**RITE OF MARRIAGE**

Please return this copy to the Parish Office at least two weeks prior to your wedding.

PLANNING SHEET

Rite of Marriage for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

To be celebrated at St. Helena Church/Chapel on (day/date) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at (time) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name/phone # of person planning the Liturgy: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Priest Celebrant is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ORDER OF SERVICE and SELECTION RECORD

***ENTRANCE RITE***

BRIDAL PROCESSION*(Walk-in order)* Accompanying music

*[Please be sure to discuss seating and walk-in order with all parties involved prior to the wedding rehearsal.]*

Grandmother(s) of the Bride

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Grandmother(s) of the Groom

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mother of the Groom

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mother of the Bride

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Bridesmaids Groomsmen

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Maid/Matron of Honor Best Man

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDE Accompanying music

***COLLECT (Opening Prayer):*** (Found on the pink page.)

We have selected **A** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

***LITURGY OF THE WORD***

READINGS:

FIRST READING (Old Testament): (Found on the purple pages.)

We have selected **B** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. [Long form \_\_, Short form \_\_, N/A \_\_]

To be proclaimed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: (Sung)

*(The Responsorial Psalm is discussed/chosen with Cheryl Platco, Music Director.)*

SECOND READING (New Testament): (Found on the blue pages.)

We have selected **D** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. [Long form \_\_, Short form \_\_, N/A \_\_]

To be proclaimed by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: (Sung)

*(The Gospel Acclamation is discussed/chosen with Cheryl Platco, Music Director.)*

GOSPEL READING: (Found on the green pages.)

We have selected **F** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. [Long form \_\_, Short form \_\_, N/A \_\_]

*\*The Holy Gospel will be proclaimed by the Priest.*

***RITE OF MARRIAGE***

EXCHANGE OF VOWS: (Found on the salmon page.)

We have selected: **H1** \_\_ **H2** \_\_ AND will be in the following form:

Repeated after the priest \_\_ By answering “I do” \_\_ Memorized \_\_ Read \_\_

BLESSING OF RINGS: (Found on the gold page.)

We have selected **I** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (General Intercessions): (Found on the yellow pages.)

We have selected: **J2** \_\_ or **J3** \_\_ to be read by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*(Please be sure to give a copy of the Prayer of the Faithful (Intercessions) to the person you selected to read, as well as to the church at least two weeks before the Mass.)*

***LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***

PRESENTATION AND PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

Bread/Wine will be brought forward by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(2 or 3 people) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS: (Found on the green page.)

We have selected **K #**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

PREFACE: (Found on the blue pages.)

We have selected **L** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING: (Found on the purple pages.)

We have selected **M** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

THE SIGN OF PEACE *Please note with whom you will exchange the Sign of Peace*:

Each other only\_\_ Each other & parents \_\_ Each other, parents & wedding party \_\_

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (Found on the pink page.)

We have selected **N** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

WILL FLOWERS BE PRESENTED TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY? Yes \_\_ No \_\_

***CONCLUDING RITE***

FINAL BLESSING: (Found on the white page.)

We have selected **O** #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

RECESSIONAL Accompanying Music

**REQUIREMENTS FOR PLANNING A WEDDING**

It is our sincere prayer that the celebration of your wedding be a fitting, sacred, and joyous beginning of a lifetime of happy and holy years of married life. With this in mind, we offer the following information to assist you in the preparations of your wedding and your marriage.

**I. Marriage Preparation Program**

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia requires that all couples attend a special Sacramental Preparation Program. Our parish holds two Pre-Cana days a year, usually in March and October. Couples are asked to check out the dates in the Sunday Bulletin and to contact Lena & Rob Gelenberg at *Robgel@comcast.net* or call 610-292-8359 and register for the Program. If you cannot make our Pre-Cana Day, you will need to call the Archdiocesan Family Life Bureau at 610-660-9002 and register for one of theirs.

**II. Pre-Marital Questionnaire**

The Church requires that persons anticipating marriage answer a series of questions designed to determine that the parties are free to marry and have the necessary knowledge and intentions for contracting a valid and licit marriage. This questionnaire should be completed with the priest at least six months prior to the wedding.

**III. Required Documents**

The following must be presented to the priest within 2 months of the pre-marital questionnaire being filled out:

1. Recently issued BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE, even if you were baptized in St. Helena Church. The certificates must be issued in the last six months. The non-Catholic party in a mixed marriage must also produce a baptismal certificate, but it need not be recently issued.
2. Catholics who are not members of St. Helena Church must produce a LETTER OF FREEDOM TO MARRY from the priest of their own parish.
3. A CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE from the parish where Confirmation was received even if it was in St. Helena Church.
4. Any other document(s) required due to special circumstances, e.g. decree of nullity, etc.

**IV. Music**

The organist and soloist are provided by the parish. As soon as your wedding date is confirmed, contact Mrs. Cheryl Platco at (610) 505-3038 or [chmo32759@aol.com](mailto:chmo32759@aol.com) for an appointment to discuss the music and hymns for your wedding. She is the Director of Music. No secular music or songs have a rightful place in Liturgy or in the Church. If, for some very good reason, a musical group and/or soloist other than those provided by the parish is/are desired, the Pastor and Mrs. Moser must approve them. The same restrictions apply.

Special requests, if acceptable, are welcomed provided the music and lyrics are received at least one month prior to the wedding. The fee for the organist is $150 (2013-14). The fee for the soloist is $150 (2013-14). Requests for more involved music, such as a flutist, violinist, etc., will require additional fees.

**V. Liturgical Preparations**

The bride and groom are encouraged to work closely with the celebrant in planning the liturgy. You will receive a Packet that contains selections of vows, readings, etc. during the time of Pre-Marital Questionnaire appointment, from which you can make your choices. If both the bride and groom are Catholic, they may have either a Nuptial Mass or a Nuptial Ceremony. If one of the parties is not Catholic, a Nuptial Ceremony is appropriate. The Wedding Processional consists of two altar servers, the priest, and bridesmaids & ushers together. After this, there are choices. If you choose to have your own readers, be sure they are well prepared! They should attend the rehearsal. Finally, please consult the priest before planning a wedding program booklet.

**VI. Financial Obligations**

An appropriate offering for the Church is considered to be a minimum of $600 for active and financially supporting members of the parish; for non-supporting members, $1,000; and for non-parishioners, the fee is $1,500. It is also customary to give a donation to the two altar servers of $15 each. The fees for the organist and soloist are not included in the church offering and can be found under “Music.”

**VII. Documents and Fees**

The following need to be brought to the rectory at least *two weeks* before the rehearsal. Each are to be placed in separate, clearly marked envelopes:

1. The complete Marriage license and envelope.
2. The Church offering ($600 for active, supporting members; $1,000 for non-active parishioners; $1,500 for non-parishioners. 2013-14)
3. The Offering for the organist and soloist ($150 each, 2013-14)
4. The offering for the two altar servers ($15 each, 2013-14)
5. The selections of vows and readings for your liturgy.

**VIII. Rehearsal**

The day and time for rehearsal should be determined after the initial meeting. If the celebrant is not a priest of the parish, he is welcome to attend the rehearsal. Please call the Parish Office at 610-275-7711 to set your rehearsal day and time. Our Wedding Rehearsal Team conducts the rehearsal. Remember, traffic is congested in this area. Please be on time for your rehearsal.

**IX. Confession**

Confessions are NOT heard at the time of the rehearsal. We remind the bride and groom and members of the bridal party (including parents) to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation at some time prior to the wedding (perhaps the previous Saturday during regularly scheduled confession time at their local parish).

**X. Photographers and Videographers**

Please advise your photographer/videographer to consult the celebrant before the ceremony.

1. No photographer/videographer is to enter the sanctuary area at any time, or place anything in the sanctuary at any time.
2. The photographer/videographer should never be a distraction. They are to limit their movements and the use of bright lights during the Liturgy.
3. It is permitted to remain in the church after the wedding to take pictures. You are asked to go immediately to the front for pictures; and remind all of the dignity and respect due to the Blessed Sacrament present in Church. You have one half hour to take pictures.

**XI. Florists**

Prior to ordering flowers, please call Theresa Smith (Art and Environment at 215-646-7636). NO tape, thumbtacks, or anything else that could mar the pews, etc. is permitted. Once flowers are placed in church, they belong to the church. No floral arches, candelabra, etc. are permitted in the aisles or at the ends of the pews.

**XII. Miscellaneous Items**

The LATEST time for a Saturday wedding at St. Helena Church is 2 PM.

Marriage Candles are not permitted to be used in Church in this Archdiocese. Wedding runners, rice, rose petals, confetti, birdseeds, etc. can be a real danger. They are not to be used. Balloons have no place inside the church.

For Your Information:

Montgomery County Register of Wills

Clerk of the Orphans’ Court – Court House

PO Box 311

Norristown, Pennsylvania 19404-0311

610-278-3414

**PLEASE BE ON TIME FOR BOTH THE REHEARSAL AND THE WEDDING!**

**THIS IS A COURTESY TO ALL INVOLVED.**

*(Information about your Wedding Rehearsal is on the other side of this page.)*

**REHEARSAL FORMAT**

**1. Objective:** The purpose of the rehearsal is to familiarize everyone with the format and order of the Wedding Ceremony so things run smoothly on the day of your wedding. The rehearsal is conducted by experienced church volunteers who are following a specific set of guidelines established by the Church for a wedding ceremony. The rehearsal will be an abbreviated version of the actual ceremony.

Please keep in mind that your rehearsal coordinator is not a wedding planner. Please try to anticipate all problems/scenarios that might arise the day of the wedding and place someone in charge of these items (umbrellas, tissues, safety pins, hair clips, etc.)

**2. Arrival Time:**  Please arrive at the church on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding. It is very important to inform all members of the wedding party and guests that traffic is extremely heavy in the area of St. Helena Church on, both, weeknights and weekends. Keep in mind that it is **IMPORTANT THAT WE START THE REHEARSAL AND THE WEDDING CEREMONY ON TIME.**

**3. Procession into Church:**  The format for the procession into the church is: altar servers and priest, followed by the bridesmaids and groomsmen processing down the aisle in pairs. The only exception is the Best Man, who may be waiting in the Sacristy with the groom. When the couples get to the front of the church, they first reverence the Blessed Sacrament (by bowing) and then they separate to be seated; bridesmaids on the Blessed Mother side (left); groomsmen on the St. Joseph side (right) of the church. Have your wedding party’s procession order (line-up order) decided *before* the rehearsal.

The order of procession after the mother of the bride is formally seated by her escort is:

* Altar servers and Priest
* Bridesmaids and Groomsmen
* Ring Bearer and Flower Girl(s) if you have them
* Maid/Matron of Honor
* Bride and her Escort

Additional seating order: Bride’s parents and grandparents are in the first pew behind the bridesmaids. Groom’s parents and grandparents are in the first pew behind the groomsmen. Readers and bearers of the Offertory Gifts should sit in the seats next to the center aisle behind the parents.

**4. The Wedding Ceremony:** The rehearsal coordinator will direct the wedding party and those participating in the Wedding Ceremony through the order of the ceremony using your choices of readings, etc. The ceremony order is found in the selection form that you were given by the Parish.

**5. Miscellaneous Tips:**

* Arrive on time.
* Respect church property.
* NO food or drink allowed in church. Water bottles should not be brought into the church. Alcohol is strictly forbidden on church property.
* NO chewing of gum for the wedding party at the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony.
* Ushers should stay inside the building helping guests to their seats in a timely manner.

***St. Helena Parish wishes you a Happy and Blessed New Life Together!***

**RITE OF MARRIAGE**

COLLECT (Opening Prayer)

Choose One

***A1.*** *Priest:*

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.

***A2.*** *Priest:*

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.

***A3.*** *Priest:*

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.

***A4.*** *Priest:*

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.

***A5.*** *Priest:*

Be attentive to our prayers, 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.

***A6.*** *Priest:*

O God, who since the beginning of the world have blessed the increase of offspring, show favor 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.

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

FIRST READING (from the Old Testament)

Choose One

***B1.*** **Male and female He created them.**

**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 He found it very good.

The Word of the Lord.

***B2.*** **The two of them become one body.**

**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 suitable partner for him.”

So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and He brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, He took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When He brought her to the man, the man said: “This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called ‘woman,’ for out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

The Word of the Lord.

***B3.*** **In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother.**

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

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

So they called Rebekah and asked her, “Do you wish to go with this man?” She answered, “I do.” At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham’s servant and his men. Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

“Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads;

And may your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!”

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

Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi and was living in the region of the Negeb. One day toward evening he went out…in the field, and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching. Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant, “Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?” “That is my master,” replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil.

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

The Word of the Lord.

***B4.*** **May the Lord of Heaven prosper you both. May He grant you mercy and peace.**

**Tobit 7:6-14**

A reading from the Book of Tobit:

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

Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and gave them a cordial reception. When they had bathed and reclined to eat, Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother, Azariah, ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman, Sarah.” Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy: “Eat and drink and be merry tonight, for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter, Sarah, than you, brother. Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you, because you are my closest relative. But I will explain the situation to you very frankly. I have given her in marriage to seven men, all of whom were kinsmen of ours, and all died on the very night they approached her. But now, son, eat and drink. I am sure the Lord will look after you both.” Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing until you set aside what belongs to me.”

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

Afterward, they began to eat and drink.

The Word of the Lord.

***B5.*** **Allow us to live together to a happy old age.**

**Tobit 8:4b-8**

A reading from the Book of Tobit:

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

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

They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;

Praised be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all Your creation praise You forever.

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

and from these two, the human race descended.

You said, ‘“It is not good for the man to be alone;

let Us make him a partner like himself.’

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

but for a noble purpose.

Call down Your mercy on me and on her,

and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The Word of the Lord.

***B6.*** **The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.**

**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.

***B7.*** **Stern as death is love.**

**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.

***B8.*** **Like the sun rising in the Lord’s heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.**

**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 soul.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

Like the sun rising in the Lord’s heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The Word of the Lord.

***B9.*** **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

**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.

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

SECOND READING (from the New Testament)

Choose One

***D1.*** **What will separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Romans 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 loves 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.

***D2.*** **Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.**

**Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (Short Version)**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones; exercise hospitality.

The Word of the Lord.

OR

**Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (Long Version)**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters:

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope; endure in affliction; persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones; exercise hospitality.

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

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

Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

The Word of the Lord.

***D3.*** **Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.**

**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.

***D4.*** **Your body is a temple of the Spirit.**

**I 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.

***D5.*** **If I do not have love, I gain nothing.**

**1 Corinthians 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; 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.

***D7.*** **This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.**

**Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 (Long Version)**

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 the 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, 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 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.

OR

**Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 (Short Version)**

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, 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

***D8.*** **The God of peace will be with you.**

**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.

***D9.*** **And over all these, put on love; that is, the bond of perfection.**

**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.

***D10.*** **Let marriage be held in honor by all.**

**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.

***D11.*** **Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another.**

**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.

***D12.*** **Love in deed and in truth.**

**1 John 3:18-24**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John:

Children, let us love not in word or in 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.

***D13.*** **God is love.**

**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-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through Him.

In this is love:

Not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and His love is brought to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord.

***D14.*** **Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.**

**Revelation 19:1, 5-9**

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.

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

GOSPEL READINGS

Choose One (To be proclaimed by the Priest)

***F1.*** **Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.**

**Matthew 5:1-12a**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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 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.

***F2.*** **You are the light of the world.**

**Matthew 5:13-16**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to His disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***F3.*** **A wise man built his house on rock.**

**Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Long version)**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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.

OR

**Matthew 7:21, 24-25 (Short version)**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***F4.*** **What God has united, man must not separate.**

**Matthew 19:3-6**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested Him, saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatsoever?”

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.

***F5.*** **This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it.**

**Matthew 22:35-40**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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

He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***F6.*** **They are no longer two, but one flesh.**

**Mark 10:6-9**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark:

Jesus said: “From the beginning of creation, *God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.* So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***F7.*** **Jesus did this as the beginning of His signs in Cana in Galilee.**

**John 2:1-11**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever He tells you.”

Now, there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. Then He told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.”

Jesus did this as the beginning of His signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed His glory, and His disciples began to believe in Him.

The Gospel of the Lord

***F8.*** **Remain in my love.**

**John 15:9-12**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

Jesus said to His disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.

I have told you this so that My joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is My commandment: love one another as I love you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

***F9.*** **This is My commandment: love one another.**

**John 15:12-16**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

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.

***F10.*** **That they may be brought to perfection as one.**

**John 17:20-26 (Long version)**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

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.

OR

**John 17:20-23 (Short version)**

+ A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John:

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**RITE OF MARRIAGE**

EXCHANGE OF CONSENT or WEDDING VOWS

Choose One

***H1.*** *The Priest invites them to declare their 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.

*(They join their right hands.)*

*The bridegroom says:*

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

*The bride says:*

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

OR

***H2.*** *The Priest invites them to declare their 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.

*(They join their right hands.)*

*The bridegroom says:*

I, N., take you, N., for my lawful wife, 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.

*The bride says:*

I, N., take you, N., for my lawful 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.

**RITE OF MARRIAGE**

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Choose One

***I 1-3.*** *Priest:*

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

*All respond:* **Amen**

OR

***I 4.*** *Priest:*

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.

*All respond:* **Amen**

OR

***I 5.*** *Priest:*

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.

*All respond:* **Amen**

THEN

*The husband places his wife’s ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:*

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 wife places her husband’s ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:*

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.

**RITE OF MARRIAGE**

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL (General Intercessions)

Choose One Set

The priest will begin and end the Prayer of the Faithful. After his opening, he will nod his head for you to begin the General Intercessions. The response of the congregation will vary from place to place (church to church) and, therefore, should be indicated to the people present.

The people’s response (R) is: **“Lord, hear our prayer.”**

Two sets of General Intercessions – J2 and J3 – are provided in this section for you to choose from. These intentions could be recited by the couple, a parent, relative or friend.

Please be sure to provide a copy of your General Intercessions to the reader, as well as to the Church, at least 2 weeks prior to your Marriage Ceremony.

***Option J2*** Read by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reader:**

Our response is:  **Lord, hear our prayer**. (Pause briefly)

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.**

OR

***Option J3*** Read by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reader:**

Our response is:  **Lord, hear our prayer**. (Pause briefly)

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

(R)  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

(R)  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

(R)  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

(R)  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

(R)  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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

(R)  **Lord, hear our prayer.**

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Choose One

***K1.*** 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.

***K2.*** 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.

***K3.*** Show favor to our supplications, O Lord, and receive with a kindly countenance the obligations 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.

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

PREFACE

Choose One

***L1.* The Dignity of the Marriage Covenant**

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…..

***L2.* The Great Sacrament of Matrimony**

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 in 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….

***L3.* Matrimony as a Sign of Divine Love**

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…..

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

NUPTIAL BLESSING

Choose One

***M1.*** *Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:*

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 on 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 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 honor 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.**

***M2.*** *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.**

***M3.*** *Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:*

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.**

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Choose One

***N1.***By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,   
accompany with Your loving favor  
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.

***N2.***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.

***N3.***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.

**THE RITE OF MARRIAGE**

FINAL BLESSING

Choose One

***O1.*** *The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:*

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 present, adding:*

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

***O2.*** *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 present, adding:*

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

***O3.*** *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 may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. **R. Amen.**