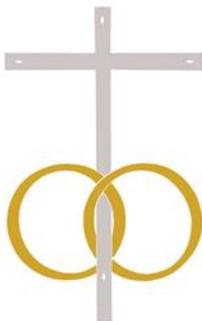




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PREPARING FOR THE RITE OF MARRIAGE



Opening Prayer (Please Pick One)

OPA-1:

*Be attentive to our prayer, O Lord,
And in your kindness uphold what you have established
For the increase of the human race,
So that the union you have created
May be kept safe by your assistance.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

OPA-2:

*O God, who in creating the human race willed
that man and wife should be one,
join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love
these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of
Marriage,
so that, as you make their love fruitful,
they may become, by your grace,
witnesses to charity itself.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

OPB-1:

*Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,
and in your kindness
pour out your grace on these your servants (N. and N.),
that, coming together before your altar
they may be confirmed in love for one another.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

OPB-2:

*O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant
you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,
grant, we pray, to these your servants,
that what they receive in faith they may live out in deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

OPC-1:

*Grant, we pray, almighty God, that these your servants,
now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony,
may grow in the faith they profess and enrich your Church with
faithful offspring.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

OPC-2:

*O God, who since the beginning of the world
have blessed the increase of offspring,
show favour to our supplications
and pour forth the help of your blessing
on these your servants (N. and N.),
so that in the union of Marriage
they may be bound together in mutual affection,
in likeness of mind, and in shared holiness.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

(For the Liturgy of the Word, an Old Testament Reading, New Testament Reading and a Gospel are selected. In your selection one of the three Readings you choose must have a * by it.)

Old Testament Selections:

*Selection OT-1 (Genesis 1:26-28, 31a)

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.
Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air and the cattle,
and over all the wild animals,
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;
in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air,
and all the living things that move on the earth.”

God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

The word of the Lord.

***Selection OT-2 (Genesis 2:18-24)**

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 helper suited 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 living creature was then its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle,

all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals;

but none proved to be a helper suited to 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

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.

***Selection OT-3 (Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67)**

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

“I bowed down in worship of the LORD,
blessing the LORD, the God of my master Abraham,
who had led me on the right road
to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.
If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master,
let me know;
but if not, let me know that too.
I can then proceed accordingly.”

Laban and his household said in reply:

“This thing comes from the LORD;
we can say nothing to you either for or against it.
Here is Rebekah, ready for you;
take her with you,
that she may become the wife of your master’s son,
as the LORD has said.”

So they called Rebekah and asked her,

“Do you wish to go with this man?”

She answered, “I do.”

At this allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave
with Abraham’s servant and his men.

Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

“Sister, may you grow
into thousands of myriads;
And may your descendants gain possession
of the gates of their enemies!”

Then Rebekah and her maids started out;
they mounted their camels and followed the man.
So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi
and was living in the region of the Negeb.

One day toward evening he went out ... in the field,
and as he looked around he notices that camels were approaching.

Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?" "That is my master," replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil.

The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her and thus she became his wife. In his love for her Isaac found solace after the death of his mother Sarah.
The word of the Lord.

***Selection OT-4 (Tobit 7:6-14)**

A reading from the Book of Tobit

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of and greeted him. Raguel sprang up, kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy. But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept aloud. He said to Tobiah: "My child, God bless you! You are the son of a noble and good father. But what a terrible misfortune that such a righteous and charitable man should be afflicted with blindness!" He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah. His wife Edna also wept for Tobit; and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.

Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and gave them a cordial reception. When they had bathed and reclined to eat, Tobiah said to Raphael, "Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah." Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy:

“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,
for no man has a greater right to marry my daughter Sarah
than you, brother.
Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you,
because you are my closest relative.
But I will explain the situation to you very.
I have given her in marriage to seven men
all of whom were kinsmen of ours,
and all died on the very night they approached her.
But now, son, eat and drink.
I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”
Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing
until you set aside what belongs to me.”

Raguel said to him: “I will do it.
She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses.
Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!
Take your kinswoman
from now on you are her love,
and she is your beloved.
She is yours today and ever after.
And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.
May he grant you mercy and peace.”
Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him.
He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words:
“Take her according to the law.
According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your
wife.
Take her and bring her safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity.”
He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,
so that he might draw up a marriage contract
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.
Her mother brought the scroll,
and he drew up the contract,
to which they affixed their seals.
Afterward they began to eat and drink.
The word of the Lord.

***Selection OT-5 (Tobit 8:4b-8)**

A reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah rose from bed and said to his wife,
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance
might be theirs.

They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;
praised be your name forever and ever!
Let the heavens and all your creation
praise you forever.

You made Adam, and you gave him his wife Eve
to be his help and support;

and from these two the human race descended.

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

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine
not because of lust,

but for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and on her,
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

They said together, “Amen, amen!”

The word of the Lord.

Selection OT-6 (Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31)

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Selection OT-7 (Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a)

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover—here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me,
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,

in the secret recesses of the cliff,
Let me see you,
let me hear your voice,
For your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely.”

My lover belongs to me and I to him;
He says to me:

“Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

Selection OT-8 (Sirach 26:1-4; 13-16)

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste person.
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;

indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.
Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.
The word of the Lord.

Selection OT-9 (Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a)

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the LORD,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.
But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD.
I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the LORD.
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD.
The word of the Lord.

New Testament Selections:

Selection NT-1 (8:31b-35, 37-39)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-2 -- Long Form (Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God,

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,

holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age

but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.
Bless those who persecute you,
bless and do not curse them.
Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.
Have the same regard for one another;
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;
do not be wise in your own estimation.
Do not repay anyone evil for evil;
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.
If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.
The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-2 – Short Form (Romans 12:1-2, 9-13)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere;
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love one another with mutual affection;
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Do not grow slack in zeal,
be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.
Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.
The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-3 (Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves;

let each of us please our neighbor for the good,
for building up.

For Christ did not please himself;

May the God of endurance and encouragement
grant you to think in harmony with one another,
in keeping with Christ Jesus,

that with one accord you may with one voice
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,
for the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-4 (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20)

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

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,
and the Lord is for the body;
God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
Avoid immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,
but the immoral person sins against his own body.

Do you not know that your body
is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
For you have been purchased at a price.
Therefore, glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-5 (1 Cor 12:31-13:8a)

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, it 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.

Selection NT-6 – Short Form (Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the Church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the Church,
because we are members of his Body.

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

This is a great mystery,

but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.
In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,
and the wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

***Selection NT-6 – Long Form (Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33)**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.
For the husband is head of his wife
just as Christ is head of the Church,
he himself the savior of the body.
As the Church is subordinate to Christ,
so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.
Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the Church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.
So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
He who loves his wife loves himself.
For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the Church,
because we are members of his Body.

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

This is a great mystery,
but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.
In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,
and the wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-7 (Philippians 4:4-9)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,

whatever is just,

whatever is pure,

whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,

if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-8 (Colossians 3:12-17)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience,
bearing with one another and forgiving one another,
if one has a grievance against another;
as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

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

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,
the peace into which you were also called in one body.
And be thankful.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-9 (Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b)

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,
for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.
Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,
and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,
for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all
and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money
but be content with what you have,
for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.

Thus we may say with confidence:

*The Lord is my helper,
and I will not be afraid.*

The word of the Lord.

***Selection NT-10 (1 Peter 3:1-9)**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that,
even if some disobey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:
braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes,
but rather the hidden character of the heart,
expressed in the imperishable beauty
of a gentle and calm disposition,
which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in
God once used to adorn themselves
and were subordinate to their husbands;
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."
You are her children when you do what is good
and fear no intimidation.

Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding,
showing honor to the weaker female sex,
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that
you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-11 (1John 3:18-24)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Children: let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him
in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The word of the Lord.

Selection NT-12 (1 John 4:7-12)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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 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.

Selection NT-13 (Revelation 19:1, 5-9a)

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice
of a great multitude in heaven, saying:

“Alleluia!

Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God,
A voice coming from the throne said:

“Praise our God, all you his servants,
and you who revere him, small and great.”

Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude
or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder,
as they said:

“Alleluia!

The Lord has established his reign,
our God, the almighty.

Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory.

For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,
his bride has made herself ready.

She was allowed to wear
a bright, clean linen garment.”

(The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

Then the angel said to me,

“Write this:

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

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Selections:

Selection G-1 (Matthew 5:1-12a)

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:

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

Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Selection G-2 (Matthew 5:13-16)

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

Selection G-3 – Long Form (Matthew 7:21, 24-29)

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’

will enter the kingdom of heaven,

but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

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

And everyone who listens to these words of mine

but does not act on them

will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,

and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words,

the crowds were astonished at his teaching,

for he taught them as one having authority,

and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Selection G-4 (Matthew 19:3-6)**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,

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

He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning

the Creator made them male and female and said,

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother

and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Selection G-5 (Matthew 22:35-40)

One of the Pharisee, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking,
“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”

He said to him,

“You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depend on these two
commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Selection G-6 (Mark 10:6-9)**

Jesus said:

“From the beginning of creation,
God made them male and female.

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

So they are no longer two but one flesh.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

***Selection G-7 (John 2:1-11)**

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”
And Jesus said to her,
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come.”
His mother said to the servers,
“Do whatever he tells you.”
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial
washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them,
“Fill the jars with water.”
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”
So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
(although the servers who had drawn the water knew),
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
“Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now.”
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Selection G-8 (John 15:9-12)

Jesus said to his disciples:
“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.
Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,
just as I have kept my Father's commandments
and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Selection G-9 (John 15:12-16)

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,
because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,
because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,
so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Selection G-10 – Long Form (John 17:20-26)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"I pray not only for my disciples,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,

that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.
Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Selection G-10 – Short Form (John 17:20-23)

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

The Celebration of Matrimony

*Dearly beloved,
you have come together into the house of the Church,
so that in the presence of the Church's minister and the community
your intention to enter into Marriage
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.
Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.*

*Through a special Sacrament,
he enriches and strengthens
those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism,
that they may be faithful to each other for ever
and assume all the responsibilities of married life.
And so, in the presence of the Church,
I ask you to state your intentions.*

The Questions before the Consent

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

The bridegroom and bride each say: Yes.

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

The bridegroom and bride each say: Yes.

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

The bridegroom and bride each say: Yes.

The Consent

*Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony
join your right hands and declare your consent
before God and his Church.*

Form A:

Option A1:

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

***OR**

Option A2:

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

Form B

Option B1:

First the Priest/Deacon asks the groom:

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

***OR**

Option B2:

***N.**, do you take, **N.** for your lawful wife, (husband)
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
until death do you part? **Response***

The Reception of the Consent

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

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

BR-1

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

R. Amen.

***OR**

BR-2

*Bless, O Lord, these rings,
which we bless + in your name,
so that those who wear them
may remain entirely faithful to each other,
abide in peace and in your will,
and live always in mutual charity.
Through Christ our Lord.*

R. Amen.

***OR**

BR-3

*Bless + and sanctify your servants
in their love, O Lord,
and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,
remind them of their love for one another.
Through Christ our Lord.*

R. Amen.

The Groom/the Bride says:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

The Prayer of the Faithful

Or you can make your own using this format – putting in your names and the names of the deceased loved ones

Option 1:

*Dear brothers and sisters,
as we call to mind the special gift of grace and charity
by which God has been pleased to crown and consecrate
the love of our sister **N.** and our brother **N.**
let us commend them to the Lord.*

Petitions “Read By”

That these faithful Christians, **N.** and **N.**,
newly joined in Holy Matrimony,
may always enjoy health and well-being,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That he will bless their covenant
as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That they be granted perfect and fruitful love,
peace and strength,
and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian,
let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the Christian people
may grow in virtue day by day
and that all who are burdened by any need

may receive the help of grace from above,
let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the grace of the Sacrament
will be renewed by the Holy Spirit
in all married persons here present, let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

*Graciously pour out upon this husband and wife, O Lord,
the Spirit of your love,
to make them one heart and one soul,
so that nothing whatever may divide those you have joined
and no harm may come to those you have filled with your blessing.
Through Christ our Lord.*

R. Amen.

Option 2:

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

Petitions "Read By"

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all members of our families
who have passed from this world,
and for all the departed, especially _____.
let us pray to the Lord. **R. Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

*Lord Jesus, who are present in our midst,
as N. and N. seal their union
accept our prayer
and fill us with your Spirit.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.*

R. Amen.

Prayer over Gifts (Offertory Prayer)

PG-A:

*Receive, we pray, O Lord,
the offering made on the occasion
of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage,
and, just as your goodness is its origin,
may your providence guide its course.
Through Christ our Lord.*

PG-B:

*Receive in your kindness, Lord,
the offerings we bring in gladness before you,
and in your fatherly love
watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.
Through Christ our Lord.*

PG-C:

*Show favor to our supplications, O Lord,
and receive with a kindly countenance
the oblation we offer for these your servants,
joined now in a holy covenant,
that through these mysteries
they may be strengthened in love
for one another and for you.
Through Christ our Lord.*

Preface

P A:

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you have forged the covenant of marriage
as a sweet yoke of harmony and an unbreakable bond of peace,
so that the chaste and fruitful love of holy Matrimony
may serve to increase the children you adopt as your own.
By your providence and grace, O Lord,
you accomplish the wonder of this twofold design:
that, while the birth of children brings beauty to the world,
their rebirth in Baptism gives increase to the Church,
through Christ our Lord.
Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts....

P-B:

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
through Christ our Lord.*

For in him you have made a new covenant with your people,

*so that, as you have redeemed man and woman
by the mystery of Christ's Death and Resurrection,
so in Christ you might make them partakers of divine nature
and joint heirs with him of heavenly glory.*

In the union of husband and wife

you give a sign of Christ's loving gift of grace,

*so that the Sacrament we celebrate might draw us back more deeply
into the wondrous design of your love.*

And so, with the Angels and all the Saints,

we praise you, and without end we acclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

P-C:

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

V. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,*

Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

*For you willed that the human race,
created by the gift of your goodness,
should be raised to such high dignity
that in the union of husband and wife
you might bestow a true image of your love.*

*For those you created out of charity
you call to the law of charity without ceasing
and grant them a share in your eternal charity.*

*And so, the Sacrament of holy Matrimony,
as the abiding sign of your own love,
consecrates the love of man and woman,
through Christ our Lord.*

*Through him, with the Angels and all the Saints,
we sing the hymn of your praise, as without end we acclaim:*

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts...

Nuptial Blessing

NB-A

*Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord
that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out the blessings of his grace
and make of one heart in love
(by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)
those he has joined by a holy covenant.*

*O God,
who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,*

*and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;*

*O God,
who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant
you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;
O God,
by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.
Look now with favor upon these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.
Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into their hearts,
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.*

*May the grace of love and peace
abide in your daughter N.,
and let her always follow the example of those holy women
whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.
May her husband entrust his heart to her,
so that, acknowledging her as his equal
and his joint heir to the life of grace,
he may show her due honour
and cherish her always
with the love that Christ has for his Church.*

*And now, Lord, we implore you:
may these your servants
hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh,
may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
(may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children).*

*And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which they hope,
they may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.*

R. Amen.

NB-B

*Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,
that (partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ)
they may always be bound together by love for one another.*

*All pray in silence. Then the priest, with hands extended over the
bride and bridegroom continues:*

*Holy Father,
who formed man in your own image,
male and female you created them,
so that as husband and wife,
united in body and heart,
they might fulfill their calling in the world;*

*O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love,
willed that the love of spouses for each other
should foreshadow the covenant
you graciously made with your people,
so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign,
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church
might become manifest
in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;*

*Graciously stretch out your right hand
over these your servants (N. and N.), we pray,
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Grant, O Lord, that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,
they may share with one another the gifts of your love
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,
become one heart and one mind.*

*May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds
the home they are forming
(and prepare their children to become members
of your heavenly household
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).*

*Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter N.,
so that, by being a good wife (and mother),
she may bring warmth to her home
with a love that is pure
and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.*

*Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on N., your servant,
that he may be a worthy, good and faithful husband
(and a provident father).*

*Grant, holy Father, that,
desiring to approach your table
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,
they may one day have the joy
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.*

R. Amen.

NB-C

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

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

*May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, N.,
and upon N., her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit*

*set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,
they may (adorn their family with children and)
enrich the Church.*

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

R. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PC-A:

*By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,
accompany with your loving favour
what in your providence you have instituted,
so as to make of one heart in love
those you have already joined in this holy union
(and replenished with the one Bread and the one Chalice).
Through Christ our Lord.*

PC-B:

*Having been made partakers at your table,
we pray, O Lord,
that those who are united by the Sacrament of Marriage
may always hold fast to you
and proclaim your name to the world.
Through Christ our Lord.*

PC-C:

*Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that the power of the Sacrament we have received
may find growth in these your servants
and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered
may be felt by us all.
Through Christ our Lord.*

SOLEMN BLESSING AT THE END OF MASS

SB-A:

*May God the Eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.*

R. Amen.

*May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.*

R. Amen.

*May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully
into the eternal dwelling of God.*

R. Amen.

*And he blesses all the people, adding:
And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.*

R. Amen.

SB-B:

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy and bless you in your children.

R. Amen.

May the Only Begotten Son of God stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

R. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God always pour forth his love into your hearts.

R. Amen.

*And he blesses all the people, adding:
And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.*

R. Amen.

SB-C:

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

May the Lord Jesus, who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence, bless you and your loved ones.

R. Amen.

May he, who loved the Church to the end unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

R. Amen.

May the Lord grant that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection, you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

R. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

Bride's Name: _____

Groom's Name: _____

Liturgy Planner

Instructions: Read through the selections on pages 1-48 and check the ones you choose. Bring this form with you when you speak to your Priest or Deacon to plan your wedding ceremony. The Priest/Deacon will fill out this form.

(* only select if you are having a Mass

Best Man: _____

Maid of Honor: _____

Bridal Party - Procession: _____

Opening Prayer: Selection Number: _____

Old Testament Reading: Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

Reader: _____

New Testament Reading: Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

Reader: _____

Gospel: Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

The Giving of Consent (Vows) Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

Blessing of Rings: Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

* Prayer of the Faithful: Reader: _____ Option # _____

* Presentation of the Gifts: 1) _____ 2) _____

3) _____ 4) _____

* Prayer over the Gifts: Selection Number: _____

* Preface: Prayer Number: _____

Nuptial Blessing: Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

* Receiving Communion: Bride: _____ Groom: _____

Maid of Honor: _____ Best Man: _____

* Prayer after Communion Selection Number: _____ Page: _____

Final Blessing Selection Number: _____ Page: _____