctuary area (on or above the steps across the front of the church). Instruct photographers to stay to the side of the altar area, on the tile “break” where the Baptismal font is located.
- Please also instruct your photographer to refrain from: stopping the bridal party walking in or out of the church, using spotlights, or running to capture a shot.

Many times, another wedding or event at Holy Family will immediately follow your wedding. For this reason, we ask that you quickly organize your group for post-ceremony pictures, and suggest that your receiving line take place at your reception rather than at the church. This will allow you the time you need for pictures without inconveniencing the next event scheduled at Holy Family.

It is important that your photographer checks in with the wedding minister at your wedding so that any necessary information regarding rules for photography can be shared. They are intended to help make your wedding a spiritual, joyful and memorable occasion, while still meeting your need to get great pictures of your day!

BRIDE'S ROOM: We have a room for the bride and bridesmaids to gather in before the wedding. Our room has a full length mirror and couches, and is also a washroom. Because we may have as many as four weddings per weekend, it is important that each wedding party remove all of their personal belongings as the bride and the bridesmaids leave the bride's room to begin the wedding procession. Be aware that another wedding party may be using the bride's room during your wedding ceremony. Please assign someone reliable to this task. Personal items can be returned to a car or placed in one of the last pews of the church

ALCOHOL: No alcohol (including champagne) is allowed on Church property which includes the parking lot, the church, the Narthex, the bride's room or restrooms at the rehearsal or on the wedding day itself. It is your responsibility to inform your wedding party of this parish policy. Also, make sure that no member of your wedding party drinks alcohol before arriving at the church. It is important that everyone remembers this is a sacred ceremony and appropriate behavior is expected.

SMOKING: Holy Family Parish is a non-smoking facility. This includes all rooms on the premises.

WEDDING PLANNERS: If you have hired a Wedding Planner to assist with your wedding, please make sure they have seen this manual or they have contacted the parish to learn about our wedding process. If you would like a copy of this manual for them, please contact Mary Whiteside in the Adult Faith office at mwhiteside@holyfamilyparish.org or 847-907-3450. We are happy to provide you with additional copies as needed. It is important that wedding planners understand the process at Holy Family so that we can work together to make your wedding day run smoothly.

MUSIC SELECTION AND FEES: Music selections which are pre-approved are included in this manual. If you would like a song that is not pre-approved you will need to contact Jeff Poindexter in the Music Office to have your choice approved. Fees and information about securing a soloist or musician are explained in a separate packet which is given at the Wedding Music Faire, an event that is hosted by the Worship/Music Office and is held three times per year. The Wedding Music Faire will help with the planning of your wedding music and also may help you with the selection of musicians and soloists for your wedding. Please contact the Worship Office at 847-907-3440 for more information about this event. You will be notified through email when a date is set for the next Wedding Music Faire. **The cost of soloists/musicians is not included in our wedding fees. For your wedding you will need to hire at least one soloist and one pianist.**

[Holy Family Wedding Music](#)

Click Here

RITE FOR CELEBRATING MARRIAGE

As you prepare for your wedding celebration we encourage you to take a few moments to reflect on and remember that you are preparing for a very special and holy event. An event, as Canon Law reminds us, that has been “raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament.”

We also encourage you to remember that the wedding celebration is to be a reflection of your life and love for each other; blest by Christ, and to be witness to the church of God’s love and fidelity to all of creation. This said the following work pages have been designed to help you better understand your wedding celebration, and help you make choices that will reflect your story as a Catholic Christian couple.

MASS OR CEREMONY: It is a long-standing tradition that the exchanges of consent occur in the context of a mass. Although it is very appropriate to have a wedding mass, it is by no means obligatory. There are certain circumstances where a wedding ceremony would be preferable, especially when interreligious weddings take place. A ceremony can highlight the harmony of the couples’ relationship rather than point out the differences in their religious beliefs or practices. Questions about whether to have a mass or a ceremony can be directed to the presiding minister. Please inform the church as soon as you decide if you are having a mass or a ceremony. You may want to use the Wedding Liturgy Planning Guide on page 17 to help you understand the Catholic wedding and to plan your liturgy.

WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE

A copy of this form is in the front pocket of this manual. It is helpful if you fill it out before your Wedding Rehearsal Minister contacts you (a week or two before your wedding). You do not need to turn this form in to the parish. It is just a tool to help you plan your wedding liturgy.

Bride _____ Groom _____
Wedding Date _____ Time _____ Type of Liturgy (ceremony or mass) _____
Wedding Rehearsal date _____ Time _____
Celebrant _____

Wedding Party

Parents of the Bride _____

Parents of the Groom _____

Grandparents of the Bride _____ Grandparents of the Groom _____

Any special seating requirements:

Memorial candle for (optional) _____

Approximate number of guests expected _____ Number of Ushers _____

Name of Best Man _____ Maid of Honor _____

Name of flower girl(s) _____ Age(s) _____

If your procession includes a flower girl, she could carry a small bouquet of flowers. If your flower girl will be tossing petals, please be sure that the petals are light in color (darker colors stain the floor and white gowns), and that you have someone assigned to pick up the petals after the ceremony.

Name of Ring Bearer(s) _____ Age(s) _____

Ring bearers should not actually carry the wedding rings. The wedding rings should be in the possession of the Best Man and/or Maid of Honor.

If you are having a flower girl and a ring bearer in your wedding party, they should be of a sufficient age that they can walk down the aisle without prompting and can conduct themselves in a proper manner. The flower girl and ring bearer are to sit in one of the front pews with an adult.

Procession

Prelude music (during seating of guests)	Composer
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____ (seating grandparents/parents)	_____
_____ (Bridesmaids entrance)	_____
_____ (Bride entrance)	_____

Groom will enter with parents ____ or wait at altar ____

Groom's grandparents ushered by _____

Bride's grandparents ushered by _____

Groom's parents ushered by _____

Bride's mother ushered by _____

____ Bridesmaids walk alone ____ Meet groomsmen half way ____ walk as couples from back of church

Order of Procession (Maid of Honor and Best Man walk last)

Bridesmaids	Groomsmen
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____

Wedding Liturgy

Greeting

The presiding minister/s, in the name of the community, welcomes everyone to the celebration and invites people to participate in this most joyous occasion.

Unity Candle Tapers lit by ____mothers ____ both parents ____ Other

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word consists of six required components: 1) a reading from the Old Testament; 2) a **sung** Responsorial Psalm, that the community can participate in; 3) a reading from the New Testament; 4) a sung gospel acclamation, that the community can participate in; 5) a reading from one of the four gospels, as listed in this booklet; and, 6) the homily. While the readings may vary, the order and requirements are fixed and may not be altered. Please see the wedding scripture selections beginning on page 24 for suggestions for the readings for the Liturgy of the Word.

Bride and Groom will ____kneel or ____sit in chairs

1st Reading _____ Read by _____

Responsorial Psalm _____ Composer _____

2nd Reading _____ Read by _____

Gospel Acclamation _____ Composer _____

Gospel _____(read by priest or deacon)

Homily

Marriage Rite: We remind you that you are marrying each other and that the presiding minister/s and the community are witnesses to your marriage.

Statement of Intentions: The presiding minister/s will now address certain questions to you, the bride and groom, to determine your readiness and willingness to enter freely and lovingly into this sacramental union. During your meetings with the presiding minister/s you will determine the form these questions will take.

Vows (Exchange of Consent)

Choose one of the forms below for your wedding vows. Your priest or deacon will ask you which form you would like when you meet with him.

____**Form A** : I, _____, take you, _____to be my wife/husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

____**Form B** : I, _____, take you, _____, for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

____We have written our own vows and they have been approved (Vows must include due attention to Church teaching on indissolubility and fidelity).

Exchange of Rings

The wedding rings will be blessed by the presiding minister(s) and exchanged as a symbol of the enduring bond of marriage as a reflection of God’s unending love and care for all creation. The rings are exchanged as you once again profess your love and fidelity for each other.

Name of person holding your wedding rings _____

Lighting of Unity Candle by Bride and Groom

The Unity Candle is a local custom developed to give a visual representation of the spiritual bond that the community has just witnessed. It is not a required part of your marriage rite and is completely optional. If you choose to have a Unity Candle at your wedding, you must purchase a unity candle set with one large center candle, two smaller taper candles and the stands for all of them. The set will be returned to you immediately after the wedding. The set should be brought with you to the wedding rehearsal so the rehearsal ministers can have it set up before you arrive on your wedding day.

Song during Unity Candle _____ Composer _____

Prayers of the Faithful read by _____

The Prayers of the Faithful are intentions that are placed before God for the couple, the community, the church, and the world. The intercessions offer the couple the opportunity to be united in prayer with each other, those present at the wedding, and all who have known and loved them. Sample prayers are included on page 22.

Liturgy of the Eucharist (Anything in italics is for a full mass only)

Presentation of Gifts (For a full Mass only):

Please choose 3-4 people to bring up the gifts for communion if you are having a Mass.

Eucharistic Ministers from guests? Yes ___ No ___

Names of Eucharistic Ministers: Wine _____ Wine _____

(The priest may ask you to help pour the wine or hold the bread plates to serve at your wedding)

Bride and Groom assist with bread and wine? ___ Yes ___ No

Song during presentation of gifts _____ Composer _____

Eucharistic Prayer

Eucharistic Acclamations(sung by all)

Holy Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Amen

The Lord’s Prayer (Our Father)

Sign of Peace – Sharing with one another a sign of Christ’s peace (At this time a flower may be given to mothers/parents if you choose that tradition - optional)

Song during Sign of Peace _____ Composer _____

Communion Rite

Breaking of the bread - This is traditionally known as the fraction rite and it is the moment in the liturgy where the bread is broken for distribution.

Lamb of God – Litany to accompany the breaking of the bread

Distribution of Communion

Song during Communion _____ Composer _____

Concluding Rite

Holy Family Meditation - ___Bride only ___Bride and Groom together ___Bride and Maid of Honor ___
Bride and mother ___Other _____

If you choose this local custom, we encourage you to spend a few moments in prayer at our statue of the Holy Family who modeled for us all the love and commitment intended by God for all who choose to live in fidelity and committed relationships.

Song during meditation _____ Composer _____

Nuptial Blessing

Recessional Song _____ Composer _____

Special Announcements:

Introduction – How would you like to be introduced?

Wedding Music	Booked	Paid	Given Music Outline
Pianist	_____	_____	_____
Vocalists	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
Instrumentalists	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Prayers of the Faithful

This form provides you with options for prayers to share during the Prayers of the Faithful. You will need to type a copy of this once you have made your final selections and bring it to the wedding rehearsal so it can be placed on the ambo for the reader on the wedding day.

Reader's Name: _____

Please respond with: Lord, Hear our Prayer

For _____ and _____, in thanksgiving to God who has brought them together, (PAUSE) may God continue to pour out abundant blessings on them as they begin their journey as husband and wife. (PAUSE) We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Choose 3-5 additional prayers:

For the loved ones of _____ and _____, for their parents, _____, their families, and all those whose love and support has brought them to this day, (PAUSE) may God return to them a hundredfold the kindness and love that they have given to this couple newly united in Christ. (PAUSE) We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all married couples, (PAUSE) may the witness of love made visible today in the union of _____ and _____, renew their desire to continue to know, love and serve God and one another through married life. (PAUSE) We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who encounter _____ and _____ (PAUSE), may they see in this couple the love of God for all creation made visible through this sacramental union of love and commitment. (PAUSE) We pray to the Lord..... *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all of those in our thoughts today, especially for those who could not be here, (PAUSE) may we know that their continued support for _____ and _____ does not go unnoticed by our God who holds all in love. (PAUSE) We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith, we remember especially _____, may they rest well in the love of God who has known and loved them since before the world began. (PAUSE) We pray to the Lord. *Lord, hear our prayer.*

WEDDING CEREMONY AND MASS ORDER

If you are having a wedding ceremony only and not a full mass, the order of the ceremony is as follows:

Ceremony (No Mass)

Procession/Music

Greeting

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel reading

Homily

Vows (Exchange of Consent)

Blessing/Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle (optional)

Prayers of the Faithful

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Visit to the Holy Family (optional)

Blessing and dismissal

Recessional

Wedding Mass

Procession/Music

Greeting

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Acclamation

Homily

Vows (Exchange of Consent)

Blessing/Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle (optional)

Prayers of the Faithful

Presentation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Acclamations

Our Father

Sign of Peace

Communion Rite

**Visit to the Holy Family
(optional)**

Blessing

Recessional

Scripture Selections

You will need to choose three readings for your wedding. The first reading is from the Old Testament, the second is from the New Testament (but not a Gospel reading) and the third is the Gospel reading which will be read by your priest or deacon. **You will need to choose readers for the first two readings.** The reading choices are on the following pages so you can copy them for your readers and bring the pages to the wedding rehearsal. Your wedding rehearsal minister will have them set out for your readers at your wedding. If you have a favorite reading that is not included in our options, please discuss it with your priest when you meet with him.

First Reading choices (Old Testament – Choose someone to read)

Genesis 1:26-28, 31 (The Creation of Man and Woman)
Genesis 2:18-24 (The Creation of Woman)
Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 (A Really Good Wife and a Joyful Husband)
Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67 (The Meeting of Isaac and Rebekah)
Jeremiah 31:31-34 (The New Covenant of the People of God)
Tobit 8:5-7 (Prayer of the New Spouses)
Tobit 7:9-10 (The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah)
Song of Songs 2:2-10, 14, 16, 8: 6-7 (Love is as strong as death)

Second Reading Choices (New Testament – Choose someone to read)

1 John 4:7-12 (*God is love*)
1 John 3:18-24 (*Love, Real and Active*)
Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 (*The Love of Christ*)
Revelation 19:1, 5-9 (*Marriage of the Lamb*)
Colossians 3:12-17 (*Live in Love and Thanksgiving*)
Ephesians 5:2, 25-32 (*The Mystery of Marriage – short version*)
Ephesians 5:2, 21-33 (*The Mystery of Marriage – long version*)
Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (*The Life of a Christian – short version*)
Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (*The Life of a Christian – long version*)
1 Corinthians 13:1-7 (*The Greatest of These is Love – short version*)
1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (*The Greatest of These is Love – long version*)
1 Peter 3:1-9 (*Peace and Harmony in the Family*)

Gospel Readings (Priest or Deacon will read)

Matthew 5:1-12 (*The Beatitudes*)
Matthew 19:3-6 (*What God has United, Man Must Not Divide*)
Matthew 22:35-40 (*Love, the Greatest Commandment*)
Matthew 5:13-16 (*Salt of the Earth and Light of the World*)
Mark 10:6-9 (*Two Become One Body*)
John 15:9-12 (*Remain in My Love*)
John 15:12-16 (*Love One Another as I Have Loved You*)
John 2:1-11 (*Marriage Feast of Cana*)
John 17:20-23 (*That They May be One as We are One – short version*)
John 17:20-26 (*That They May be One as We are One – long version*)
Matthew 7:24-25 (*House Built Upon a Rock – short version*)
Matthew 7:24-29 (*House Built Upon a Rock – long version*)

First Reading Choices
Old Testament

First Reading – Genesis 1: 26-28, 31
The Creation of Man and Woman

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

First Reading – Genesis 2: 18-24
The Creation of Woman

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

First Reading – Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16
A Really Good Wife and a Joyful Husband

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Happy is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled.

A loyal wife brings joy to her husband, and he will complete his years in peace.

A good wife is a great blessing; she will be granted among the blessings of the man who fears the Lord. Whether rich or poor, his heart is content, and at all times his face is cheerful.

A wife's charm delights her husband, and her skill puts flesh on his bones.

A silent wife is a gift from the Lord, and nothing is so precious as her self-discipline. A modest wife adds charm to charm, and no scales can weigh the value of her chastity. Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord, so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

First Reading – Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67
The Meeting of Isaac and Rebekah

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The thing comes from the LORD; we cannot speak to you anything bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

And they called Rebekah, and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will." So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham's servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

"May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

First Reading – Jeremiah 31: 31-34
The New Covenant of the People of God

Reader _____

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely 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 that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

First Reading – Tobit 8: 5-7
Prayer of the New Spouses

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Tobit.

On the wedding night Sarah got up, and she and Tobias began to pray and implore that they might be kept safe. Tobias † began by saying,

“Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.

Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.

You made Adam, and for him you made his wife Eve
as a helper and support. From the two of them the human
race has sprung.

You said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.’

I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust,
but with sincerity. Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together.” The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

First Reading – Tobit 7: 9-10, 11-15
The Marriage of Tobias and Sarah

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Tobit.

Then Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and received them very warmly.

When they had bathed and washed themselves and had reclined to dine, Tobias said to Raphael, "Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah." But Raguel overheard it and said to the lad, "Eat and drink, and be merry tonight. For no one except you, brother, has the right to marry my daughter Sarah. Likewise I am not at liberty to give her to any other man than yourself, because you are my nearest relative. But let me explain to you the true situation more fully, my child. I have given her to seven men of our kinsmen, and all died on the night when they went in to her. But now, my child, eat and drink, and the Lord will act on behalf of you both." But Tobias said, "I will neither eat nor drink anything until you settle the things that pertain to me." So Raguel said, "I will do so. She is given to you in accordance with the decree in the book of Moses, and it has been decreed from heaven that she be given to you. Take your kinswoman; from now on you are her brother and she is your sister. She is given to you from today and forever. May the Lord of heaven, my child, guide and prosper you both this night and grant you mercy and peace." Then Raguel summoned his daughter Sarah. When she came to him he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias, saying, "Take her to be your wife in accordance with the law and decree written in the book of Moses. Take her and bring her safely to your father. And may the God of heaven prosper your journey with his peace." Then he called her mother and told her to bring writing material; and he wrote out a copy of a marriage contract, to the effect that he gave her to him as wife according to the decree of the law of Moses. Then they began to eat and drink.

Raguel called his wife Edna and said to her, "Sister, get the other room ready, and take her there." The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

First Reading – Song of Songs 2: 2-10, 14, 16, 8: 6-7
Love is as Strong as Death

Reader _____

A reading from the Song of Songs.

As a lily among brambles, so is my love among maidens.
As an apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved
among young men.
With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to
my taste.
He brought me to the banqueting house, and his intention toward
me was love.
Sustain me with raisins, refresh me with apples; for I am faint with
love.
O that his left hand were under my head, and that his right hand
embraced me!
I adjure you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the gazelles or the
wild does:
do not stir up or awaken love until it is ready! The voice of my
beloved!
Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the
hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.
My beloved speaks and says to me:
“Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;
O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face, let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.
My beloved is mine and I am his; he pastures his flock among the
lilies.
Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for
love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.
Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.
Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.
If one offered for love all the wealth of his house, it would be
utterly scorned.
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading Choices
New Testament

Second Reading – 1 John 4:7-12
God is Love

Reader _____

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – 1 John 3:18-24
Love, Real and Active

Reader _____

A reading from the first letter of John.

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
The Love of Christ

Reader _____

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

What then are we to say about these things?

If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us,

will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised,

who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,

nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,

will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – Revelation 19:1, 5-9
Marriage of the Lamb

Reader _____

A reading from the book of Revelation.

And from the throne came a voice saying,
“Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear
him, small and great.”

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great
multitude,

like the sound of many waters and like the sound of
mighty thunderpeals,

crying out, “Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;

to her it has been granted to be clothed with fine
linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me,

“Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the
marriage supper of the Lamb.”

And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” The
Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – Colossians 3:12-17
Live in Love

Reader _____

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility,
meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint
against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord †
has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds
everything together in perfect harmony. And let the
peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you
were called in the one body, and be thankful.

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

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

Second Reading – Ephesians 5:2, 25-32
The Mystery of Marriage (short version)

Reader _____

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind — yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – Ephesians 5:2, 21-33
The Mystery of Marriage (long version)

Reader _____

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife just as Christ is the head of the Church,

the body of which he is the Savior. Just as the church is subject to Christ,

so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice

to God. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for

her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as

to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the

kind — yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands

should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body.

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

This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church.

Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Romans 12:1-2, 9-13
The Life of a Christian (short version)

Reader _____

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,

to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God,

which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world,

but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern

what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – Romans 12:1-2, 9-18
The Life of a Christian (long version)

Reader _____

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight

of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 13:1-7
The Greatest of These is Love (short version)

Reader _____

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love,

I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers,

and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith,

so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,

but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
The Greatest of These is Love (long version)

Reader _____

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith,
so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may
boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.
Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or
rude.
It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;
it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth.
It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end;
as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end.
For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; but when the
complete
comes, the partial will come to an end. When I was a child, I spoke like a
child,
I thought like a child,
I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish
ways.

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face.
Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully
known.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these
is love.
The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Second Reading – 1 Peter 3:1-9
Peace and Harmony in the Family

Reader _____

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Wives, in the same way, accept the authority of your husbands,
so that,
even if some of them do not obey the word, they may be won
over without

a word by their wives' conduct, when they see the purity and
reverence of your lives.

Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair, and by
wearing gold ornaments

or fine clothing; rather, let your adornment be the inner self with
the lasting beauty

of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in God's sight.

It was in this way long ago that the holy women who hoped in
God used to adorn themselves by accepting the authority of their
husbands. Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord.

You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good
and never let fears alarm you.

Husbands, in the same way, show consideration for your wives
in your life together,

paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex, † since they too
are also heirs

of the gracious gift of life—so that nothing may hinder your
prayers.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one
another,

a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or
abuse for abuse;

but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.

It is for this that you were called—that you might inherit a
blessing. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

GOSPEL READINGS

(Choose ONE to be read by your presider. You don't need to make a copy of it, but you will need to let him know which Gospel reading you have chosen.)

Matthew 5: 1-12 THE BEATITUDES

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus † saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil

against you falsely † on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 19: 3-6 WHAT GOD HAS UNITED, MAN MUST NOT DIVIDE

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him they asked,

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?”

He answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘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, let no one separate.” *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 22: 35-40 LOVE, THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, tested Jesus and asked, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment.

And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 5: 13-16 SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?

It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.”

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others,

so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Mark 10: 6-9 TWO BECOME ONE BODY

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark.

But 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, let no one separate.” The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 15: 9-12 REMAIN IN MY LOVE

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love,

just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you,

and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ*

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John 15: 12-16 LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved 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 do not call you servants † any longer, because the servant † does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.

The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 2: 1-11 **MARRIAGE FEAST OF CANA**

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.

When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me?"

My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.

Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.

Jesus said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him:

"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

John 17: 20-23 (short version) **THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ARE ONE**

John 17: 20-26 (long version)

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

(Short Version)

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, † so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

(Long Version)

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, † so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. "Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." *The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*

Matthew 7: 21, 24-25 (short version) **HOUSE BUILT UPON A ROCK**
Matthew 7: 21, 24-29 (long version)

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

(Short Version)

“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 then who hears 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 beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. The gospel of the Lord.

(Long Version)

“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 then who hears 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 beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house,

and it fell—and great was its fall!”

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things,

the crowds were astounded at his teaching,

for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes. The Gospel of the Lord. *Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*