

# *Saint Joseph Cathedral*

*145 Lowell Street*

*Manchester, New Hampshire 03104-6135*

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations on your engagement! This can be a time of great joy for you, your family and friends as you prepare to solemnize the commitment you will make to one another. The Church is pleased to share this time with you and to guide you through the process of preparing for the great sacrament of marriage – a sacrament that speaks of God’s unending love for us; a sacrament that celebrates the intimacy of God’s life among us; a sacrament that does, in fact, continue the life of grace through family life.

The guidelines that follow may, at first glance, seem overwhelming. There are many things to do, documents to secure, sessions to be engaged in. But all of these are intended to help you understand that, in the Catholic Church, marriage is considered to be a sacrament that will bind the two of you together through life. On our part, we want to ensure that you are making this commitment fully informed of the reality that Christian marriage is one that is faithful, open to life, a free choice, and permanent. While we will walk through many things that are part of the whole picture of marriage, we will reflect together on the strong points of your relationship and those areas which might present a challenge.

The Church wants to be a help to you during this wonderful time. As you read through this text, please consider that we are not preparing you for a day, but rather for a lifetime of happiness and grace.

May the Lord of love bless you every day of your lives!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Anthony Frontiera*

Rector

## *Introduction*

The guidelines that follow will help you to determine the possibility of celebrating the sacrament of Marriage at Saint Joseph Cathedral. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [www.stjosephcathedralnh.org](http://www.stjosephcathedralnh.org) or by telephone at 603.622.6404. We will do our best to assist you in this process.

## **The Basics:**

### *Who can be married at Saint Joseph Cathedral?*

Normally, those who are registered parishioners of the Cathedral Parish may be married here. The Catholic Church has a long tradition of celebrating the sacraments within one's own parish. There can be exceptions to this, however. For example, couples belonging to other parishes of the diocese might wish to celebrate their wedding in the Cathedral with a priest or deacon from their home parish officiating.

### *Who is able to officiate at weddings in the Cathedral?*

The Rector, Monsignor Anthony Frontiero, or the Permanent Deacon, Deacon Robert Potvin, normally officiates at Cathedral weddings. But permission can be given for a priest- or deacon-friend to officiate. And, as indicated above, if you belong to another parish in the diocese, your pastor will be the appropriate person to approach in this matter. Because marriage is a sacrament of the Roman Catholic Church, a Justice of the Peace may not officiate at weddings in the Catholic Church.

### *Are people who are not of the Catholic faith able to be married at Saint Joseph Cathedral?*

They are, if one of the parties is a Catholic.

### *Are people who have been married before able to be married in the Catholic Church?*

Normally speaking, no. That is because the Catholic Church regards marriage as a permanent commitment. However, because there are exceptions and extenuating circumstances, you would be well advised to discuss it as soon as possible with the priest, deacon or pastoral minister whom you approach about officiating at your wedding.

### *Is some sort of preparation needed for couples wishing to be married?*

Yes. Since marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament and a lifetime commitment, we value and honor it by taking time to help couples prepare. All Cathedral parishioners begin this process by completing a comprehensive Pre-Marriage Inventory or questionnaire, followed by an interview with a member of the pastoral staff. This takes place before the wedding date is finalized on the Cathedral calendar. Afterwards, couples are required to participate in a marriage preparation program, a number of which are approved by the diocese. Couples who are not Cathedral parishioners deal directly in this matter with the priest or deacon who will officiate at their wedding.

### *When may weddings take place at the Cathedral?*

Saturday is the usual day for weddings to be celebrated. They are never celebrated on Sundays. Also, the Church discourages celebration of weddings during the season of Lent.

### *Is the Cathedral chapel available for weddings?*

Yes. If you are anticipating a small wedding (i.e., fewer than 125 people), you may wish to discuss this possibility with the staff member who is working with you.

### *Do Catholic weddings always take place during Mass?*

No. Wedding can be celebrated either during the celebration of Mass or during a Liturgy of the Word. Normally, weddings are celebrated during Mass only when both parties are of the Catholic faith.

### *Does the Cathedral have policies regarding the content of the wedding service, the music to be used, etc?*

Yes. The content of the service is set forth in the Church's official Ritual Book for weddings. However, the couple being married will work with the staff member to plan the wedding service by choosing the Scripture readings that will be used during it. There are certain other options for the service, too, which will be explained to you. The Cathedral also has standards and policies regarding the music to be used at a wedding.

### *How does a Cathedral parishioner arrange to get a wedding on the Cathedral calendar?*

If you are a regular and contributing parishioner of Saint Joseph Cathedral, you may begin scheduling a wedding by calling the Cathedral secretary up to 24 months (and no less than 9 months) before your desired wedding date. She will discuss with you your preference regarding a date and time for your wedding. After she clears a tentative date on the Cathedral calendar, she will call you back and arrange for you to come in and take the standard Pre-

Marriage Inventory. Your date will remain tentative until the inventory has been completed, and the results discussed with you and shared with Monsignor Anthony or Deacon Bob. This process is normally completed within two months. At this point, which could be as much as one year before your desired wedding date, your date will be able to be confirmed.

### *How does a someone who is NOT a Cathedral parishioner arrange to get a wedding on the Cathedral calendar?*

It is necessary, first of all, for you to have a priest or deacon who is willing to preside at your wedding. Normally, of course, this would be a priest or deacon from your own parish. It could also be a relative or a close friend. Once you have identified the priest or deacon officiant, the Cathedral secretary will work with you to find an agreeable date for your wedding. This date will remain tentative until the priest or deacon has requested and received permission for the marriage from the Cathedral pastor. The priest or deacon obtains permission by filling out the “delegation form” provided by the Cathedral secretary.

Someone who is not a Cathedral parishioner may begin this scheduling process by calling the Cathedral secretary as early as 12 months before the desired wedding date.

*Please note that Cathedral parishioners always enjoy priority of date and time. One must be a registered, active and contributing member of the Cathedral parish for a minimum of one year before the first marriage preparation meeting. Special consideration will be given to couples whose parents are parishioners of the Cathedral.*

For non-parishioners, the following must be obtained:

A letter must be obtained from the parish where the bride or groom resides. This letter must state that:

1. The bride/groom is a member in good standing.
2. The pastor agrees to do the preparation and to possibly administer the sacrament of marriage at the Cathedral.
3. The marriage will not be scheduled without membership or receipt of the above mentioned letter. Any exceptions will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

### *Is there a fee involved for a Cathedral wedding?*

**Yes.** The fee assigned to your wedding helps defray the costs of the services of the sacristan, the custodians, the business office, and the musicians as well as the cost of utilities, such as heat and electricity. *There are two fee schedules at Saint Joseph Cathedral, one for parishioners and another for non-parishioners.*

### **Fees for parishioners\***

For weddings in the Cathedral or Chapel, the fee is \$700. No parishioner of Saint Joseph Cathedral is ever turned away because of an inability to pay the fee.

*\*The parishioner rate for weddings is set in order to honor the commitment of participating, contributing members of the parish. It is unfair to them to extend it to people who simply change parish affiliations in order to pay a lower fee. Normally speaking, the parishioner rate applies to those who have been registered and participating members for **at least one year** prior to scheduling.*

### **Fees for non-parishioners**

For weddings in the Cathedral or Chapel, the fee is \$900.

### *If you want to be married at the Cathedral...*

Please contact **Louise Welsch** or **Pauline Reed**, the Cathedral secretaries, 603.622.6404 ext. 11 or ext. 10, as soon as possible to discuss your wedding plans and to obtain the necessary information and forms.

## Process

### *The Initial Meeting*

The couple sets up an initial meeting with the priest at least six months in advance of the wedding. The purpose of this meeting is to explain the two major phases of the preparation process, to fill out the initial set of papers required by the church and to answer any questions which the bride or groom may have.

### *Items to bring to the initial meeting:*

1. annotated baptismal certificate (Catholics only)
2. letter of permission (non-members)

### *"Pre-Cana"*

The couple participates in either the Engaged Couples' Seminar or the Engaged Encounter sponsored by the Diocese and offered at parishes throughout the Diocese. Participation can take place at any time after the couple has taken the FOCCUS inventory. The day is presented by married couples and staff people from the Diocesan Office of Family Life. Since registration is limited, couples need to register early. Information and registration is done through the diocesan website at [www.catholicchurchnh.org](http://www.catholicchurchnh.org). For the Engaged Couples' Seminar, you may contact Paul Ashton at 603.315.3881 and for the Engaged Encounter, you may contact Ernie and Holly Jenness at 603.888.4211 or Tom and Janice Lachance at 603.424.2856.

### *The FOCCUS Inventory*

The couple also meets with either a married couple from the Cathedral, Monsignor Anthony Frontiero or Deacon Bob Potvin to take the FOCCUS (Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study) inventory. The survey is not a test but rather an opportunity to see how well couples are communicating about important marriage issues. This couple does not decide whether or not you should be getting married but rather facilitates the process. This will involve a series of meetings: one to take the survey and one or more meetings to discuss the results. A FOCCUS couple will be assigned to you and you will contact them to set up the initial meeting. We ask for your patience and flexibility.

### *Planning the Ceremony*

Once the FOCCUS inventory has been evaluated following the Engaged Couples' Seminar or Engaged Encounter, the couple will meet with either Monsignor Anthony Frontiero or Deacon Bob Potvin to arrange the particulars of the ceremony. The couple will be walked through a Mass or ceremony, finalize the choice of readings, ministers and rituals used in the ceremony. The music selections (please see the appendix of musical selections used at the Cathedral) should be finalized with the Director of Music, Mr. Eric Bermani (603.622.6404 ext. 31).

## Requirements

Couples should ideally make provisions for the Church before making them for the reception. Unfortunately, couples have been disappointed because they presumed that the Cathedral schedule would be able to accommodate the schedule of the reception hall. As the Cathedral Church, there are many ceremonies held here, including many diocesan liturgies throughout the year. These ceremonies *always* take priority over any other scheduled celebration.

For scheduling purposes, both for the couple and for the Cathedral, the following is observed:

**Days:** Wedding liturgies are normally scheduled on Saturdays. They may be scheduled on other days of the week, except for Sunday, as the Cathedral calendar permits. Note that it is Cathedral policy that weddings are not scheduled during the Lenten season.

**Time:** The times Saturday weddings are: 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. You have a time block of two hours for your wedding: 9:30-11:30 a.m., 10:30-12:30 p.m., 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. If your wedding will include the Liturgy of the Eucharist, be especially aware of the time limit and plan to have EITHER a receiving line near the church's main entrance OR time to pose for pictures afterward in the sanctuary (altar area), but not both. Generally the receiving line takes place at the reception, not the church.

**Time of rehearsal:** Rehearsals are scheduled with the parish secretary at one hour intervals, usually 4:00, 6:00 or 7:00 or before/after any scheduled wedding on Friday evenings. Rehearsals may be arranged on other days of the week, depending upon church availability and the schedule.

### What documents will you need?

During the process you will need to secure and give to us the following documents:

A. *Baptismal Certificate* - FOR CATHOLICS: a copy of your "annotated" baptismal certificate which was newly issued within the last 6 months. This can be obtained by contacting the parish of your baptism and asking them to forward a copy to you. FOR NON-CATHOLICS: any copy of your baptismal certificate.

B. *Date and place of Confirmation* - FOR CATHOLICS ONLY (this will appear on your annotated baptismal certificate).

C. *Letter of Permission* - FOR NON-PARISHIONERS

D. *Affidavits of your freedom to marry*. Each of you will need to have one person who can testify to your freedom to marry (a parent, close relative, long time friend). Call the parish office and make an appointment to fill out an affidavit. If it is more convenient, your witness can stop by another parish and ask to sign Form 1-A in front of another priest and then send the document to Saint Joseph Cathedral.

*E. Marriage license-The following information comes directly from the website for the City of Manchester, New Hampshire concerning Marriage Licenses:*

### **General Information**

All persons wishing to be married in the State of New Hampshire must complete a Marriage License application with any City or Town Clerk regardless of their place of residence. This includes out-of-state residents. Once the marriage license is issued, the couple is free to marry within any city or town in the State of New Hampshire.

A marriage certificate is a copy of the record certified by the city or town clerk or by the Registrar of the Vital Records and Health Statistics and serves as evidence of the fact of marriage.

### **Application Procedure**

Both individuals must appear at the same time in the Office of the City Clerk. However, if either party (or both) is a member of the armed forces, he or she shall forward an affidavit of marriage intentions, prepared by the armed forces legal representative, to the City Clerk, if he or she cannot appear in person.

Individuals may apply for a marriage license between 8 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday. The application process takes approximately 45 minutes to complete if all the supporting documentation is in order.

### **Identification Requirements: (no photo or electronic copies)**

Proof of age (example - driver's license, passport, certified birth certificate)

Photo identification (example - driver's license or passport)

Certified copy of a death certificate of a former spouse, if either applicant is widowed

Certified copy of a final divorce decree, if either applicant is divorced

Certified copy of a civil annulment decree, if the applicant's previous marriage as annulled. This is a court document.

Documents that are not in English must be accompanied by a translation that has been signed by the translator. A notary must witness the translator's signature.

### **Age**

A male or female who has reached the age of 18 can marry without parental permission. A female between the age of 13 and 17 years and a male between the age of 14 and 17 years can be married only with the permission of their parent (guardian) and a waiver. A female below the age of 13 and a male below the age of 14 are not allowed to marry under any condition.

## **Relationship**

Marriage is not permitted in New Hampshire between people who are related by blood as first cousins or in any more direct lineage.

## **Marriage may be performed by:**

A Justice of the Peace commissioned in New Hampshire *(not permissible for a marriage in the Catholic Church)*

A minister of the gospel in New Hampshire who has been ordained to the usage of his denomination, resides in New Hampshire and is in regular standing with the denomination *(an ordained Roman Catholic priest, in good standing, may officiate at Catholic weddings)*

A minister within his parish, residing outside New Hampshire, but having a pastoral charge wholly or partly in New Hampshire *(this would include a Roman Catholic priest or Roman Catholic deacon [permanent or transitional], in good standing)*

Jewish Rabbis who are citizens of the United States and reside in this state *(not acceptable as an officiant in a Roman Catholic ceremony, although a Rabbi may be present and participate in a Roman Catholic liturgy when one of the parties is a member of the Jewish faith)*

Quakers *(may not officiate at a Roman Catholic wedding)*

A deacon in the Roman Catholic Church ordained according to the usage of his denomination

Judges of the United States, a US magistrate judge residing in this state pursuant to federal law, a clergyman who are not ordained, and non-resident Justices of the Peace, ministers and Jewish Rabbis, after being licensed by the Secretary of State *(again, only a Roman Catholic priest or deacon may officiate at a Roman Catholic wedding; priests or deacons from out of state must obtain a license to officiate from the Secretary of State).*

## **Waiting Period**

There is no waiting period in the State of New Hampshire.

## **Validity of License**

The license is valid for use for 90 days from the date of the application.

## **Cost**

The fee to apply for a marriage license is \$45. Payment can be made with cash, a local (Manchester, NH) bank check, or a money order.

## **Penalty**

Any person shall be guilty of a Class B Felony if he/she willfully and knowingly makes any false statements on an application for a certified copy of a vital record (NH RSA 126.24).

## **Certified Marriage Certificate**

After you are married, please wait seven (7) to ten (10) days before applying for a copy of your marriage certificate. You may either come into our office or print the Request for Marriage Certificate and send \$12.00 (money order or bank check) to:

Office of the City Clerk  
One City Hall Plaza  
Manchester, NH 03101

## **How do I change my name after marriage?**

Name changes are done by the couple and require presenting a certified copy of the marriage certificate to any agency where the name change would be recorded such as the Social Security Division and the Division of Motor Vehicles.

## **MUSIC**

Because the wedding ceremony is a sacred event held in a sacred place, all music must be religious and dignified. A wide selection of music, either in traditional or contemporary style, is available. Popular and non-religious music is considered inappropriate for the service and should be reserved for the reception. A meeting should be arranged with the Cathedral Director of Music, Mr. Eric Bermani (603.622.6404 ext. 31).

Organists other than the Cathedral organist may not be utilized. Other instrumentalists must meet with the approval of the Cathedral Director of Music.

If a guest vocalist is used prior to arrangements must be made with the parish organist.

The fee for the organist and the cantor is included in the stipend to the Cathedral.

The listing of music that is approved by the Director of Music is found in the Appendix of this document.

***NOTE:** According to guidelines issued by the Bishops Committee on the Liturgy, prerecorded music is not acceptable.*

## *General Information about Marriage and Use of the Cathedral*

- A. **Use of Alcohol and Tobacco:** No smoking is allowed in the church or the chapel; no consumption of alcohol or other behavior-influencing chemicals is allowed anywhere on the parish grounds. Anyone under the influence of such substances will be asked to leave. If the bride, groom or other attendants are involved, the officiant has the right to postpone the marriage. The marriage, if witnessed while the bride or groom has been drinking could be considered invalid because of the lessening of one's freedom through the use of alcohol/drugs.
- B. **Throwing of rice:** No rice, confetti, or other matter is to be thrown. The Bride's Room, church entry area, and the chairs are to be in good order after your wedding. All furniture should be replaced in its original position.
- C. **Aisle Runners:** The parish does not allow runners. The floors are kept clean on a daily basis and aisle runners have proven to be hazardous to wedding guests. Rose petals or other flowers (whether real or artificial) may not be strewn in the aisles.
- D. **Church Decorations:** Floral arrangements for the church are an unnecessary expense; however, you may choose to bring flowers into the Cathedral. Your church decorations may not conflict with those of the parish and the parish decorations **may not be disturbed**. Decorations and their placement must be approved in advance of your wedding date. No flowers or decorations may be placed on top of the altar or in such a way as to obscure it. If you choose to have flowers, you may wish to contact any other couples being married on the same weekend to share the expense of decorations.
- E. **Unity Candle:** The lighting of a unity candle is not a part of the Catholic rite and its use is discouraged. If you must light the unity candle during your wedding liturgy, you must provide the larger candle, the two smaller candles, and any necessary candle holders and tapers. These items will be placed on an appropriate table, provided by the parish, and not on the altar.
- F. **Videography and Photography:** Videographers and photographers are always welcome, and most work well within the parameters of the Cathedral and Chapel. We are grateful that most videographers and photographers chosen by our couples are professional and discreet. We ask that videographers and photographers should not interfere with the processions or enter into the sanctuary area in either the Cathedral or the Chapel.
- G. **Order of Worship:** Finally, a well designed printed participation booklet greatly enhances the assembly's participation in your wedding ceremony. The Cathedral can provide for the preparation of your booklet. The costs of preparing and printing the booklet are additional to the parish wedding fee schedule. Please note that the office should have all of the information for your order of worship no later than four weeks before the wedding to guarantee the completion of the orders of worship on time.

## *Wedding Fees*

*All fees are due four weeks before the wedding.*

### **Marriage Preparation Fee and Use of the Church (these fees are non-refundable)**

**Parishioner \$700.00**

**Non-Parishioner: \$900**

The wedding fee includes preparation materials, books, training for FOCUS couples, typing fees, processing and miscellaneous parish expenses. It also includes the services of the Cathedral's Director of Music and Organist as well as one of the Cathedral cantors. You are encouraged to contact the Cathedral's Director of Music, Mr. Eric Bermani, at 603-622-6404, x31 (e-mail: [EBermani@stjosephcathedralnh.org](mailto:EBermani@stjosephcathedralnh.org)), in order to inform him of the date of your wedding and to schedule a consultation to select music. An accompanying Music Selection form may be found at the back of this booklet. Please note that fees for additional instrumentalists, such as brass or strings, are the personal responsibility of the couple. Such fees vary widely and must be negotiated personally with the Director of Music ahead of time.

### **Orders of Worship**

Each wedding celebration at Saint Joseph Cathedral is to have an order of worship to assist your guests in participating in the wedding liturgy.

## *The Wedding Liturgy*

### **INTRODUCTION**

The Wedding Liturgy is first and foremost **the public worship of God**. In other words, even though it focuses on the bride and groom, the wedding liturgy is the total community's act of worship within which the bride and groom's exchange of vows takes place. It is an opportunity for all guests to join the bride and groom in praising God for the gift of love.

The Sunday Mass is the model and guide to be used in planning your wedding. Therefore, the easiest way for a couple to plan and prepare this liturgy is to think about what happens at Sunday Mass.

### **CHOICE OF MINISTERS**

Just as there are a number of people involved at Sunday Mass, so too, with your wedding liturgy. Rather than honoring friends and relatives by asking them to be part of the wedding party, the bride and groom should consider honoring them by asking them to minister at the wedding liturgy. Those who minister should be active in the practice of the faith. The liturgical ministries are:

- A. **ASSEMBLY**: participates in song, prayer, and gesture.
- B. **PRESIDER (PRIEST or DEACON)**: calls the community to prayer, coordinates the various ministries and leads the worship.
- C. **USHERS/GREETERS**: welcomes the people, help them to find a place and distribute the orders of worship.
- D. **CROSS BEARER/ACOLYTE**: carries the cross and assists the priest and ministers at the altar. The procession that begins each worship service is intended to focus the attention of the community on the Lord and the fact that we have gathered to worship. The processional cross is that focal point. You might choose a family member or friend to carry the processional cross. This person should be present at the rehearsal.
- E. **LECTORS (readers)**: proclaim the Word of God from the Sacred Scriptures and the general intercessions (petitions). You may choose to have one lector read all three or you may divide the responsibility among two or even three lectors. Ideally, the lector would be someone who reads in his or her church. However, anyone who reads well may proclaim the Scriptures. The lector also carries the Book of the Gospels in the procession. Lectors should be present at the rehearsal.
- F. **GIFT BEARERS**: present the bread and wine. If the wedding is celebrated within Mass, you will need two gift bearers to bring up the bread and wine. You may also want to share the joy of this day with the poor and needy. If so, you can have a basket of non-perishable food brought up at the same time. Anyone may serve as a gift bearer.
- G. **MINISTERS OF COMMUNION**: assist in the distribution of Holy Communion. If the wedding is celebrated within the context of Mass, two ministers of the communion cup will be needed. If you have friends or relatives who perform this service at their parish, you

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might ask them to distribute at your wedding. They should be present at the rehearsal. A letter from the pastor of their parish must be presented to verify that they are commissioned as ministers.

H. **MUSIC MINISTERS:** lead the assembly in song. It is Cathedral policy that a Cathedral organist and cantor serve as musicians for all weddings. You will consult with our Director of Music after liturgy preparation has been completed with the priest. It is preferable that this take place at least two months before the wedding. After that consultation, you may invite a soloist or instrumentalist(s) to join the organist and cantor. **Do not make any arrangements before speaking with the Director of Music.**

I. In addition, the **BRIDE and GROOM** are the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage, while the best man and maid of honor are the legal witnesses. Other than the two legal witnesses (who must be 18 years of age or older), there is no function for other attendants at the wedding. Therefore, try to keep the number of attendants at a minimum. The use of small children under the age of 6 years in the wedding party is inappropriate.

## *Outline of the Rite of Marriage*

### INTRODUCTORY RITES

**Gathering of the Assembly:** Your ushers/greeters should warmly greet the people as they arrive at the church. It would be particularly appropriate if you and your parents would also greet the people as they arrive.

During this time of gathering before the procession, the prelude music is played.

**Procession:** The wedding liturgy is a celebration of God's love manifest in two people. As such the symbols used throughout the liturgy need to speak of the mutuality of marriage. The wedding procession is one such symbol: it is a liturgical procession signifying the gathering of God's people for worship. Both the bride and the groom will participate in the procession. One instrumental piece is chosen to accompany the procession. Music options are listed in this packet and may be heard when meeting with the Director of Music.

There are two forms of procession acceptable at the Cathedral. You choose one of the following:

**A.** The priest, lector and other ministers gather with you, your parents and the wedding party in the entry area of the church. The procession proceeds down the center aisle in the following order:

1. The cross bearer
2. The wedding party (attendants), as couples
3. The lector(s), carrying the book of the Gospels
4. The priest
5. The best man and maid of honor (official witnesses), as a couple
6. The groom with his parents/family
7. The bride with her parents/family

**B.** The same as above, except with parents/family of bride and groom already seated in the pews rather than in the procession.

Once in the Cathedral, the attendants are seated in the front pews. As the primary ministers of the sacrament of marriage, the bride and groom assume a prominent place so that they are visible to all in the assembly along with the best man and maid of honor.

**Hymn:** Following the procession everyone may join in singing a hymn which helps to unify the assembly as well as focus on the act of worship which has begun. The hymn may be used as the processional music too (as at Sunday Mass). Possible hymns are listed in this packet and may be heard during your consultation with the Director of Music.

**Opening Prayer:** After the procession and opening hymn, the priest will begin the liturgy with the Sign of the Cross and will offer an Opening Prayer. You choose the prayer text from the appendix to this document.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

One way of personalizing the wedding liturgy is choosing the Scriptures. There are three readings: one of from the Old Testament, one from the New Testament, and a gospel text. Read through and discuss the options with each other. You will finalize your choices with the priest.

**First Reading** (Old Testament): The nine (9) options are found in the appendix.

**Responsorial Psalm:** The psalm is sung after the first reading. It is chanted by the cantor and includes an assembly refrain. You will choose this with the Director of Music. Options may be found in the appendix.

**Second Reading** (New Testament): The thirteen (13) options are found in the appendix to this document.

**Gospel Acclamation:** A sung acclamation always precedes the Gospel reading. This is usually a series of intoned "Alleluias" repeated by the assembly, coupled with a short psalm sentence and followed by the same series of "Alleluias." Options are available in the appendix.

**Gospel:** The nine (9) options are found in the appendix.

**Homily:** The priest or deacon will then preach a homily based upon the readings.

## THE RITE OF MARRIAGE

**Instruction:** After the homily the priest or deacon gives a short instruction on marriage

**Consent:** The priest or deacon will ask you to publicly state your intentions concerning the freedom of your decision, the permanence of your commitment, and your commitment to family life.

**Exchange of Vows:** Some couples choose to memorize the words for your vows and for the exchange of rings. However, you may repeat them after the priest or deacon. The marriage vows are the essence of the sacrament. Therefore, you must choose one of the forms found in the appendix.

**Blessing and Exchange of Rings:** The wedding rings will then be blessed and exchanged. Each of you will say the following, while placing the ring on your spouse's finger:  
*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. Amen.*

**General Intercessions:** The priest or deacon will then introduce the Prayer of the Faithful (petitions). The couple is to write petitions based upon the models found in the Appendix of this document with the assistance of the priest, deacon or Director of Liturgy. An electronic copy needs to be submitted to the office or the Director of Liturgy no later than one week prior to the rehearsal.

**Nuptial Blessing:** Following the General Intercessions is the Nuptial Blessing when the marriage is celebrated outside of Mass. At Mass, the Nuptial Blessing follows the Lord's Prayer. You may choose the text from the three (3) option in the appendix.

*If your celebration will not include the Eucharist (the Mass), skip over to "The Concluding Rite" on the next page.*

## LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Preparation of the Gifts:** At this time your gift bearers will bring up the gifts of bread and wine, as at a Sunday Mass. Gifts for the poor, such as a food basket, are most appropriate as well. This portion of the liturgy is short. Either an instrumental or short vocal piece is performed.

**Prayer over the Gifts:** choose the prayer text in the appendix.

**Eucharistic Prayer:** The acclamations of this prayer (Holy, Holy, Christ has died, and Amen) are sung. The priest will select the Eucharistic Prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer is prayed by all the people.

**Rite of Peace:** At the Sign of Peace, the wedding couple normally will go together to share this greeting with their parents and then return to their place.

**Communion:** In order to celebrate this communal act, a song that includes the assembly is sung.

**Prayer after Communion:** choose the prayer text from the appendix.

## CONCLUDING RITE

### Optional:

**The Wedding Candle** - Because the primary ritual sign of marriage is the exchange of vows and rings, it must be emphasized that the candle lighting ceremony is not a part of the wedding ritual. It would be more appropriately placed at the reception. However, if you wish to have a candle lighting within the ceremony, it takes place after the exchange of rings. It is optional to have a song or instrumental music during the lighting of the candle.

**Final Blessing and Dismissal:** There is a final blessing over the couple followed by the dismissal.

After the words of dismissal, the wedding couple may be formally presented.

**Recessional:** A festive instrumental is played as you and your wedding party exit the Cathedral. Options are included in the listing of Music and on our website.

## *Suggested Music for your Wedding*

### **Place a check mark next to the selections that you desire:**

1. BEFORE THE SERVICE: Music is chosen and performed that creates an atmosphere appropriate for the sacrament about to take place. This portion, called the “prelude”, will include instrumental and vocal selections chosen at the musicians’ discretion from standard classical and sacred music repertoire. Both diocesan and Cathedral policies prohibit the use of popular (secular) music in church.
  
2. SEATING OF THE GRANDMOTHERS AND/OR MOTHERS:  
  
# of Grandmothers: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Mothers: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Ave Maria (Franz Schubert, 1797-1828)  
  
 Ave Maria (J.S. Bach / Charles Gounod, 1818-1893)  
  
 Bist Du Bei Mir (J.S. Bach, 1685-1750) (Arranged for organ and trumpet)  
  
 On This Day, O Beautiful Mother (Louis Lambillote, 1796-1855)  
  
 Air from Overture in D (J.S. Bach) (Arranged for organ and violin or solo instrument)  
  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. THE PROCESSIONAL: Depending on the size of your bridal party, you may choose one or two selections.  
  
# of ushers (not including the Best Man): \_\_\_\_\_  
  
# of Bride’s Maids: \_\_\_\_\_ Maid/Matron of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Ring Bearer: \_\_\_\_\_ Flower Girl: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
 Trumpet Tune (Henry Purcell, 1658-1695)  
  
 Ode to Joy [9<sup>th</sup> Symphony] (L.V. Beethoven, 1770-1827)  
  
 Rigaudon (André Campra, 1660-1744)  
  
 Canon in D (Johann Pachelbel, 1653-1706)  
  
 Largo (G.F. Handel, 1685-1759)

- Arioso (J.S. Bach) (Arranged for organ and violin or solo instrument)
- Prelude to a Te Deum (Marc Antoine Charpentier, 1634-1704)
- Trumpet Voluntary [“Prince of Denmark’s March”] (Jeremiah Clarke, 1659-1707)
- Trumpet Voluntary (Andante Largo) (John Stanley, 1713-1786) Org. and tr. duet
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **RESPONSORIAL PSALM:** The responsorial psalm should be chosen from the Book of Psalms (Old Testament). It comes after the first reading and is sung by the cantor with a congregational response. Songs which are not psalms, or based on a psalm text, should not be used during this part of the Liturgy of the Word.

- Psalm 33 – The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.
- Psalm 34 – Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
- Psalm 103 – The Lord is kind and merciful.
- Psalm 112 – Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.
- Psalm 117 – This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad.
- Psalm 128 – Happy are those who fear the Lord.
- Psalm 145 – The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.
- Psalm 148 – Let all creation praise the name of the Lord.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** This acclamation comes before the Proclamation of the Gospel.

- Celtic Alleluia (O’Carroll/Walker)
- Gregorian Chant Alleluia
- Alleluia in C (Hughes)
- Alleluia [Victory] or “Vulpius”
- Lenten Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!

[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*If you are having a Ceremony skip to #9: Recessional. However, if you would like to have an additional piece sung (which could serve as a meditation after the Blessing and Exchange of the Rings), please see #8: Meditation.**

6. OFFERTORY/PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS:

[ ] Love Divine, All Loves Excelling [Hyfrydol]

[ ] Hear Us Now, Our God and Father [Hyfrydol]

[ ] The King of Love, My Shepherd Is [St. Columba]

[ ] God, Who Created Hearts To Love [Lasst Uns Erfreuen]

[ ] When Love Is Found [O Waly Waly] (Wren)

[ ] Crown With Love, Lord, This Glad Day [Dix]

[ ] O Father, All Creating [Aurelia]

[ ] Love is the Sunlight [Bunessan]

[ ] Not For Tongues of Heaven's Angels (Joncas)

[ ] Gift of Love (Hopson)

[ ] God is Love [Abbot's Leigh]

[ ] You Are the Way [Dundee]

[ ] Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*The Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations will be sung.*

7. COMMUNION: There should be a sung piece during Communion. A familiar hymn, liturgical song or psalm may be used.

[ ] Gift of Finest Wheat [Bicentennial]

[ ] Eat This Bread (Berthier/Taizé)

[ ] Where True Love and Charity Are Found / Ubi Caritas (Chant, Mode VI)

Saint Joseph Cathedral, Manchester, NH

Christians, Let Us Love One Another [Picardy]

Gather Us Together (Alstott)

I Am the Bread of Life (Toolan)

O Blessed Savior (Westendorf)

Jesus Christ, Bread of Life (Schaubel/Dvorak)

I Received the Living God (arr. Proulx)

When We Eat This Bread (Joncas)

Psalm 34 – Taste and see (settings by Moore or Abbott)

This Bread That We Share (Macaller)

Bless The Lord, My Soul (DeBruyn)

Take and Eat (Joncas)

The Bread that We Break (Dean)

Christ Is Our Light [Alstott]

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

8. MEDITATION: You may choose a piece to serve as a meditation. This is an excellent opportunity to incorporate a favorite sacred, classical solo piece.

Panis Angelicus (César Franck, 1822-1890)

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach, 1685-1750)

Laudate Dominum (W.A. Mozart, 1756-1791)

Ave Verum (W.A. Mozart, 1756-1791)

He Shall Feed His Flock Like A Shepherd ["Messiah"] (G.F. Handel, 1685-1759)

Whither Thou Goest (Heinrich Schütz, 1585-1672)

Whither Thou Goest [Wo du hingehst] (Flor Peeters, b. 1903)

Entreat Me Not To Leave Thee (Charles Gounod, 1818-1893)

O Perfect Love [Sandringham]

The Call (Ralph Vaughan-Williams, 1872-1958)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

9. RECESSIONAL: This last section of music is joyous and lively; it mirrors the excitement of the processional. After the recessional, the instrumental musicians will provide postlude music until the assembly has left the sanctuary of the church. You may choose two pieces.

Hornpipe from *Watermusic* (G.F. Handel, 1685-1759)

Rondeau from *Sinfonies de Fanfares* (Jean Mouret, 1682-1738)

La Réjouissance from *Royal Fireworks* (G.F. Handel, 1685-1759)

Psalm XIX (Benedetto Marcello, 1686-1739)

Allegro Maestoso from Organ Sonata II (Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-1847)

Fanfare (Jaak Nikolass Lemmens, 1823-1881)

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

The preceding has been a list of what has found to be the most common and appropriate musical selections for weddings. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list of applicable wedding music. Music can always be changed that is to your liking providing that it is liturgical, sacred and appropriate for the Cathedral. Please contact the Director of Music should you have any questions regarding the music, musicians or the liturgy.

### *SPECIAL NOTES FOR INTERDENOMINATIONAL OR INTERFAITH COUPLES*

It is generally presumed that interfaith couples will celebrate marriage without the Eucharist. This is done so that all those present can fully participate in the entire liturgy. It is not necessary to celebrate Mass as part of the wedding liturgy and The Rite of Marriage outside of Mass is a beautiful ritual. Ministers of other Christian denominations (e.g. the pastor of the non-Catholic spouse) are most welcome to participate at the wedding ceremony at the Cathedral. If the marriage is to take place in another Christian church, the permission of the Bishop is required. Please discuss this with the priest.

## Appendix

### Liturgical Texts and Prayers

#### OPENING PRAYER

*Please select 1 of the following 4 options:*

##### OPTION #1

**Presider:** 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 this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
All: Amen.

##### OPTION #2

**Presider:** 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 this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
All: Amen.

##### OPTION #3

**Presider:** 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 this through Christ our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
All: Amen.

##### OPTION #4

**Presider:** 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 this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
All: Amen.

# *Liturgy of the Word*

## **FIRST READING**

*The first reading is taken from the Old Testament. Please select 1 of the following 9 options:*

### **OPTION #1**

Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a

*Male and female he created them.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals

and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,  
and all the living things that move on the earth.”

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

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #2

Genesis 2: 18-24

*The two of them become one body.*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone.  
I will make a suitable partner for him."  
So the Lord God formed out of the ground  
various wild animals and various birds of the air,  
and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;  
whatever the man called each of them would be its name.  
The man gave names to all the cattle,  
all the birds of the air, and all wild animals;  
but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.  
So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man,  
and while he was asleep,  
he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.  
The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib  
that he had taken from the man.  
When he brought her to the man, the man said:  
"This one, at least, 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.

### OPTION #3

Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67

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

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.

## OPTION #4

Tobit 7: 6-14

*May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.*

A reading from the Book of Tobit

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.  
Raguel sprang up and kissed him, 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.

## OPTION #5

Tobit 8: 4b-8

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

A reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,  
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord  
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”  
Sarah got up, and they started to pray  
and beg that deliverance might be theirs.  
They began with these words:  
“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;  
praised be your name forever and ever.  
Let the heavens and all your creation  
praise you forever.  
You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve  
to be his help and support;  
and from these two the human race descended.  
You said, „It is not good for the man to be alone;  
let us make him a partner like himself.“  
Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine  
not because of lust,  
but for a noble purpose.  
Call down your mercy on me and on her,  
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”  
They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #6

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

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

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.

## OPTION #7

Song of Songs 8: 8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

*Stern as death is love.*

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 cleft of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,  
Let me see you,  
let me hear your voice,  
For your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely.”  
My lover belongs to me and I to him.  
He says to me:  
“Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;  
For stern as death is love,  
relentless as the nether-world is devotion;  
its flames are a blazing fire.  
Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #8

Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16

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

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.

## OPTION #9

Jeremiah 31: 31-32a, 33-34a

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

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.

## SECOND READING

*The second reading is taken from the New Testament. Please select 1 of the following 13 options:*

### OPTION #1

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

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

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #2 - LONG FORM

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18

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

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.  
Do not conform yourselves to this age  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind  
so 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.

## OPTION #2 - SHORT FORM

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13

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

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,  
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,  
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.  
Do not conform yourselves to this age  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind  
so 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.

### OPTION #3

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

*Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.*

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves;  
let each of us please our neighbor for the good,  
for building up.

For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement  
grant you to think in harmony with one another,  
in keeping with Christ Jesus,  
that with one accord you may with one voice  
glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.

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

The word of the Lord.

#### OPTION #4

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

*Your body is a temple of the Spirit.*

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.

## OPTION #5

1 Corinthians 12: 31-13: 8

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

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

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;

if I have all faith so as to move mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,

it is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #6 - LONG FORM

Ephesians 5: 2a, 21-33

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

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 to 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.

## OPTION #6 - SHORT FORM

Ephesians 5: 2a, 25-32

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

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 to speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #7

Philippians 4: 4-9

*The God of peace will be with you.*

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.

## OPTION #8

Colossians 3: 12-17

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

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

And over all these things 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.

## OPTION #9

Hebrews 13: 1-4a, 5-6b

*Let marriage be held in honor of all.*

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,

for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,

and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,

for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all

and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money

but be content with what you have,

for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you.

Thus we may say with confidence:

The Lord is my helper;

and I will not be afraid.

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #10

1 Peter 3: 1-9

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

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.

## OPTION #11

1 John 3: 18-24

*Love in deed and in truth.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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

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

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

And his commandment is this:

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

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

The word of the Lord.

## OPTION #12

1 John 4:7-12

*God is love.*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, let us love one another,  
because love is of God;  
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.  
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.  
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:  
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world  
so that we might have life through him.  
In this is love:  
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us  
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.  
Beloved, if God so loved us,  
we also must love one another.  
No one has ever seen God.  
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,  
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

### OPTION #13

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

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

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

*The gospel reading is taken from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Please select 1 of the following 9 options:*

### OPTION #1

Matthew 5: 1-12a

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he has 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.

## OPTION #2

Matthew 5: 13-16

*You are the light of the world.*

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.

### OPTION #3 - LONG FORM

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

*A wise man built his house on rock.*

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.

### OPTION #3 - SHORT FORM

Matthew 7:21, 24-25

*A wise man built his house on rock.*

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.

#### OPTION #4

Matthew 19: 3-6

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,  
"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?"  
He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning  
the Creator *made them male and female* and said,  
*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother*  
*and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*  
So they are no longer two, but one flesh.  
Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## OPTION #5

Matthew 22: 35-40

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

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.

## OPTION #6

Mark 10: 6-9

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

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.

## OPTION #7

John 2: 1-11

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## OPTION #8

John 15: 9-12

*Remain in my love.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

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

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

## OPTION #9

John 15: 12-16

*This is my commandment: love one another.*

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.

## OPTION #10 - LONG FORM

John 17: 20-26

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:  
"I pray not only for my disciples,  
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
so that they may all be one,  
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
that they also may be in us,  
that the world may believe that you sent me.  
And I have given them the glory you gave me,  
so that they may be one, as we are one,  
I in them and you in me,  
that they may be brought to perfection as one,  
that the world may know that you sent me,  
and that you loved them even as you loved me.  
Father, they are your gift to me.  
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,  
that they may see my glory that you gave me,  
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.  
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,  
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.  
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,  
that the love with which you loved me  
may be in them and I in them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

## OPTION #10 - SHORT FORM

John 17: 20-23

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:  
“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.

# MARRIAGE VOWS

*Please select 1 of the following 4 options:*

## FORM A

**Bridegroom:** 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.

**Bride:** 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.

## FORM B

**Bridegroom:** I, N., take you, N., to be 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.

**Bride:** I, N., take you, N., to be my **lawful** husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

## FORM C

**To the Bridegroom:** N., do you take N. to be your wife? Do you promise to be true to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life?

**Bridegroom:** I do.

**To the Bride:** N., do you take N. to be your husband? Do you promise to be true to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life?

**Bride:** I do.

## FORM D

**To the Bridegroom:** N., do you take N. to be your **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 you part?

**Bridegroom:** I do.

**To the Bride:** N., do you take N. to be 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?

**Bride:** I do.

# GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Prayer of the Faithful/Petitions

*There are two options which are edited electronically and submitted to Monsignor Anthony at [AFrontiero@stjosephcathedralnh.org](mailto:AFrontiero@stjosephcathedralnh.org).*

## OPTION #1

Presider: Filled with Joy of this celebration, we bring before God our prayers for **N. and N.**, for the church and for the world.

**Lector:**

1. For the Church throughout the world and for the parish communities where **N. and N.** have in the past and will in the future find fellowship in Christ (especially [**list parishes**]), we pray ...
2. For our nation and this city, and for those who serve in our government, we pray...
3. For the poor, the homeless, and the unemployed, and for all who suffer under persecution, we pray...
4. For **N. and N.** and all married couples, for their faithfulness to each other and for their faithful service of the gospel, we pray...
5. For the parents and families of **N. and N.**, for their godparents, and for all who formed them in faith, we pray...
6. For the deceased relatives of **N. and N.**, especially [**list names**]; for the sick and for those unable to be with us today, we pray...

Presider: Gracious God, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, poured forth blessings on the wedding couple at Cana. Look with kindness on **N. and N.**, as they pledge their lives to one another in the presence of your church. May they cherish one another and be heartened by our love. Through them, may your church be blessed. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## OPTION #2

Presider: Gathered in joyful hope, we offer our prayers to God, who creates hearts to love.

### Lector:

1. For the Church and those who serve the Church and for all people who preach and practice the gospel of Christ, we pray ...
2. For the Jewish people, the first to hear the Word of God, and for their continual growth in the love of God's name and in faithfulness to the covenant, we pray...
3. For the outcasts and downtrodden of our city and our nation, and for churches and families who offer them refuge and compassion, we pray...
4. For the Lord's abundant blessings on **N.** and **N.** in their married life, we pray...
5. For the families of **N.** and **N.** gathered here today and for our support of one another in times of need as we rejoice with one another today, we pray...
6. For family members who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith: especially (**mention here deceased relatives**), we pray...

Presider: God our Creator, guardian of our homes and source of all blessings, you delight in the happiness of your people. Hear the prayers this church offers for **N.** and **N.**, for all your people and for the world. Fulfill our needs and guide our actions toward the building up of your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

## NUPTIAL BLESSING

*If the Nuptial Blessing is not sung, please select 1 of the following 3 options.*

### OPTION #1

My dear friends, let us turn to the Lord and pray  
that he will bless with his grace this woman (or N.)  
now married in Christ to this man (or N.)  
and that (through the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ,)  
he will unite in love the couple he has joined in this holy bond.  
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 woman 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.

## OPTION #2

Let us pray to the Lord for *N.* and *N.*  
who come to God's altar at the beginning of their married life  
so that they will always be united in love for each other  
(as now they share in the body and blood of Christ).  
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,  
so they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### OPTION #3

My dear friends, let us ask God  
for his continued blessings upon this  
bridegroom and his bride (or *N.* and *N.*)  
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.  
The response in each case is: **Amen.**

## PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*Please select 1 of the following 3 options:*

### OPTION #1

**Presider:** Lord,  
accept our offerings  
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.  
All: Amen.

### OPTION #2

**Presider:** 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.  
All: Amen.

### OPTION #3

**Presider:** 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.  
All: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please select 1 of the following 3 options:*

### OPTION #1

**Presider:** 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.  
All: Amen.

### OPTION #2

**Presider:** Lord,  
we 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.  
All: Amen.

### OPTION #3

**Presider:** 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.  
All: Amen.