



DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

# *Preparing for Marriage*

## **Handbook for Engaged Couples**

Rev. Steven M. Lanza, *Pastor*  
Rev. Dean Semmer, *Associate Pastor*  
Mr. Gerald Keenan, *Deacon*  
Mr. Michael McNulty, *Senior Deacon*  
Mr. Robert Puhala, *Deacon*  
Mr. Ron Vanasdlen, *Director of Liturgy and Music*

*May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,  
as you are being rooted and grounded in love.  
(Ephesians 3:17)*

# *Preparing for Marriage*

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**In addition to this Handbook, you have received an entire packet of related materials from us in order to prepare for the wedding and the marriage that follows. Please bring all these materials with you to every meeting or consultation that you have at either Sacred Heart Church or St. Philip the Apostle Church.**

**We know that this time in your life brings with it special challenges. Sometimes, being engaged can present all sorts of stresses and tensions in your relationship. That’s because being engaged does not just describe yourselves but how you now relate to your families, your friends and your Church.**

**Nonetheless, thank you for the witness of committed love you provide to the world as an engaged couple. May God bless you as you prepare for married life!**

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# Did You Know?

Pope Francis spoke to engaged couples at a Valentine's Day event at the Vatican in 2014. Answering a question submitted to him, he said:

*But if, instead, love is a relationship, then it is a reality that grows, and we can also say by way of example that it is built up like a home. And a home is built together, not alone! To build something here means to foster and aid growth.*

*Dear engaged couples, you are preparing to grow together, to build this home, to live together forever.*

*You do not want to found it on the sand of sentiments, which come and go, but on the rock of true love, the love that comes from God.*

## DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

### *First Steps*

Whether you are a life-long parishioner of either Sacred Heart church or St. Philip the Apostle church, or you are new to Divine Mercy parish, these wonderful and exciting months of your engagement present an opportunity for you and your fiancé to celebrate each Sunday within the household of the faithful at Mass. The weeks and months leading up to the wedding are a unique time for you and for us as we pray together.

### *Seeing the Big Picture*

Married Christians share in the mystery of unity and fruitful love that exists between Christ and his Church. They help each other to attain holiness in their married life and in the rearing and education of their children. They have their own special gift among the people of God.

Your life together arises from the irrevocable consent which each partner freely bestows on and accepts from the other. Christ raises this marital union between Christian spouses to the dignity of a sacrament so that it might more clearly recall and more easily reflect his own unbreakable union with his Church.

Christian couples, therefore, nourish and develop their marriage by undivided affection, which wells up from the fountain of divine love. They remain faithful to each other in body and mind all the days of their lives.

### Sacraments

Effective signs of God's grace, perceptible to the senses, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church.

There are seven:

- ◆ Baptism
- ◆ Confirmation
- ◆ Eucharist
- ◆ Penance
- ◆ Anointing of the Sick
- ◆ Holy Orders
- ◆ Matrimony

## Implications

Some important implications flow from what we believe marriage is. Those implications are:

- **Christian marriage is an ecclesial reality.**

It's not something two people invent or live on their own. Marriage is situated within the Church. It is nurtured, supported and enriched by the whole People of God. As you attend Sunday Mass together, praying with other committed Catholics, your marital relationship will grow, deepen and be wonderfully expressive of the relationship Christ has with his spouse, the Church.

- **You have a special calling to build each other up in holiness.**

In the joys and challenges of daily life, God will send you the graces necessary to offer your lives as a spiritual sacrifice, witnessing to the love of God for his people in the Paschal Mystery.

- **Your marriage is a covenant relationship.**

Just as God enters a covenant with his people, so do a husband and wife enter a covenant with each other. This means that your marital relationship cannot be reduced to that of a contract. Contracts are narrowly defined, based on a specific *quid pro quo*: if I give you this, you in turn, will provide me with that.

- **Your relationship as husband and wife is expansive rather than narrow.**

In other words, marriage impacts *all* aspects and areas of life for a husband and wife. No part of your lives is segmented away from the marriage relationship. Every part of the day is jointly claimed in the covenant of marriage for you both. By marriage you will each live through, with and in each other, every day, all your days.

### Marriage

Covenant partnership between a man and a woman, whose goal is two-fold:

- ◆ the well-being of the two spouses, and
- ◆ the procreation and upbringing of children.

Validly entered into between two baptized persons, marriage is a sacrament.

# Did You Know?



Because they are circular (without end), the exchange of rings in the Catholic wedding rite symbolizes the fidelity and permanence of marriage.

# Did You Know?

In his listing of the many different sorts of virtues, Saint Thomas Aquinas ranked **prudence** as a virtue which is needed prior to love, for a person can love immaturely and without discrimination, but for it to be the best kind of love, prudence is needed first!

- **Your covenant union as husband and wife is unbreakable.**

It endures all the days of your life. There is no “shelf life” of Christian marriage. You always owe each other fidelity because a marriage that is entered freely and validly continues until one of the partners dies.

- **Your marriage takes work.**

Each day has its own demands, many of them competing. But no matter what pulls and pushes there are on your marital relationship, the bedrock that grounds the two of you as husband and wife consists of the undivided affection you show to each other.

- **When children enter the picture, they bring their own special joy and happiness to your relationship.**

Children also bring a unique push and pull on your marital union. But when mothers and fathers recognize in their children the heart of who they are as a couple, the marital covenant takes on a whole new character, one that is life-giving, affirming and participating in the creative possibilities of God for this world.

## Covenant

Solemn agreement between human beings or between God and a human being.

This type of agreement involves mutual commitments or guarantees. The Bible refers to our relationship with God as a covenant, first mediated between God and Noah, then Abraham, and later, Moses.

Through the covenant with Moses, God revealed his Law to the people and prepared them for the fullness of salvation by the prophets.

The Mosaic covenant is fulfilled in Christ, who establishes a new and final covenant with God’s people through his own sacrificial death and resurrection.

## Fidelity

Condition of being faithful, fulfilling one’s duties and obligations.

The term derives from the same Latin root word *fides* for “faith.” With regard to marriage, fidelity implies the faithfulness of spouses to each other so that they live up to the vision of the Church for this sacrament.

## ***Booking a Date***

When you call the parish office to book a date, you will probably first speak to our administrative assistant to fill out an application form. They will take down some basic information and forward your application to one of the priests or deacons.

At this point the date for the wedding is *tentative*.

The priest or deacon must review the application. If everything is in order and the priest or deacon is available to preside at the wedding, you will then be contacted so we can confirm that the wedding date has been set into the parish schedule.

Please do not print invitations or make a final reservation for the reception hall until your application has been reviewed and your date has been confirmed and set into our parish schedule. If circumstances change and you subsequently decide not to be married at Sacred Heart Church or St. Philip the Apostle Church please notify the office so that the date and time can be made available to others.

## ***Church Requirements***

Christian marriage is an ecclesial reality, a Church reality. It is not something any one of us invents. It is a gift, a sacrament given by God to God's people. As such, the Church has developed a rich tradition that surrounds and supports marriage.

For this reason certain requirements have evolved, such as:

1. You will be talking with the priest or deacon who will preside at the wedding. Please schedule an appointment with him as soon as possible.
2. Both of you will need to secure baptismal documents.
  - (a) *For a couple where both are baptized Roman Catholic.* You must each produce current (issued within the last six months) baptismal certificates from the parish where you were baptized.
  - (b) *For a couple where one is a baptized Roman Catholic and one is baptized in a Christian ecclesial community.* The Catholic must produce a current baptismal certificate from the parish where you were baptized. The baptized non-Catholic party must provide a document from their place of Baptism, either a letter or certificate.
  - (c) *For a couple where one is a baptized Roman Catholic and one is not baptized.* The Catholic must produce a current baptismal certificate from the parish where you were baptized as well as two affidavits. (See the following page for more details.) The one who is not baptized must have older family members complete two affidavits attesting to your non-Baptism. Affidavits can be filled out, by appointment, with any priest or deacon in a Catholic parish and forwarded here.

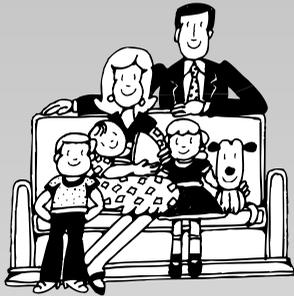
*Did  
You  
Know?*



Pope John Paul II offers a major teaching regarding Christian marriage in his 1981 apostolic exhortation entitled *Familiaris Consortio* (The Christian Family in the Modern World). In it, he says:

*The future of  
humanity passes by  
way of the family.*

# Did You Know?



Pope Benedict XVI addressed families who were meeting in Valencia, Spain in 2006, saying:

*Human beings were created in the image and likeness of God for love, and that complete human fulfillment only comes about when we make a sincere gift of ourselves to others. The family is the privileged setting where every person learns to give and receive love.*

3. Interfaith marriages and special situations will require additional paperwork. The priest or deacon who meets with you will advise you if this is necessary.
4. All couples must complete the FOCCUS instrument. FOCCUS stands for Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study. This is a tool to help you communicate openly about many things that are important to your relationship. It is not a test or a way to predict the future. It is designed to help you target the topics you need and want to talk about as a couple.
  - (a) Contact Deacon Mike McNulty to sign up to take FOCCUS. ([mmcnulty@divinemercynorthshore.org](mailto:mmcnulty@divinemercynorthshore.org)) (847) 446-0856 ext.120)
  - (a) After you've both completed the FOCCUS documents, you will schedule a second meeting with Deacon McNulty to review your results.
5. All engaged couples who are being married in the Catholic Church are required by the Archdiocese of Chicago to undergo a formal program of marriage preparation. Once you have decided which FOCCUS session you will attend, you can also sign up for the marriage preparation program.
  - (a) The priest or deacon who presides at the wedding may himself lead you through a marriage preparation program tailored to your needs.
  - (b) Instead, if you wish or need to, you may attend the Archdiocesan Pre-Cana or Special Pre-Cana programs.
6. Couples are expected to meet with Ron Vanasdlen, the Director of Liturgy and Music, to prepare the details of the wedding liturgy. He will assist you in finalizing all of those details.
  - (a) Use the last section in this Handbook to select the prayer and scripture texts for the wedding liturgy.
  - (b) Complete a **Master Wedding Worksheet** and return it to the Director of Liturgy and Music, Ron Vanasdlen ([rvanasdlen@divinemercynorthshore.org](mailto:rvanasdlen@divinemercynorthshore.org)) about one month your meeting with him.

## Affidavit

Formal written declaration made under oath by a witness before a priest or a deacon attesting to another person's freedom to be married.

Two affidavits are required, from parents or other family members, especially when proof of Baptism cannot be obtained.

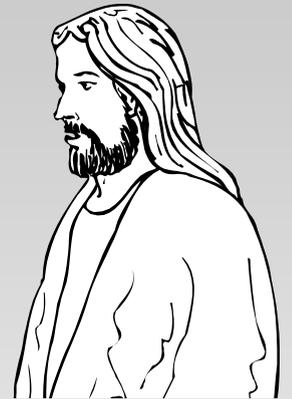
7. A Wedding Facilitator will guide the wedding party through the rehearsal. Make sure that all members of the wedding party arrive early for the rehearsal.
8. You must notify us in advance if you wish to have a priest or deacon from outside the Archdiocese of Chicago preside at the wedding, in order for us to secure a letter of permission from his superior.
9. If the bride belongs to a Catholic parish other than Divine Mercy, she must obtain a letter from the pastor of that parish granting permission to marry at Divine Mercy. (Or if the bride is not Catholic and the groom belongs to a Catholic parish other than Divine Mercy, the groom would need to obtain a letter from *his* pastor granting permission for the wedding to be held here.)

## ***State Requirements***

A marriage cannot be performed at Divine Mercy without a license from Cook County. When you visit the county offices, you will need your driver's license or some other valid proof of your age. If you are under 18, you will need the consent of both parents and a certified birth certificate.

You must pay in cash for the marriage license. It is good for 60 days. There is a one day waiting period to secure the license. No blood tests are required.

## *Did You Know?*



Jesus responds to a question about divorce.

See  
**Matthew 19:3-12**  
 and  
**Mark 10:2-12**

### **Dispensation**

Formal permission granted by the Catholic Church so that an individual or group would be exempted from Church law.

For example, Church law requires all Catholics to be married in the Catholic Church only.

A dispensation can be granted, however, so that a Catholic marrying a Protestant could be validly married in a Protestant ceremony or so that a Catholic marrying a Jewish person could be validly married with a rabbi officiating. To obtain a dispensation you would need to first speak with a priest or a deacon about it.

### **Divorce**

The claim under civil law that the indissoluble marriage bond validly entered into between a husband and wife is broken. A civil dissolution of marriage does not free husbands and wives from their valid marriage before God.

In other words, civil divorce does not make remarriage morally allowable. Only authoritative Church procedures (dissolutions through the Pauline or Petrine privileges, declaration of nullity or "annulment," or a declaration of a lack of proper form) can address whether a marriage is binding or not.

# Did You Know?

Saint Paul's advice to Christian spouses at **Ephesians 5:25-32** must be interpreted in light of his own day. It was a male-dominated society. Everyone took for granted that wives would be "subordinate" to their husbands. What is unusually radical and counter-cultural in Paul's advice is for husbands to "love their wives as their own bodies."

## *Preparing for the Wedding Liturgy*

A wedding is one of many different liturgies of the Church. Liturgy is made up of song, Sacred Scripture, prayer and ritual—all of which have developed over centuries within the rich tradition of the Catholic Church. The specific components that go into the wedding liturgy are determined by this rich tradition.

Therefore, to help you put the final touches on the wedding liturgy, we offer several resources:

### *Prayer and Scripture Materials:*

You have a number of options available to you, in choosing both the prayer texts and the Scripture texts. Please read through all the material on the following pages. Then choose those texts that best speak to you as a couple.

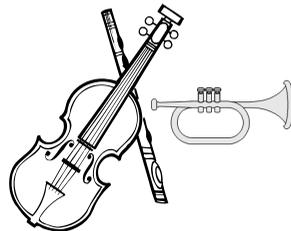
### *Wedding Liturgy Consultation:*

As mentioned previously, you schedule this with the Director of Liturgy and Music. He will be happy to sit with you and share with you from his wealth of experience and training, various possibilities for music, as well as for other aspects of the wedding liturgy. Be ready to listen to music and make some choices!

A wedding, however, is more than the music. You will also consider *all* the details of the wedding liturgy, from the processional to the concluding prayers and recessional. Practical aspects, such as seating arrangements, flower placement, and photography will also be discussed if needed.

### *Tips on Planning the Music:*

In determining music, the consultation will help you fit the context of faith and the dignity of the occasion. The appropriateness of each piece of music for use in worship requires a three-fold evaluation:



*Liturgical:* Is this particular composition capable of meeting the structural and textual requirements set forth by the liturgical books for this particular rite?

*Pastoral:* Does this piece promote the sanctification of the members of the assembly by drawing them closer to the holy mysteries being celebrated on this occasion? Is it capable of expressing the faith that God has planted in their hearts and summoned them to celebrate?

*Musical:* Does this composition have the necessary aesthetic qualities that can bear the weight of the mysteries being celebrated? Is it technically and expressively worthy?

## Choosing the Form of Wedding Liturgy

The wedding liturgy may be celebrated in one of the following two forms:

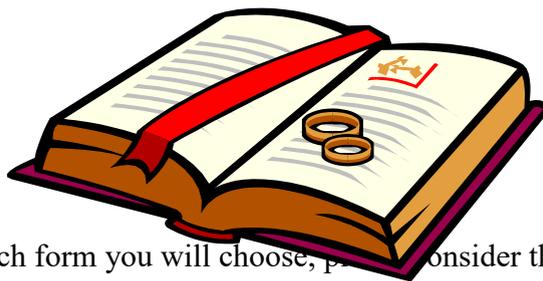
### 1. MASS

*Rite of Marriage takes place during Mass.*



### 2. CEREMONY

*Rite of Marriage takes place without Mass—  
a Non-Eucharistic Liturgy.*



Before deciding which form you will choose, please consider the following:

- A wedding within Mass is usually celebrated when two Catholics marry.
- A wedding without Mass is usually celebrated when a Catholic marries a person from another Christian denomination, or when a Catholic marries someone who is not baptized.
- When a deacon leads the liturgy, which is increasingly common, the wedding is celebrated without Mass even when two Catholics marry.

See the next two pages for the Order of Service  
for each form of the wedding liturgy.



## Did You Know?

Saint Paul says that a wife has “authority” over her husband’s body and a husband has “authority” over his wife’s body (**1 Corinthians 7:4**).

The point is the intense mutuality and self-giving which should characterize Christian marriage.

# Did You Know?



In the wedding homily a priest or deacon is expected by the Church to speak about:

- ♥ the mystery of Christian marriage
- ♥ the dignity of wedded love
- ♥ the grace of the sacrament
- ♥ the responsibilities of married people

## THE ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY WITHIN MASS

### *Order of Service*

#### *Introductory Rites*

**Procession of Liturgical Minister  
and Attendants**  
**Opening Hymn**  
**Sign of the Cross/Greeting**  
**Invitation**  
**Gloria**  
**Collect (Opening Prayer)**

#### *Liturgy of the Word*

**First Reading**  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Second Reading**  
**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Gospel Reading**  
**Homily**

#### *The Celebration of Matrimony*

**Address by Presider**  
**Questions before the Consent**  
**Consent (Vows)**  
**Reception of the Consent**  
**Acclamation**  
**Blessing and Giving of Rings**  
**[Optional: Blessing and Giving of the Arras]**  
**Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful)**

#### *Liturgy of the Eucharist*

**Presentation of the Gifts**  
**Preparation of the Gifts**

#### *Eucharistic Prayer:*

**Preface**  
**Holy, Holy**  
**Memorial Acclamation**  
**Great Amen**

**[Optional: Blessing and Placing of  
the Lazo or the Veil]**  
**Lord's Prayer and Nuptial Blessing**  
**Sign of Peace**  
**Holy Communion**  
**Prayer After Communion**

#### *Concluding Rites*

**Final Blessing**  
**Dismissal**  
**Recessional**

### **Mass**

Principal sacramental celebration established by Jesus at the Last Supper, consisting of two parts,

- ◆ the Liturgy of the Word and
- ◆ the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

When marriage is celebrated at Mass, the Rite of Marriage takes place after the Liturgy of the Word and is then followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

### **Celebration of the Eucharist**

The core Christian liturgical celebration, which puts us in touch with the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. Synonyms for this term are:

- ◆ Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and
- ◆ Holy Communion

# RITE OF MARRIAGE TAKES PLACE WITHOUT MASS (*Non-Eucharistic Liturgy, a “Ceremony”*) *Order of Service*

## Non-Eucharistic Liturgy

Ritual celebration that does *not* include the Liturgy of the Eucharist and therefore no Holy Communion. In making a distinction between marriages celebrated at a non-Eucharistic liturgy and Mass, some people call the non-Eucharistic form a “ceremony” as opposed to a Mass.

When marriage is celebrated according to a non-Eucharistic format, a Liturgy of the Word is followed by the Rite of Marriage, concluding with the Lord’s Prayer and a solemn blessing of the couple.

## Nuptial Blessing

Special prayers for the blessing of a couple being married.

### *Introductory Rites*

**Procession of Liturgical Minister and Attendants**  
**Opening Hymn**  
**Sign of the Cross/Greeting**  
**Invitation**  
**Collect (Opening Prayer)**

### *Liturgy of the Word*

**First Reading**  
**Responsorial Psalm**  
**Second Reading**  
**Gospel Acclamation**  
**Gospel Reading**  
**Homily**

### *The Celebration of Matrimony*

**Address by Presider**  
**Questions before the Consent**  
**Consent (Vows)**  
**Reception of the Consent**  
**Blessing and Giving of Rings**  
**Acclamation**  
**[Optional: Blessing and Giving of The Arras]**  
**Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful)**  
**[Optional: Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or the Veil]**  
**Lord’s Prayer and Nuptial Blessing**

### *Concluding Rites*

**Final Blessing**  
**Dismissal**  
**Recessional**

*Did  
You  
Know?*



The essential form of marriage (that is, the part of the wedding ritual that must be done for it to be considered a Sacrament) is the groom’s and bride’s consent and exchange of vows before a priest or deacon in the presence of two witnesses.

Everything else in the wedding rite leads up to that moment or amplifies it.

# Did You Know?

In the post-resurrection appearance of the Risen Christ to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (**Luke 24:13-35**) only one of the disciples is named, Cleopas. Some scripture scholars believe the other disciple was Cleopas' wife. Given the second-class nature of women in those days, she is "not as important" as her husband, hence her anonymity. Given this interpretation, the scriptural episode reveals the true equality and importance of women, since she is one of the first recipients of Christ's post-resurrection appearances!

## ***Church Offering and Ministry Donation***

### *About the Church Offering*

Catholics understand that one aspect of discipleship is good stewardship, the responsible sharing of gifts given to us by the Lord. This includes supporting the mission and ministry of the Church. To that end, the following items are covered by your offering:

- FOCCUS
- parish accompanist
- wedding consultation with Director of Music
- parish cantor
- wedding worship programs
- administrative costs
- church donation

The standard offering for active parishioners (those who contribute time, treasure and talent) is \$1,200. For inactive or non-parishioners, the standard offering is \$1,700. Your Church offering should be dropped off at the Divine Mercy parish office (1077 Tower Road, Winnetka) at least one month before the wedding.

### *About a Ministry Gift*

In lieu of a wedding favor, many couples have chosen to make a donation to a charity in honor of their guests and as a celebration of their witness to Christian marriage and the apostolic outreach to which all believers are called. We invite you to consider making a donation to our parish outreach, such as:

**The Sarto Fund** – Pastor's discretionary fund used to help those most in need within our parish.

**St. Columbanus Sharing Committee** – Organizes efforts to assist our sharing parish, St. Columbanus, located in Chicago. St. Columbanus runs a food pantry. Divine Mercy parishioners are involved in tutoring in their grade school.

**St. Benedict the Afrikan** - Another sharing parish located in Chicago.

**A Just Harvest Community Soup Kitchen** –Volunteers from Sacred Heart help to cook and help serve dinners at this Rogers Park kitchen, which serves meals 365 days a year.

**Haiti Ministry** – Identifies and implements ways to support our twin parish and school, St. Jean Baptiste, in Sassier, Haiti. Volunteers from Sacred Heart travel to Haiti to provide assistance to this vital mission.

**Father Paul Foundation** – Supports the ministry of a Jesuit priest who served for several years here at Sacred Heart and who now works in his native Sri Lanka, assisting widows, orphans and victims of prolonged civil war and the tsunami.

## ***Important Reminders to the Bride and Groom***

**Inviting the Priest or Deacon to the Reception** – If you would like the priest or deacon to attend the wedding reception, please send them a formal invitation just as you would any other guest. They will respond accordingly.

**Marriage License and Fee information** – Bring the civil marriage license to the rehearsal and turn it in to the Wedding Facilitator. Additional instrumentalists such as brass, strings, or woodwinds, are paid separately. We can offer you recommendations for additional instrumentalists and contact them for you. Guest musicians (organ, piano, cantor) must receive approval from the Director of Music before they are hired.

**Wedding Facilitator** – The parish provides you with a Wedding Facilitator who will assist with the proceedings. The Wedding Facilitator ensures that the rehearsal and wedding run smoothly and beautifully. As the bride and groom, you will set the tone, so your own attention to the Wedding Facilitator will help to focus everybody else's. Also, major questions or ideas about the celebration should be handled well in advance with the Director of Liturgy and Music, who will in turn convey them to the Wedding Facilitator. This will save on rehearsal time.

**Plan to be Prompt** – Please be on time for both the rehearsal and the wedding itself. Plan ahead. Provide directions to the wedding party so that they can find the church. If a member of the wedding party or someone else who has a role in the wedding cannot be present for the rehearsal, make sure that they arrive one hour early for the wedding to receive their instructions from the Wedding Facilitator.

**Arrival Times** – Make sure the limo service or drivers are aware that the church doors open one hour before the wedding time. Groom and groomsmen must arrive one hour before the wedding. Bride and bridesmaids must arrive forty-five minutes prior to the wedding.

**Scripture Readers** – Make sure that the Lectors (readers of Sacred Scripture) receive a practice copy of their reading so that they may prepare ahead of time.

**Gift Bearers** – You may choose two to four persons to bring up the Gifts (bread and wine) to the priest during the Mass. The gift bearers might be chosen from family, the bridal party, or other friends.

**Flowers in Church** – The church is decorated in accordance with the liturgical season. Any additional flowers or plants you provide will be added to existing decorations. Parish flowers/decorations in place for the particular liturgical season cannot be removed or rearranged. Attachments to the pews must be made with ribbon or padded clips. Tape and wire may not be used as they damage the finish. The length of the aisle is 90 feet from the altar to the inner door. There are 25 rows of pews.

**Restrictions** – No flowers, flower petals or other materials may be thrown inside or outside the church. Not only do these present maintenance problems, they are dangerous on the sidewalks and steps and become a safety issue.

**No aisle runner may be used in either church (Sacred Heart, St. Philip the Apostle) for safety concerns.**

## *Did You Know?*

Pope Benedict XVI spoke to families, saying:

*Dear parents!  
I ask you to help your children grow in faith, I ask you to accompany them on their journey towards First Communion, a journey which continues beyond that day, and to keep accompanying them as they make their way to Jesus and with Jesus. Please, go with your children to Church and take part in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration! You will see that this is not time lost; rather, it is the very thing that can keep your family truly united and centered. Sunday becomes more beautiful, the whole week becomes more beautiful, when you go to Sunday Mass together.*

**Homily at Vespers in  
Munich, Germany,  
10 September 2006**

# Did You Know?



A major wedding anniversary such as the 25th or 50th is a fitting occasion for a special remembrance of the sacrament of marriage. Special prayers of blessing are provided in the Catholic ritual book for such occasions for use by a priest or deacon. But a married couple may request of a priest or deacon a blessing at any anniversary or any other apt occasion, such as when the couple goes together on retreat or pilgrimage.

**Servers** – Two servers will be provided. If you have special requests for servers, please let us know well in advance. A small tip is customary (\$10 for each.)

**Taking Pictures** – Photographers and videographers are permitted before, during and after the liturgy, but will be asked to adhere to parish guidelines, as directed by the Wedding Facilitator. Flash is restricted to procession in and out of church. There should be a minimum of movement by photographers, so that they do not become a distraction. They may not enter the sanctuary (the raised tile and marble floor areas) or the area between the first pew and the sanctuary, including the area where the chairs are placed. Videotaping is permitted, but only with stationary stands/tripods. The camera stands are to be located on the main floor of the church in either the east or west aisles or in the choir loft. No floodlights are permitted. After the wedding, you have a limited amount of time for photos, so please arrange with the photographer what pictures you want and who will be in them. Everyone will need to return to the worship space in church immediately so that pictures will be finished in the allotted time.

**Facilities** – Brides arrive dressed for the liturgy. The Fireplace Room in the Divine Mercy parish offices (connected to Sacred Heart church) is generally available for the bride and bridesmaids. The offices also have a small bathroom and mirror. Likewise, the John Paul II room at St. Philip the Apostle church is generally available.

**Afterwards, Take Your Belongings** – After the wedding celebration, designate someone who will be responsible for collecting and taking home the extra worship booklets, unity candle, unused corsages, boutonnieres, as well as special decorations, and any other personal items. The Wedding Facilitator will help them.

**Time Schedule** – Weddings are ordinarily celebrated on Saturdays at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., or 3:00 p.m. Because the parish gathers for a 5:00 vigil Mass at Sacred Heart church and a 5:30 vigil Mass at St. Paul the Apostle church on Saturday, weddings cannot be celebrated later than 3:00 p.m.

**Visiting Clergy** – Catholic priests or deacons who are not assigned to Divine Mercy may certainly preside at the wedding. In accordance with Archdiocesan policy, priests or deacons from outside the Archdiocese of Chicago must provide a letter of good standing from their superior. In situations of mixed religions, the non-Catholic clergy are welcomed to attend the liturgy in a place of honor.

**Proper Decorum** – The church is the house of God and a place of public worship. Use of alcohol, other beverages, food and smoking are not permitted in the parish offices, the narthex (gathering space), lobby, church or the sacristy.

## PLANNING THE WEDDING LITURGY

In planning your wedding liturgy, you will be choosing certain prayers and Scripture readings. You will also be meeting with the Director of Liturgy and Music, who will guide you in selecting music for your wedding liturgy. You will be given a **MASTER WEDDING WORKSHEET** to use in planning your wedding liturgy

### CHOOSING PRAYERS

On the following pages of the handbook, you will find options for **Wedding Prayers**. You will need to select:

*Collect (Opening Prayer)*  
*The Consent (Vows)*  
*The Blessing and Giving of Rings*  
*Options for the Universal Prayer*

If your wedding will take place within a Mass, you will **also** need to select:

*Prayer Over the Offerings*  
*Prayer After Communion*

Indicate each prayer choice on the **Master Wedding Worksheet** by checking the corresponding numbered box.

### COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)

*(choose one:)*

- A1** 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.
- A2** 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.

# P R A Y E R

*Did  
You  
Know?*



In the wedding rite, a couple gives their consent to three essential aspects of marriage:

- ♥ their unity in an exclusive love,
- ♥ their intention to enter into a permanent or indissoluble bond, and
- ♥ their openness to having and raising children.

COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER)...continued

**B1** Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,  
and in your kindness  
pour out your grace on these your servants (*Bride and Groom*),  
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.

**B2** 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.

**C1** 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.

**C2** 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 (*Bride and Groom*),  
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 CONSENT (VOWS)

*(choose one:)*

**#1.** I, *Groom*, take you, *Bride*, 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 honor you  
all the days of my life.

I, *Bride*, take you, *Groom*, 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 honor you  
all the days of my life.

**#2.** I, *Groom*, take you, *Bride*, 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.

I, *Bride*, take you, *Groom*, 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.



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## THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS

*(choose one:)*

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



# THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

The Universal Prayer or (Prayer of the Faithful) are a set of prayers specifically directed to the needs of the world and the Church. Please indicate your choices on the *Master Wedding Worksheet* regarding the following three decisions:

## 1. *Who will read the intercessions—*

- (#1a)** a reader whom you will provide,  
*or*  
**(#1b)** the presider himself

## 2. *How the intercessions will be composed—*

- (#2a)** you will compose your own intercessions by submitting them to the Director of Liturgy and Music for review, *or*  
**(#2b)** you will use the text provided by Divine Mercy, found on the next page

## 3. *Names of Deceased*

Specify individuals you would like to name in the last intercession —

**Write these names on the corresponding lines on the worksheet.**

### The Universal Prayer

Prayer of the faithful, the universal prayer, wherein the congregation intercedes for the needs of others before God.

The particular petitions which make up the Universal Prayer are usually:

- ◆ for the Church
- ◆ for civil authorities
- ◆ for those burdened by any difficulty
- ◆ for all people,
- ◆ for the local parish community
- ◆ for a particular need (such as a newly married couple)
- ◆ for those who are sick, and
- ◆ for those who have died.

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R

*See next page for complete text of the Universal Prayer provided by Sacred Heart.*



P  
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UNIVERSAL PRAYER

*Option #2b—Text provided by Divine Mercy Parish*

Presider: Now that we have heard God’s Word and witnessed these vows of love, we continue to raise our minds and hearts in prayer.

Reader: For the Church throughout the world, that it may grow in love and be a sign of God’s presence, we pray:  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For our nation and the world, that it may grow in peace and justice, we pray:  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For [*Groom and Bride*], married today, for all married couples and all vowed religious, we pray:  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For all households and homes, that they may be a place of peace, compassion and loving kindness, we pray:  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For those unable to be present here, for the suffering, the sick and the dying, we pray:  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

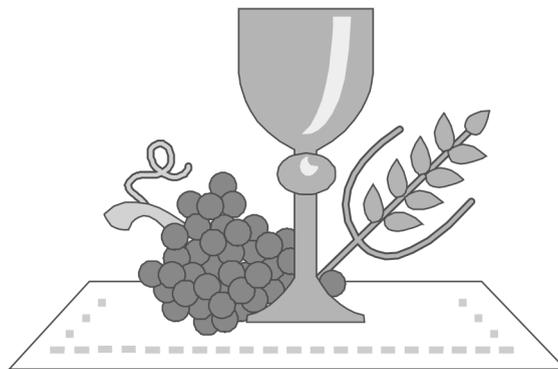
Reader: For all who have died, especially, [*names of deceased*], we pray:  
*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Presider: Lord our God,  
hear our prayers  
and grant us what we need  
to live in faith, hope and love.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

*(for Mass only—choose one:)*

- 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.
- 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.
- C** Show favor to our supplications, O Lord,  
and receive with a kindly countenance  
the oblations 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.

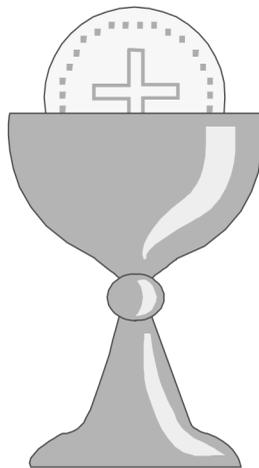


P  
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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*(for Mass only—choose one:)*

- A** 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.
- B** Having been 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.
- 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.



## Choosing Scripture

Choosing readings from Scripture is an important part of the planning for your wedding. You will find a listing of the *Scripture Selections for Weddings* on the following pages of this Handbook

Notice that there are four sections:

*Old Testament Readings (OT)*

*Psalms (PS)*

*New Testament Readings (NT)*

*Gospel Readings (G)*

The first reading should be from the Old Testament (OT), except during Easter Time, when it is taken from the Book of Revelation (N-14). The second reading is taken from one of the New Testament (NT) selections. The third reading is taken from one of the Gospel (G) selections.

Whichever readings you choose, a Responsorial Psalm (PS) will be sung after the first reading. In addition, a Gospel Acclamation will be sung prior to the Gospel Reading.

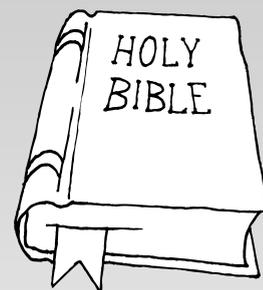
**At least one of the readings you choose must explicitly speak of marriage. These readings are designated by an asterisk (\*). This requirement can also be fulfilled by selecting Psalm 128 as your Responsorial Psalm.**

Indicate your choices on the *Master Wedding Worksheet* using the code for each particular selection, for example: O-3, PS-4, NT-4, G-2. Finally, there are certain days during the year when the prayers and readings must be taken from the liturgy of that particular day. Please be sure to read Appendix A to see if your wedding date is subject to any of these limitations. (p.43)

# SCRIPTURE

Did  
You  
Know

???



Whether or not a wedding is celebrated within Mass or without a Mass, it always includes a Liturgy of the Word because the Second Vatican Council directed that we hear from Sacred Scripture at the celebration of each sacrament.

## OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

OT-1	Genesis 1:26-28, 31a *	Male and female he created them.
OT-2	Genesis 2:18-24*	The two of them become one body.
OT-3	Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67*	In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother.
OT-4	Tobit 7:6-14*	May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.
OT-5	Tobit 8:4b-8*	Allow us to live together to a happy old age.
OT-6	Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31*	The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
OT-7	Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a	Stern as death is love.
OT-8	Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16*	Like the sun rising in the LORD's heaven, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.
OT-9	Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a	I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

RP-1	Psalm 33:12 and 18, 20-21, 22	The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.
RP-2	Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9	I will bless the Lord at all times. OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
RP-3	Psalm 103:1-2, 8 and 13, 17-18	The Lord is kind and merciful. The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear him.
RP-4	Psalm 112:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8, 9	Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands OR Allelulia
RP-5	Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5*	Blessed are those who fear the Lord OR See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.
RP-6	Psalm 145:8-9, 10 and 15, 17-18	How good is the Lord to all.
RP-7	Psalm 148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13ab, 13c-14a	Let all praise the name of the Lord OR Allelulia

## NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

NT-1	Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39	What will separate us from the love of Christ?
NT-2 LONG	Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18 {long form}	Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.
NT-2 SHORT	or 1-2, 9-13 {short form}	
NT-3	Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13	Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.
NT-4	1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20	Your body is a temple of the Spirit.
NT-5	1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a	If I do not have love, I gain nothing.
NT-6	Ephesians 4:1-6	One body and one Spirit.
NT-7	Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33* {long or 5:2a, 25-32 {short form}*	This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference Christ the Church.
NT-8	Philippians 4:4-9	The God of peace will be with you.
NT-9	Colossians 3:12-17	And over all these put on love, that is the bond of perfection.
NT-10	Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b*	Let marriage be held in honor by all.
NT-11	1 Peter 3:1-9*	Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another.
NT-12	1 John 3:18-24	Love in deed and in truth.
NT-13	1 John 4:7-12	God is love.
NT-14	Revelation 19:1, 5-9a	Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.

## GOSPEL READINGS

G-1	Matthew 5:1-12a	Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.
G-2	Matthew 5:13-16	You are the light of the world.
G-3 LONG	Matthew 7:21, 24-29 {long form}	A wise man built his house on rock.
G-3 SHORT	or 7:21, 24-25 {short form}	
G-4	Matthew 19:3-6*	What God has united, man must not separate.
G-5	Matthew 22:35-40	This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it.
G-6	Mark 10:6-9*	They are no longer two, but one flesh.
G-7	John 2:1-11*	Jesus did this at the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee.
G-8	John 15:9-12	Remain in my love.
G-9	John 15:12-16	This my commandment: love one another.
G-10 LONG	John 17:20-26 {long form}	That they may be brought to perfection as one.
G-10 SHORT	or 17:20-23 {short form}	

**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 them.  
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.**

**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 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 the 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.**

**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 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 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 for 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.**

**OT-4**

(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 yours today and ever after.  
 And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.  
 May he grant you mercy and peace."  
 Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him.  
 He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words:  
 "Take her according to the law.  
 According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife.  
 Take her and bring her back safely to your father  
 And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity."  
 He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,  
 so that he might draw up a marriage contract stating the 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.**

**OT-5**

(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.**

**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 for her labors,  
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

**The word of the Lord.**

**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.****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 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.****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.**

**NT-1**

(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 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.**

**NT-2 LONG**

(ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-18)

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

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.**

**NT-2 SHORT** (ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-13)

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

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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**NT-5**

(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.**

**NT-6**

(EPHESIANS 4:1-6)

**A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to live in a manner worthy  
of the call you have received,  
with all humility and gentleness,  
with patience, bearing with one another  
through love,

striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace:

one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called  
to the one hope of your call;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
one God and Father of all, who is over all  
and through all and in all.

**The word of the Lord.**

**NT-7 LONG** (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.**

**NT-7 SHORT** (EPHESIANS 5:2a, 25-32)**A reading from the Letter of St. 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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**NT-8**

(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.**

**NT-9**

(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.**



**NT-10**

(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.****NT-11**

(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.**

**NT-12**

(1 JOHN 3:18-24)

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint John**

Children, let us love not in words 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.**

**NT-13**

(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.**

**NT-14**

(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 I heaven, saying:

“Alleluia!  
Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God.”

A voice coming down 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.**

**G-1**

(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 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.****G-2**

(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.**

**G-3 LONG**

(MATTHEW 7:21, 24-29)

**+ 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.****G-3 SHORT**

(MATTHEW 7:21, 24-25)

**+ 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.****G-4**

(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 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.**

**G-5**

(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.****G-6**

(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.****G-7**

(JOHN 2:1-11)

**+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

There was a wedding feast 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 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.**

**G-8**

(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.****G-9**

(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.****G-10 LONG**

(JOHN 17:20-26)

**+ 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.****G-10 SHORT**

(JOHN 17:20-23)

**+ A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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.**



# DIVINE MERCY PARISH

SACRED HEART CHURCH · ST. PHILIP THE APOSTLE CHURCH

## APPENDIX A

### *Choosing prayers and Scripture readings for weddings celebrated within Mass*

Generally, when a couple contacts the parish to set up the date for a wedding, they already have a date in mind. Sometimes, a couple asks for this Handbook prior to even setting a date for the wedding.

There are certain days in the year when, due to the special liturgical character of that day, a couple cannot choose prayers and scripture texts from this guidebook. You can still celebrate a wedding on most of these days. However, the prayers and scripture texts must be taken from the day itself. So, for example, if you are planning to be wed on Ash Wednesday, you must use the Ash Wednesday prayers and scripture texts.

Every Sunday imposes this limitation, as do all of the other special days listed below.

For the most part, couples will not be selecting any of these days in order to celebrate a wedding. However, if you do happen to choose one of these dates, please know that the above restriction applies only to weddings celebrated within Mass. In other words, if you are preparing to celebrate a non-Eucharistic liturgy (a ceremony), there are fewer restrictions.

To be honest, this restriction is not going to affect most couples because most weddings are celebrated on a Saturday. The special liturgical days that most likely would impact a couples' choice of texts would be those feasts which are not Sunday celebrations but yet that can potentially fall on a Saturday, such as December 8, January 1, March 19, June 24, June 29, August 15, and November 1 and 2.

Wedding Masses celebrated on these days cannot choose their own prayer and scripture texts. They must use the Mass of the day.

Prayer and Scripture texts from this Handbook may not be used on:

Immaculate Conception of the BVM [December 8]	Tuesday within the Octave of Easter
The Nativity of the Lord/Christmas [December 25]	Wednesday within the Octave of Easter
Mary, the Holy Mother of God [January 1]	Thursday within the Octave of Easter
Epiphany of the Lord	Friday within the Octave of Easter
Ash Wednesday	Saturday within the Octave of Easter
St. Joseph, Spouse of the BVM [March 19]	The Most Holy Trinity
Monday of Holy Week	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
Tuesday of Holy Week	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Wednesday of Holy Week	Nativity of John the Baptist [June 24]
Thursday of Holy Week [day]	Sts. Peter and Paul [June 29]
Friday of the Passion of the Lord/ Good Friday	Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary [August 15]
Holy Saturday/ Easter Vigil	All Saints [November 1]
Monday within the Octave of Easter	All Souls [November 2]



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## APPENDIX B *The Entrance Procession*

The wedding liturgy begins with the entrance procession to the altar. To emphasize that the procession marks the beginning of a liturgical celebration, the procession now takes a liturgical form and includes the processional cross and all of the liturgical ministers, who process in before the bridal party and the bride and groom.

The groomsmen and groom are now part of the entrance procession, rather than standing in the front of the church to wait for the bridesmaids and bride to come to them.

Similarly, rather than having the bride process in with her father, to be “given away” to the groom, the bride and groom are encouraged to process in accompanied by their parents, to provide a vivid symbol of the Biblical view that both the bride and groom are “leaving father and mother and clinging to one another.” (Gen 2:24; Mt 19:5; Eph 5:31)

There are two options for the entrance procession.

<b>Option 1 (Preferred)</b>	<b>Option 2</b>
Processional Cross (if incense is used, the Cross is preceded by the thurifer) Altar Servers Lectors Deacon (if assisting presiding Priest) Presider (Priest or Deacon) Groom with his Parents <sup>2</sup> Bridesmaids and Groomsmen Maid of Honor and Best Man (Ring Bearer and Flower Girl) Bride with her Parents <sup>2</sup>	Processional Cross (if incense is used, the Cross is preceded by the thurifer) Altar Servers Lectors Deacon (if assisting presiding Priest) <sup>1</sup> Presider (Priest or Deacon) Groomsmen Groom with his Parents <sup>2</sup> Bridesmaids Maid of Honor and Best Man (Ring Bearer and Flower Girl) Bride with her Parents <sup>2</sup>

1 If the Deacon will also be proclaiming the Gospel, he can process in carrying the Book of the Gospels.

2 For pastoral reasons, it may not be possible for both parents to accompany the bride or groom, e.g., due to the illness or incapacity of one of the parents.



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*Notes*





## Sacramental Guidelines during COVID-19

# CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

These guidelines for the celebration of matrimony at Divine Mercy Parish (Sacred Heart or St. Philip the Apostle) reflect the updated guidance by government officials, healthcare professionals and church authorities.

These guidelines are based on current requirements for groups of 50 or less at Sacred Heart and 100 or less at St. Philip the Apostle, at any time, **excluding ministers**.

We are **being careful not to violate social distancing, face covering and sanitizing practices**.

We cannot alter the number of persons allowed, social distancing, face covering, or sanitizing guidelines contained within this document.

### Preparation

1. A particular section of church seating is to be designated that will allow for people to maintain appropriate social distance (see more below). Family units who are domiciled together may sit together .
2. If there is a photographer, he/she is to strictly maintain proper social distance from all other participants throughout the liturgy. The photographer must be masked at all times.
3. Entry and exit doors are to be adequately designated and monitored. Entry doors are to be propped or held open before Mass, and exit doors are to be propped or held open at the end of Mass to prevent people from touching the door handles, knobs or push plates.
4. The pews of the church have tape marks observing proper social distance, designating where the faithful are to stand during any procession (e.g., Communion).
5. In addition, all pews/seating are clearly marked or designated such that there is a six-foot perimeter in all directions for every individual seat. One pew or row of seating is to be left vacant between pews or rows used for seating congregants such that six feet of distance can be maintained in all directions. Seating should also be offset or staggered by row such that no two people sit directly in line with each other in adjacent seating areas. Family units who are domiciled together may sit together.
6. A “greeter,” or some agent of the parish will meet the participants outside the church or in the vestibule, hand out masks if they have not brought their own, and require the use of hand sanitizer. They will remind worshipers that anyone who is ill or having symptoms of illness cannot enter the church.
7. Worship aids are used for the specific liturgy and posted on the website for live stream viewers.

9. The greeter will assist people in maintaining proper social distance and other guidelines as necessary.
10. **Masks will be worn for the entire time the faithful and guests are in the church.** Per IDPH and CDC guidelines, those with breathing difficulties can be exempted from this requirement, but those individuals must observe the strictest of social distancing from anyone not living in their domicile.
11. Determine procedures for people using the restrooms. It is suggested that only one person use the restrooms at a time.

## **Celebration of the Liturgy**

1. If a server is used, it should be an adult.
2. Participants, including ministers, are to sit in the designated/marked seats, keeping appropriate social distance. To emphasize: all should be wearing masks. Priest/deacon may remove his mask when he is speaking.
3. All worshipers and guests are to be in their places before the liturgy begins.
4. For the opening procession, we maintain social distance - six-foot distance, wearing face masks. This will be discussed and practiced at the rehearsal.
5. For the Liturgy of the Word, the reader may lower his/her mask for the proclamation of the reading. This applies, as well, to the person announcing the petitions in the Universal Prayer/Prayer of the Faithful.
6. For the Order of Matrimony, maintaining appropriate social distance from the priest\*. (The priest would stand six feet away either in front of the bride and groom, as may be customary, or off to the side.)
7. For the blessing of the rings, the priest goes to the table prepared beforehand, blesses the rings and then extends the plate holding the rings to the bride and groom without making physical contact. If used, the blessing and giving of the arras are done in the same manner.
8. The **procession with the gifts is omitted**. The gifts are to be on the credence or side table and the priest (or deacon if there is one) can bring them to the altar.
9. The blessing and placing of the lazzo or veil is not to be included.
10. For the nuptial blessing, the priest is to maintain appropriate social distance from the couple.
11. Holy Communion is to be distributed only under the form of the consecrated host, and only in the hand, with the priest sanitizing his hands immediately before and immediately after distributing Communion.
12. For the distribution of Holy Communion, a single-file line is necessary to maintain social distancing.
13. During the Communion procession, communicants are to maintain social distance. The parish usher(s) or greeter(s), will direct the worshipers pew by pew.

\* or Deacon if a Wedding Outside of Mass

15. Each communicant is to use it to sanitize his/her hands before receiving Communion.
16. As each worshiper enters the church, she or he will receive printed instruction on how to receive Communion, as follows:
  - a. Move forward in single file maintaining six feet between each person, looking for the crosses on the side of each pew.
  - b. Sanitize hands from the packet received before Mass.
  - c. Do NOT touch your face, clothing or any other surface after sanitizing your hands.
  - d. As you approach the priest after you have sanitized your hands, receive the Host in your hand ONLY.
  - e. Step six feet to the side, remove strap from one ear of your mask or face covering, letting it hang from the other ear, and uncovering your mouth, consume the Host.
  - f. Replace the mask over your mouth and nose and return to your seat.
17. The priest moves to a side table, sanitizes his hands and dons his face shield or mask and goggles. The use of the face shield/mask and goggles serve as a protection for the congregation and the priest.
18. For the procession out of church, the participants are dismissed row by row, allowing for appropriate social distance on the way out.

## **Post Celebration**

1. If photographs are to be taken after the liturgy inside the church, it is recommended that all but the bride and groom wear masks. Minimally, if the priest/deacon is to be photographed with the wedding party he must keep his mask on. A recommendation to take the pictures outside the church where more space is available should be made to the wedding party before the service.



# Wedding Preparation Checklist

## Documents and Forms

**Baptismal Certificates** (only one of the three following circumstances will apply)

- 1. Marriage between two baptized Catholics: bride and groom must each turn in newly issued baptismal certificates to the Divine Mercy parish office.
- 2. Marriage between a baptized Catholic and a baptized Christian who is not Catholic: the Catholic will turn in a newly issued baptismal certificate, and the baptized non-Catholic will turn in a baptismal document or letter.
- 3. Marriage between a baptized Catholic and someone who is not baptized: the baptized Catholic will turn in a newly issued baptismal certificate, along with two affidavits, and the non-baptized party will turn in two affidavits attesting to the non-baptism.

**Civil Marriage License**  
Bring civil license to the wedding rehearsal.

**Prayer and Scripture**  
Choose prayer and scripture texts for the wedding, using this handbook, and mark choices on the Master Wedding Worksheet.

**Master Wedding Worksheet**  
Complete and turn in the Worksheet to the Director of Liturgy and Music one month after the consultation.

Events to Attend	Date	Time
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**FOCCUS**  
Attend FOCCUS sessions on:

<input type="checkbox"/>	..... <i>Take FOCCUS:</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	..... <i>Receive FOCCUS results:</i>		

**Marriage Preparation Program**  
Attend Archdiocesan Pre-Cana, or:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Two Sessions with parish staff member..... <i>Session 1:</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Session 2:</i>		

**Wedding Consultation with Dir. of Liturgy and Music** Consultation held on:

Reminder	Date	Time
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**Rehearsal**

<input type="checkbox"/>	We will <i>remind</i> the wedding party to be on time for the rehearsal ( <i>no more than 15 minutes prior</i> ) on:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	All church fees must be paid in full at the Divine Mercy main parish office at least <b>one month</b> before the wedding.		