

Selection of Readings for

Weddings



compiled by the Office of Divine Worship

The Catholic Diocese of Peoria

Three Forms of the Rite of Marriage

Within Mass

Introductory Rites

Welcome
Procession
Gloria
Collect

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament
Responsorial Psalm
New Testament
Gospel
Homily

Rite of Marriage

Introduction
Questions before Consent
Consent (Exchange of Vows)
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
General Intercessions

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Altar
Eucharistic Prayer
Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Communion
Prayer after Communion
Optional Marian Devotion

Concluding Rite

Solemn Blessing
Recessional

Outside of Mass

Introductory Rites

Welcome
Procession
Collect

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament
Responsorial Psalm
New Testament
Gospel
Homily

Rite of Marriage

Introduction
Questions before Consent
Consent (Exchange of Vows)
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
General Intercessions
Lord's Prayer
Nuptial Blessing
Optional Marian Devotion

Conclusion

Blessing
Recessional

Between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person

Welcome
Procession

Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament
Responsorial Psalm
New Testament
Gospel
Homily

Rite of Marriage

Introduction
Questions before Consent
Consent (Exchange of Vows)
Blessing and Exchange of Rings
General Intercessions
Nuptial Blessing
Optional Marian Devotion

Conclusion

Blessing
Recessional

Your Catholic Wedding: Liturgy of the Word

As Catholics, we believe that God is always with us and that we encounter him in a myriad ways. And yet, God has chosen to be present with us in a most particular way through scripture and the sacraments. The Liturgy of the Word is the part of Mass when we listen to scripture readings and a homily, recite together the creed, and pray the General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful. In this part of the liturgy, we celebrate Christ present to us in the Word.

Scripture and the Liturgy of the Word

Based on ancient patterns of worship in Jewish synagogues, our Liturgy of the Word juxtaposes several passages from the Bible alongside one another and invites us to listen for how God continues to speak to us today.

For weddings, as for Sunday Mass, three readings are normally chosen. The first reading is usually chosen from the Old Testament, followed by a Responsorial Psalm then the second reading taken from the New Testament. There is then a reading from one of the four gospels, preceded by an Alleluia or another sung verse.

Selecting Readers for the Liturgy

While the gospel is always read by a priest or deacon, the earlier readings can be read by others from the congregation. Often couples choose family members or close friends to proclaim the first and second readings. Select readers with care; not everyone feels comfortable reading aloud before others, nor is everyone able to proclaim loudly and clearly. Because we believe that God is present in the proclamation of this Word, you will want it to be easily heard and understood. Be sure to give your readers copies of the passages well before the wedding so they can prepare and allow time during the rehearsal for them to practice in church on the microphone that will be used during your wedding.

During the liturgy, the readings are proclaimed from a special book called the “lectionary.” This comes from the Latin root word “lectio” meaning “to read.” Reading from this text rather than a loose piece of paper, expresses our reverence for the Word of God and the proclamation of it in the midst of the gathered community. Your readers will want to be able to practice finding their assigned passages in the lectionary and reading it as printed there.

If you preparing a wedding worship aid (or wedding program) you may want to include the scripture references to the passages you have chosen, along with the refrain of your Responsorial Psalm.

First Reading for a Catholic Wedding

The first reading in a Catholic wedding is usually taken from the Old Testament. For generation upon generation, Judaism has placed a very high value on marriage and family life, seeing these as central to the practice of the faith. The Hebrew Scriptures (books of the Old Testament) are filled with a number of beautiful passages that speak about marriage in very positive terms, often understanding it as a symbol of the love and fidelity that God has for the people of Israel.

Romantic desire is shown in a favorable light and the establishment of a solid, working household as eminently pleasing. While the structures of marriage have evolved a great deal since the time these scripture passages were first written, you will likely discover in this first reading for your Catholic wedding that you share many of the same ideals concerning marriage as your ancestors in faith: faithfulness, enjoyment, and the creation of a new family.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

GENESIS 1:26-28, 31

B1

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 divine image he created him;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

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

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

The word of the Lord.

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 the 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.

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

"Then 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.

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 that 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 your 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 gratn 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 Tobaih 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.

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 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.

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

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

The word of the Lord.

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 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 said 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.

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 sou.
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.

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.

Responsorial Psalm in a Catholic Wedding

Following the first reading in a Catholic wedding, the community sings or recites the Responsorial Psalm, taken from the book of Psalms in the Old Testament. Seven psalms have been chosen as particularly suitable for the celebration of weddings. The book of Psalms is an ancient book of 150 prayers written as song. Some of the psalms were written as early as 900 years before the birth of Jesus. The Church continues to use the psalms as a prayerful response to the Word of God proclaimed in the first reading. Generally responsorial psalms are structured so that there is a refrain sung by the whole congregation with verses led by a cantor.

PSALMODY

PSALM 33:12, 18, 20-21, 22

C1

R: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Blessed the nations whose God is the Lord,
the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.
But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him,
upon those who hope for his kindness.

R: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Our soul waits for the Lord,
who is our help and our shield,
For in him our hearts rejoice;
In his holy name we trust.

R: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us
Who have put our hope in you.

R: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

R: I will bless the Lord at all times. OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R: I will bless the Lord at all times. OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Glorify the Lord with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

R: I will bless the Lord at all times. OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your face may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the Lord heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

R: I will bless the Lord at all times. OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
Taste and see how good the Lord is;
Blessed the man who takes refuge in him.

R: I will bless the Lord at all times. OR Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful. OR The Lord's kindness is everlasting for those who fear him.

Bless the Lord, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful. OR The Lord's kindness is everlasting for those who fear him.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.

As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful. OR The Lord's kindness is everlasting for those who fear him.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity
to eternity towards those who fear him,

And his justice towards children's children
among those who keep his covenant.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful. OR The Lord's kindness is everlasting for those who fear him.

R: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Blessed the man who fears the Lord,
 who greatly delights in his commands.
His prosperity shall be mighty upon the earth;
 the upright generation shall be blessed.

R: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Wealth and riches shall be in his house;
 his generosity shall endure forever.
Light shines through the darkness for the upright;
 he is gracious and merciful and just.

R: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Well for the man who is gracious and lends,
 who conducts his affairs with justice;
He shall never be moved;
 the just one shall be in everlasting remembrance
An evil report he shall not fear.

R: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.
His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear
 til he looks down upon his foes.

R: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

Lavishly he gives to the poor;
 his generosity shall endure forever;
 his horn shall be exalted in glory.

R: Blessed the man who greatly delights in the Lord's commands.

R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord. OR See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Blessed are you who fear the Lord,
 who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
 blessed shall you be, and favored.

R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord. OR See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
 in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants
 around your table.

R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord. OR See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Behold, thus is the man blessed
 who fears the Lord.
The Lord bless you from Zion:
 may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
 all the days of your life.

R: Blessed are those who fear the Lord. OR See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

PSALM 145:8-9, 10, 15, 17-18 C6

R: The Lord is compassionate towards all his works

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
The Lord is good to all
and compassionate towards all his works.

R: The Lord is compassionate towards all his works

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
The eyes of all look hopefully to you
and you give them their food in due season.

R: The Lord is compassionate towards all his works

The Lord is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works
The Lord is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

R: The Lord is compassionate towards all his works

PSALM 148:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-13a, 13c-14a C7

R: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights;
Praise him, all you his angels,
Praise him, all you his hosts.

R: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars.
Praise him, you highest heavens,
and you waters above the heavens

R: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

You mountains and all you hills,
you fruit trees and all your cedars;
You wild beasts and all tame animals,
you creeping things and winged fowl.

R: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Let the kings of the earth and all peoples,
the princes and all the judges of the earth,
Young men too, and maidens,
old men and boys,
Praise the name of the Lord,
for his name alone is exalted.

R: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

His majesty is above earth and heaven,
and he has lifted his horn above the people.

R: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Second Reading for a Catholic Wedding

The second reading for Catholic weddings and at most Sunday Masses comes from the New Testament, specifically the letters of the first apostles to the early Christian communities. Many of these letters trace back to the writings of Paul, while others to Peter and John. Most of the second reading choices assigned for use during Catholic weddings focus on the theme of love and most of them were originally written not for married couples, but as letters to the Christian communities of the first century. These letters from early Church leaders reminded ancient Christians how to live in peace and harmony with one another and were often attempts at resolving disputes. Married members of these early communities are called upon to model for the rest what Christian relationships should look like.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

ROMANS 8:31-35, 37-39

D1

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 who 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.

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

D2 - longer

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I urge you therefore, 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.

ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-13

D2 - shorter

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I urge you therefore, 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.

ROMANS 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

D3

A reading from the letter of 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

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.

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

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, love 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.

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.

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.

EPHESIANS 5:2a, 25-32

D7 - shorter

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

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

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

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

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

Put on then, 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.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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.

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.

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

Children, let us love one another not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

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

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

And his commandment is this:

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

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

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of Saint John.

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;

everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.

Whoever is without love, does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:

God sent his only Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:

not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us,
we also must love one another.

No one has ever seen God.

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the book of Revelation.

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

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

A voice coming from the throne said:

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

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

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

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory.

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

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

The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.

Then the angel said to me,

"Write this: blessed are those who have been called
to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading for a Catholic Wedding

The third reading in a Catholic wedding is always chosen from one of the four gospels. These books of the Bible were recorded during the latter half of the first century A.D. Each tells the story of Jesus through the memory of a distinct Christian community, presenting a unique picture of his early life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Many of the gospel readings for Catholic weddings are not explicitly about marriage but about the love of Christians for one another and about the call to discipleship. The passages remind us that Christian marriage is a particular way of living out one's discipleship in Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READINGS

MATTHEW 5:1-12a

F1

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.

MATTHEW 5:13-16

F2

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.

MATTHEW 7:21, 24-29

F3 - longer

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.

MATTHEW 7:21, 24-25

F3 - shorter

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.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.

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.

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

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

JOHN 15:9-12

F8

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 may be in you
and your joy may be complete.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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.

JOHN 17:20-26

F10 - longer

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

" 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.

JOHN 17:20-23

F10 - shorter

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

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

And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Catholic Wedding Prayer of the Faithful

The Liturgy of the Word in Catholic weddings concludes with the Creed and the Prayer of the Faithful. At Sunday Mass, following the homily, we stand and together recite the creed, saying aloud what we believe about God and about how we are to live in response to him. This statement of faith leads us to the General Intercessions or Prayer of the Faithful wherein we pray for the needs of the world, the Church, and often our very particular needs.

You can find some advice for composing your own intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful here at *Together for Life Online*. (**A quick note about terminology:** What we call the “intercessions” or “intentions” forms the core of the Prayer of the Faithful, which is a singular liturgical action. Many people talk about the Prayer of the Faithful with the wrong words. Instead of *prayers* of the faithful, be sure to refer to this liturgical action as the Prayer of the Faithful. The Prayer of the Faithful for a Catholic wedding is technically not a group of prayers of the faithful for a Catholic wedding. There are no prayers (plural) of the faithful, only intercessions that make up a part of the Prayer of the Faithful.)

During Catholic weddings, the creed is not usually recited and the intercessions are moved to follow the *Rite of Marriage*. There they become the first act of worship of the newly married couple.

Wedding - J1

1. For the Church throughout the world. May our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another. We pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the poor, the homeless, and for those who are unemployed. May our care and concern for those in need be a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
4. For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. May they grow in wisdom and grace, and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
6. For **N.** and **N.**, who begin their married life together this day. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessing of children. We pray to the Lord.
7. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of **N.** and **N.** and of all present for this wedding. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

Wedding - J2

1. For the Church and its leaders. May our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.
2. For our world and its leaders. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve. We pray to the Lord.
3. For our country and those who defend it. May our men and women who serve in the military be kept safe from all harm. We pray to the Lord.
4. For those who are sick, lonely, or depressed. May they be strengthened by God's love and aided by friends and family. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all of our guests gathered here with us today. May they enjoy the warm company of family and friends and have safe travels on their journey home. We pray to the Lord.
6. For **N.** and **N.**. May they live long, blessed lives together; may their love grow stronger each and every day; and may they build a family rooted in faith and unconditional love. We pray to the Lord.
7. For **N.** and **N.** (*fill in the names of your deceased loved ones*) and all who have died. May they know the peace and fullness of eternal life with God. We pray to the Lord.

Wedding -J3

1. For the Church all people of faith throughout the world. May our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another. We pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the poor, the homeless, and for those who are unemployed. May our care and concern for those in need be a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
4. For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.
5. For all those preparing for marriage. May they grow in wisdom and grace, and reflect God's love to all around them. We pray to the Lord.
6. For **N.** and **N.**, who begin their married life together this day. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessings of children. We pray to the Lord.
7. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of **N.** and **N.** and of all present for this wedding. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

"Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous..." Corinthians 13:4

