

*CELEBRATING
THE
SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE*

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As you begin...

The Sacrament that you are preparing to enter has an important place in the life of both the Church and the parish. We believe that the Sacrament of Marriage is a vocation, a call that God extends to a man and a woman to love each other unconditionally. Even more, Sacramental Marriage is symbolic, a reflection of the great marriage between Christ and His bride, the Church. This understanding of marriage makes a wedding more than just a ceremony; it is a love story that is meant to last a lifetime. Further, it reflects the love that God has for each of us. For us as Catholics, your wedding is a very important celebration. It celebrates our own deep and intimate love for Christ, our spouse, and it reminds all of us of our vocation to love as God loves.

This booklet is filled with a variety of options to help you prayerfully design your celebration of the Sacrament.

On behalf of St. Mary Magdalen Parish and the whole Church, congratulations on your impending wedding! We look forward to celebrating your marriage with you!

As you prepare your marriage Liturgy, it is worthwhile to note that there are two forms of Liturgical celebration for a wedding: a ceremony with a Word Service or a ceremony with a Nuptial Mass.

Ceremony: When a Catholic marries another Baptized Christian or a non-Baptized person, it is suggested that the wedding take place within a ceremony rather than a Nuptial Mass. The primary reason for this is that only those who are practicing Catholics are allowed to receive Communion. The ceremony alone better symbolizes the unity of a couple of mixed religions. The ceremony consists of a Liturgy of the Word (similar to the first half of Sunday Liturgy) and the wedding ceremony.

Nuptial Mass: When two Catholics marry, the ceremony usually takes place within a Nuptial Mass. The couple stands before the altar and promises to give their life to each other imitating the self-giving love of Christ celebrated on that same altar. A significant part of the Nuptial Mass occurs when the couple receives Communion and the two truly become one in the Body and Blood of Christ.

Music: Because a wedding celebrates the love of God which we pray will be visible to the world through the love of the couple, all music used in church must be specifically Christian, that is, there must be specific mention of God. Popular and secular love songs say many beautiful things about love, but not enough. They fail to speak of the origin of love, God, who is the focus of all prayer. If you have any questions or doubts about the suitability of any song, contact the priest or deacon.

Congregational Singing & Soloist: Because a wedding, whether it is a ceremony or within a Nuptial Mass, is a Liturgy or Worship Service; congregational singing is strongly encouraged because it is a part of our prayer. A solo may be sung at the lighting of the Unity Candle or Bouquet to Mary, but at the other times congregational singing will add to the joyfulness of the assembly's prayer.

Processionals: Used for the entrance of the wedding party, they are usually instrumental or organ music and since they are neither Christian or unchristian, most are appropriate. The purpose of the entrance procession is to gather everyone so we can pray and should not be a primary focus. Only one processional may be used. There may not be a separate processional for the bridesmaids and a second for the bride.

Parts that are Sung: There are some parts of a ceremony or a Nuptial Mass that are always sung. The *Responsorial Psalm* and the *Alleluia* are always sung by a cantor and the congregation. In a Nuptial Mass, the *Holy Holy*, the *Acclamation of Faith*, the *Great Amen* and the *Lamb of God* are always sung by the congregation.

To contact our pastoral musician: Steve Schulte at 810.923.8059. Steve can also help arrange for a cantor or soloist.

Each musician sets their own fees and schedule. If you would like any other musicians or soloists, please consult the priest or deacon first.

THE OPENING RITES

The Wedding Ceremony or a Nuptial Mass both begin with an entrance procession which is usually accompanied by an instrumental piece of music or an entrance song.

When the procession is complete, there is the opening sign of the cross, a greeting by the presider to all who are gathered and a welcome to the couple. A short penitential rite follows (there are samples in the marriage booklets given to you by the presider).

The Liturgy of the Word begins with the Opening Prayer.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

SECTION A – OPENING PRAYERS

A-1

Father, you have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ's love for his Church. Hear our prayers for N. and N. With faith in you and in each other they pledge their love today. May their lives always bear witness to the reality of that love. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

A-2

Father, hear our prayers for N. and N., who today are united in marriage before your altar. Give them your blessing and strengthen their love for each other. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

A-3

Almighty God, hear our prayers for N. and N. who have come here today to be united in the Sacrament of Marriage. Increase their faith in you and in each other, and through them bless your Church with Christian children. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

A-4

Father, when you created mankind you willed that man and wife should be one. Bind N. and N. in the loving union of marriage; and make their love fruitful so that they may be living witnesses to your divine love in the world. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Choosing the Readings and Readers

In the next three sections, there are several different readings from the Old Testament, the New Testament and the Gospels. You are asked to choose one reading from each section. In choosing the reading, please consider what you think the Lord is saying to you on your Wedding Day.

You are also asked to choose readers or lectors for the Old and New Testament readings (sections B and C). You will also need someone to lead the Prayer of the Faithful (section G). Please choose people of faith, who can read well and people who will respect our Catholic tradition of Liturgy and prayer.

SECTION B – READING FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

B-1 Genesis 1 :26-28, 31 a

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said: "Let us make human beings 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 humans in his image;
in the image of God he created them;
male and female God 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.

B-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 the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called 'woman,'
for out of 'her man' this one has been taken."

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

The word of the Lord.

B-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 then proceed accordingly."

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

So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Do you wish to go with this man?" She answered, "I do." At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham's servant and his men. Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said: "Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads; And may your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!"

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

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

"That is my master," replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil. The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her, and thus she became his wife. In his love for her Isaac found solace after the death of his mother Sarah.

The word of the Lord.

B-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 that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife according to the decree of the Mosaic law. Her mother brought the scroll, and he drew up the contract, to which they affixed their seals.

Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

B-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 ancestors; 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

B-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 reveres the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord

B-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 love is as stern as death, 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

B-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

B-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 ancestors: 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

B-10 Ruth1: 16-17

A reading from the Book of the Ruth

Ruth said, " Do not ask me to abandon or forsake you! For wherever you go, I shall go; wherever you lodge, I shall lodge; your people will be my people and your God, my God. Wherever you die, there, I will die and be buried. May the Lord make all this possible and more besides, but let nothing but death separate me from you!"

The word of the Lord

SECTION C – READING FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

C-1 Romans 8:31 b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of St 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

C-2 Long Version Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

A reading from the Letter of St 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

C-3 Short Version Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

A reading from the Letter of St 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.

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The word of the Lord

C-4 Romans 15: 1b-3a, 5-7, 13

A reading from the Letter of St 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

C-5 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

A reading from the first Letter of St 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

C-6 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

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

Brothers and sisters:

Be ambitious for the greater gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries; if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I even hand my body over to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not conceited, it is not rude, it is not self-centered, it is not quick-tempered, nor does it brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but delights in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The word of the Lord

C-7 Long Version Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

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. Be submissive to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be submissive to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the Church, and he is the savior of the body. As the Church is submissive to Christ, so wives should be submissive to their husbands in everything.

Husbands love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church. He handed himself over 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 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 say it refers 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

C-8 Short Version Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32

A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, just 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 say it refers to Christ and the Church.

The Word of the Lord

C-9 Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from the Letter of St 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, in 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

C-10 Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter of St 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, which is, the bond of perfection.

Let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body.

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. 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

C-11 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 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

C-12 1 Peter 3:1-9

A reading from the first Letter of St Peter

Beloved:

You wives should be submissive 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

C-13 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first Letter of St John

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

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

C-14 1 John 4:7-12

A reading from the first Letter of St John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. This is the 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.

This is love: it is not that we have loved God, but that God first 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

C-15 Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying: "Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God."

A voice coming from the throne said: "Praise our God, all you his servants, and you who revere him, small and great."

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

The Lord our God, the almighty has established his reign, 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 come forth wearing 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

SECTION D – GOSPEL READINGS

D-1 Matthew 5:1-12a

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

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

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

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

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

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

D-2 Matthew 5:13-16

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

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

D-3 Long Version Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

D-3 Short Version Matthew 7:21, 24-25

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.

D-4 Matthew 19:3-6

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?"

He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator *made them male and female* and said, *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*

So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate."

D-5 Matthew 22:35-40

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."

D-6 Mark 10:6-9

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

Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

D-7 John 2:1-11

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water:" So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter."

So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

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

D-8 John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be yours and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you:"

D-9 John 15:12-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know what his master is doing. I call 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 sent you to go and bear fruit that will last, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."

D-10 Long Version John 17:20-26

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

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."

D-11 Short Version John 17:20-23

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.

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.

A Homily based on the Scripture readings you have chosen will follow the Gospel reading.

THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

The Rite of Marriage is divided into four parts.

The **first part** is the Introduction to the rite. The couple and official witnesses move to the altar platform and stand before the presider. He then explains the rite briefly and questions the bride and groom regarding their intentions.

The **second part** is the exchange of vows. The couple is invited to turn toward each other and hold hands. Then, first the groom and then the bride make the promises of marriage, using one of the two forms in section E. Because the bride and groom are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage, (the presider is only the Church's witness) it is appropriate that both make the promise to each other in a loud clear voice.

The **third part** of the rite is the blessing and exchange of rings found in section F.

Some couples also choose to light a unity candle. A **Unity Candle** expresses the biblical injunction that, "the two shall become one." This usually occurs between these two parts of the Marriage Rite and is usually accompanied by a song or instrumental piece. If you choose this option, you should purchase a candle which is about 10-12 inches high and about 3 inches in diameter. We have a special stand for this candle, which includes a pair of individual candles.

The **fourth part** of the rite is the Prayer of the Faithful. This prayer is led by a person of the couple's choosing. It is found in section G. This prayer concludes with the Nuptial Blessing which is prayed by the presider over the couple. It is found in section H.

Sections E – H THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

Introductory Address: *The rite is introduced with these or similar words*

My dear friends, you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in Baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by a special Sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

Statement of Intentions

The priest then questions the couple, both answer the questions at the same time:

N. and N., have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

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

Section E. The Marriage Vows:

The presider says: Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

E-1

The bridegroom says: I, N., take you, N., to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

The bride says: I, N., take you, N., to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

E-2

The bridegroom says: I, N., take you N., for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

The bride says: I, N., take you, N. for your lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

After either form of the Vows, the presider says:

You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, let no one divide. R. Amen.

Section F. The Blessing and Exchange of Rings

There are three forms of the blessing of the rings:

F-1

May the Lord bless + these rings which you give to each other as the sign of your love and fidelity.
R. Amen.

F-2

Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in your name Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they do your will and always live together In peace, good will, and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

F-3

Lord, bless + and consecrate N. and N. in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other, and always remind them of their love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
R. Amen.

Then the bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying:

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

Then the bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying:

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

Section G – Prayer of the Faithful

G-1

1. For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our president and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, let us pray to the Lord.

4. For N. and N., now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until a ripe old age, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.

G-2

1. For leaders of Church and state, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households; that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us. Let us pray to the Lord.
2. For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple N. and N., married today, for those who will marry tomorrow; that they may savor the joy of being together, warm love, and children, a long life, wine, and friends, and a new day, every day. Let us pray to the Lord.
3. For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love
Let us pray to the Lord.
4. For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor,
for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us. Let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires
Let us pray to the Lord.

G-3

1. For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord.
2. For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord.
3. For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord.
4. For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord.
5. For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord.
6. For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, we pray to the Lord.
7. For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, we pray to the Lord.
8. For this couple, to keep the promise of marriage, we pray to the Lord.

Section H – The Nuptial Blessing

The presider invites the whole assembly to pray quietly and then extends his hands over the bride and groom, saying one of the following prayers:

H-1

Father, by your power you have made everything out of nothing. In the beginning you created the universe and made mankind in your own likeness. You gave man the constant help of woman so that man and woman should no longer be two, but one flesh, and you teach us that what you have united may never be divided.

Father, you have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and his Church.

Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood.

Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church.

Father, keep them always true to your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian life. Give them the strength which comes from the Gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others. Bless them with children and help them to be good parents. May they live to see their children's children.

And, after a happy old age, grant them fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

H-2

Holy Father, you created mankind in your own image and made man and woman to be joined as husband and wife in union of body and heart and so fulfill their mission in this world.

Father, to reveal the plan of your love, you made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between you and your people.

In the fulfillment of this Sacrament the Marriage of Christian man and woman is a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church. Father, stretch out your hand, and bless N. and N.

Lord, grant that as they begin to live this Sacrament they may share with each other the gifts of your love and become one in heart and mind as witnesses to your presence in their marriage. Help them to create a home together and give them children to be formed by the Gospel and to have a place in your family.

Give your blessings to N., your daughter, so that she may be a good wife and mother, caring for the home, faithful in love for her husband, generous and kind.

Give your blessings to N., your son, so that he may be a faithful husband and a good father.

Father, grant that as they come together to your table on earth, they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

H-3

Holy Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for married life, we humbly pray to you for this woman who today is united with her husband in this Sacrament of Marriage.

May your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love and enrich your Church with their children.

Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy and turn to you in their sorrows. May they be glad that you help them in their work and know that you are with them in their need.

May they pray to you in the community of the Church, and be your witnesses in the world.

May they reach old age in the company of their friends, and come at last to the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

If you are planning on not having a Nuptial Mass, please turn to Section L (page 23)

The following prayers are used only for a Nuptial Mass:

SECTION I – The Prayer over the Gifts

I-1

Lord, accept our offering for this newly married couple, N. and N. By your love and providence you have brought them together; now bless them all the days of their married life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

I-2

Lord, accept the gifts we offer you on this happy day. In your fatherly love watch over and protect N. and N., whom you have united in marriage. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

I-3

Lord, hear our prayers and accept the gifts we offer for N. and N. Today you have made them one in the Sacrament of Marriage. May the mystery of Christ's unselfish love, which we celebrate in this Eucharist, increase their love for you and for each other. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

SECTION J – The Preface

(This prayer begins the Eucharistic Prayer)

J-1

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

By this sacrament your grace unites man and woman in an unbreakable bond of love and peace. You have designed the chaste love of husband and wife for the increase both of the human family and of your own family born in Baptism.

You are the loving Father of the world of nature; you are the loving Father of the new creation of grace.

In Christian marriage you bring together the two orders of creation: nature's gift of children enriches the world, and your grace enriches also your Church.

Through Christ the choirs of angels and all the saints praise and worship your glory. May our voices blend with theirs as we join in their unending hymn:

J-2

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him you entered into a new covenant with your people. You restored humanity to grace in the saving mystery of redemption. You gave us a share in the divine life through our union with Christ. You made us heirs of Christ's eternal glory. This outpouring of love in the new covenant of grace is symbolized in the marriage covenant that seals the love of husband and wife and reflects your divine plan of love.

And so, with the angels and all the saints in heaven we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

J-3

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks.

You created humanity in love to share your divine life. We see his high destiny in the love of husband and wife, which bears the imprint of your own divine love. Love is our origin, love is our constant calling, love is our fulfillment in heaven. The love of man and woman is made holy in the Sacrament of Marriage, and becomes the mirror of your everlasting love.

Through Christ the choirs of angels and all the saints praise and worship your glory. May our voices blend with theirs as we join in their unending hymn:

SECTION K – The Prayer After Communion

K-1

Lord, in your love you have given us this Eucharist to unite us with one another and with you. As you have made N. and N. one in this Sacrament of Marriage (and in the sharing of the one bread and the one cup), so now make them one in love for each other. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

K-2

Lord, we who have shared the food of your table pray for our friends N. and N., whom you have joined together in marriage. Keep them close to you always. May their love for each other proclaim to all the world their faith in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

K-3

Almighty God, may the sacrifice we have offered and the Eucharist we have shared strengthen the love of N. and N., and give us all your fatherly aid. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITES

These can be used to conclude both a Marriage Ceremony and a Nuptial Mass.

Section L -- The Final Blessing

L-1

God the eternal Father keep you in love with each other, so that the peace of Christ may stay with you and be always in your home. R. Amen.

May your children bless you, your friends console you and all live in peace with you. R. Amen.

May you always bear witness to the love of God in this world so that the afflicted and the needy will find in you generous friends, and welcome you into the joys of heaven. R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.

L-2

May God, the almighty Father, give you his joy and bless you in your children. R. Amen.

May the only Son of God have mercy on you and help you in good times and in bad. R. Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God always fill your hearts with his love. R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.

L-3

May the Lord Jesus, who was a guest at the wedding in Cana, bless you and your families and friends. R. Amen.

May Jesus, who loved his Church to the end, always fill your hearts with his love. R. Amen.

May he grant that, as you believe in his resurrection, so you may wait for him in joy and hope. R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.

L-4

May almighty God, with his Word of blessing, unite your hearts in the never-ending bond of pure love. R. Amen.

May your children bring you happiness, and may your generous love for them be returned to you, many times over. R. Amen.

May the peace of Christ live always in your hearts and in your home. May you have true friends to stand by you, both in joy and in sorrow. May you be ready and willing to help and comfort all who come to you in need. And may the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance. R. Amen.

May you find happiness and satisfaction in your work. May daily problems never cause you undue anxiety, nor the desire for earthly possessions dominate your lives. But may your hearts' first desire be always the good things waiting for you in the life of heaven.

R. Amen.

May the Lord bless you with many happy years together, so that you may enjoy the rewards of a good life. And after you have served him loyally in his kingdom on earth, may he welcome you to his eternal kingdom in heaven.

R. Amen.

And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen

Sung

This is sung by the presider and the congregations

May the Lord bless and keep you, may he let his face shine upon you and be gracious to you and give you his peace.

And may the blessing of God: Father, Son, + Holy Spirit descend upon you. R. Amen

OTHER OPTIONS

Whether you are planning a Ceremony or Nuptial Mass, you may choose any or all of these options.

1. **Lighting of Candles:** If you are planning to have a Unity Candle, the parents of the bride and groom may light the individual candles next to the Unity Candle. This would occur either before the entrance procession or at its conclusion.

2. **Presentation of Flower to parents:** This is may take place at the lighting of the Unity Candle or at the Greeting of Peace.

3. **Bouquet to the Blessed Mother:** This custom is based on John 2:1-11 (D7). The bride, accompanied by the groom, takes a small bouquet of flowers to the shrine of the Blessed Mother. This is a sign of the couple's prayer that Mary will join them in their prayer to Christ asking for his blessing and care. It takes place near the end of the wedding and is usually accompanied by a Marian hymn._____

4. **Introduction of the couple:** This takes place just before the recessional.

5. **Receiving Line:** If there is no other wedding or a rehearsal after your wedding, it is possible for you to have a receiving line at the church. It can be traditional with the whole wedding party in line in the Gathering Area. Or the bride & groom can dismiss the assembly pew by pew.

6. **Booklets:** These are strongly encouraged to enable all the people you have invited to your wedding to join with you in the prayer.

REMINDERS

Aisle Runners: Aisle runners are *not* permitted. Since these are usually paper or plastic, both are slippery when placed down over the tile flooring. Moreover, the Baptismal font makes it impossible for the runner to reach the doorway.

Alcohol: Absolutely **no** alcohol is to be consumed by any member of the wedding party the day of the wedding prior to the wedding. Any member of the wedding party who consumes alcohol before the wedding may not participate in the ceremony. Nor should it be brought onto the church property for immediately after the wedding.

Booklets: If you are preparing a worship aide, please make sure that the presiding priest or deacon reviews before printing to assure accuracy. In addition, you might involve others in your wedding by asking them to hand these out to your guests as they arrive.

Changing Rooms: The East Room is also used for the bride and her attendants for dressing. It has a large mirror, its own restroom and a speaker from the church sound system. The ladies should come all prepared, needing only to put on their dresses.

The bride's family is expected to make sure that the room is clean and restored to its primary use after the wedding.

The gentlemen should come already dressed in their suits.

Fees: There is a fee for the use of the facilities, the marriage prep materials, the musician (keyboard), the cantor, the liturgical coordinator and the presider:

+ The fee for parishioners (registered, contributing members of the parish) is \$500.

+ The fee for non-parishioners (those who do not belong or support the community) is \$750.

Additional singers or musician are paid \$75 per person.

Flowers: Like everything else involved in the celebration, flowers should not distract from the Sacrament being celebrated. There are only a few places where flowers are clearly visible in church. The best placement is to have a large arrangement in front of the altar or the ambo. Flowers may not be placed on the altar or hung on the pews.

Except during Advent and Lent, it is customary for the flowers to be left in church for the weekend Liturgies as a sign of your celebration.

Guest Books are not appropriate at church. Their proper place is at the reception.

Hospitality: It would be very helpful for you to have a few people to stand near the church entrance to hand your guests the hymnal and \or booklet as they enter. Usually two to four serve in this capacity.

Rehearsal Times Please inform your wedding party of the time and *ask them to be on time!!* The presider usually schedules only an hour for the rehearsal so any delay in starting may also limit the rehearsal time!

Rice: Rice, birdseed, confetti or anything similar to these are NOT permitted at the church. Bubbles are fine.

Use of the Church: Wedding parties do not have unlimited use of the church. Generally, the wedding party has the church for **only one hour before & after** the wedding and this may be shortened if there is another activity scheduled. Any plans for additional time should be made well in advance of the rehearsal with the priest or deacon who is presiding at the wedding.

PLEASE INFORM YOUR FLORISTS

Pew Bows: Should be attached to the pew by tying them on. Do not use tape.

Flowers: Like everything else involved in the celebration, flowers should not distract from or interfere with the service. There are only a few places where flowers are clearly visible in church. Flowers *may not* be placed on the altar or hung on the pews. Nor should florists rearrange the sanctuary without obtaining permission first.

PLEASE INFORM YOUR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Pictures/Video: Pictures, both still and video provide an attractive remembrance of this very important moment in the lives of the bride and groom, but should never be a distraction from our prayer.

Inform your photographer that **flash** photography is permitted **only** during the processions at the beginning and end. Other pictures taken during the service need to be with NO flash. The photographer must remain inconspicuous throughout the service. Remind your photographer to talk with the presider before the wedding to make sure that there is no misunderstanding of what is permitted.

No wedding party has unlimited use of the church! Unless there has been an agreement with the presider ahead of the rehearsal, you should plan on an hour before and an hour after the wedding. This will depend on the parish schedule. Please do not make plans without checking first with the priest or deacon.

Photographers need to be reminded that the church is a *sacred place* and not a studio. Thanks