

# A CATHOLIC WEDDING GUIDE



*They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.*

~ Mark 10:9

ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE PARISH

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*Dear Newly Engaged Couple,*

*First, our parish wishes to express our joy and excitement as we begin accompanying you in the months leading up to your wedding.*

*While there are many practical preparations that must be made for your wedding day, our goal is to help prepare you to be faithful to the sacrament you will receive on that day, but which you will be asked to live for the rest of your lives.*

*By being faithful in your love for one another, not only will you help each other on your journey to heaven, but you will also be a sign for the Church of the very love that Christ has for each of us.*

*Please know of our prayers for you as you begin this new phase in your life. If there is anything that you need, or any questions that you have, please do not hesitate to contact us.*

*May God continue to bless and increase your love for one another,*

*The priests and staff of Saint Paul the Apostle Parish  
May, 2011*



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## GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

### *Initial Meeting and Sacramental Preparation*

Getting married in the Catholic Church takes more than one day.

The process here at our parish will include the following:

- An initial meeting with a priest or deacon from the parish to get to know you. It is important to set up an appointment with one of the priests of the parish to discuss your intention to get married in the Catholic Church as soon as possible. Sometimes there can be obstacles which need to be resolved before planning can proceed. It is better to have advance notice. **The absolute minimum amount of time between your initial meeting with a priest or deacon and your wedding is 6 months, though we recommend a year or more.** The pastor or one of the priests or deacons from our parish will normally accompany you through your marriage preparation and wedding. If you would like to request a particular priest from the parish or from outside of the parish, please make your request known when first contacting the parish.
- A meeting with the music director at the church where you will be married as early as possible.
- A meeting with a member of the parish staff to administer the FOCCUS instrument.
- A number of meetings with the priest who is helping you to prepare for your wedding, to be determined in conversation with him. If a different priest is presiding at your wedding, you will also need to meet with him when you get close to the date to go over the wedding liturgy plans.
- Participation in a marriage preparation program. Currently there are a number of options available, which our staff will explain to you. Please make sure to bring a certificate of participation to the parish office after you have completed the program so that it can be put into your file.
- A wedding rehearsal the day before the wedding.
- The wedding liturgy.
- A meeting or meetings with the priest or deacon who married you during the first months of your marriage.

## *Planning the Wedding Liturgy*

All marriages in the Catholic Church are conducted according to the Rite of Christian Marriage. This is because a Catholic wedding is an event that involves the whole Church community. Yet because engaged couples are the ministers of the sacrament, they can and should be involved in making certain decisions about the wedding liturgy. The following information and guidelines are to help you complete the *Wedding Liturgy Planning Aid* that is included at the back of this booklet so that you can be prepared when you come to meet with the priest or deacon about the wedding liturgy.

### ***Location***

You may choose to have the wedding liturgy in any of the six churches of St. Paul the Apostle Parish, depending on availability.

### ***Music***

The director of music at the church where your wedding will take place will assist you in planning the music for your wedding liturgy. Only sacred music is appropriate for a wedding liturgy. All music selections must be approved by the music director. The music director will arrange for an experienced cantor to sing at your wedding. Additional instrumentalists or guest musicians must be approved by the director of music. You are responsible for paying for the music at your wedding, and additional rehearsal fees may be requested by the music director for guest musicians. Contact information for our music directors follows:

St. Gabriel's Church:	Karen Whitmore tel. 745-2317
St. John's Church:	Kevin Birch tel. 217-6740
St. Joseph's Church:	Karen Whitmore tel. 745-2317
St. Mary's Church:	Michael Arell tel. 947-4868
St. Matthew's Church:	Karen Whitmore tel. 745-2317
St. Teresa's Church:	Kevin Birch tel. 217-6740

### ***Readings***

The Rite of Christian Marriage normally includes a reading from the Old Testament and from the New Testament in addition to a Gospel reading and Psalm. We invite you to select the New and Old Testament readings from the available options the rite gives, which are included in this guide. The Gospel reading will be chosen by the priest who is presiding at the liturgy. Please speak to the music director about the Responsorial Psalm since it is normally sung.

### ***Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Servers***

At a Catholic wedding liturgy there is need for one server, two readers, and sometimes one Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. The parish is able to provide members of the community to serve at your wedding liturgy. However, if you have Catholic family members or friends who are involved in any of these ministries in their own parishes and would like to serve at your wedding, please talk to the priest who is going to be presiding at the wedding.

### ***The Wedding Party***

You must choose two witnesses to your marriage (normally the Best Man and Maid of Honor), one of whom must be Catholic.

Both must be present at the wedding rehearsal. Wedding parties should be limited in size so that they do not distract from the liturgy. Any and all groomsmen and bridesmaids, flower girls or ring-bearers, readers, and parents of the bride and groom must be present at the rehearsal.

### ***Worship Aid***

You may decide to put together a small booklet for those who will be attending your wedding. We have included a template for a worship aid that we hope will help you in this guide. We can also provide you with a digital copy for your convenience if you call the parish office. Please bring a copy of your proposed worship aid to your priest before you start printing so that you can be sure there are no errors.

### **IMPORTANT:**

**MAKE SURE THAT AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING DATE YOU BRING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE TO THE PARISH OFFICE AND GIVE IT PERSONALLY TO THE PRIEST OR DEACON WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING.**

**NO LICENSE = NO WEDDING.**

## *Decoration and Use of the Church*

A Catholic Church is a sacred space, and so it must be treated with reverence and respect. Please observe the following policies in our parish churches:

### **DECORATIONS:**

**Flowers.** If you would like special flowers for your wedding, please make sure that they are of good taste and dignified. They should not be placed on the altar, or obstruct movement in the sanctuary. Simplicity and elegance have long been a custom of our religious tradition. Please have your florist contact our office about opening the church for preparations.

**Pew Bows.** Pew bows may be used on the front pews, provided that they are attached with rubber bands or ribbon, not tape or some other adhesive.

**Candles.** No candles are permitted in addition to the liturgical candles already in the sanctuary, with the exception of a unity candle, should you choose to include this secular custom in the wedding. Unity candles, if used, should be placed on a side table outside of the sanctuary.

**Wedding Carpets.** No wedding carpets are permitted in our churches because of the safety hazard.

**Confetti.** Absolutely no confetti or any other kind of material may be thrown or scattered within the church or on the church property for safety reasons and because of the extensive cleaning time and costs involved.

**Clean up.** Please arrange to have someone stay after the wedding to pick up anything left on or in the pews, and to help return chairs and tables in the church to their original places.

### **PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO**

Photographers and Videographers should always keep in mind that they are working in a sacred space. They should not enter the sanctuary and should be especially respectful during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when we ask that there be no pictures taken with flash. Please limit photo shoots that happen on church property to half an hour before and after the liturgy.

## **DRESSING AND COMPORTMENT**

***Promptness.*** Please do everything in your power to arrive on time for the rehearsal and the wedding liturgy.

***Preparations.*** All dressing and preparations by the bride, groom, and the wedding party must occur prior to arrival at the church.

***Food and Drink.*** There is to be absolutely no drinking of alcoholic beverages by anyone in the wedding party prior to the wedding. No food or drink is permitted within our churches, except for bottled water in extreme circumstances.

### ***Fee***

***For the facility:*** The church charges a fee of \$300.00 for the use of our facilities in order to help cover insurance and maintenance costs. Checks should be made out to St. Paul the Apostle Parish.

***For music and ministers:*** Please talk with the music director regarding the fee for the music at your wedding. The amount will vary depending on the number of musicians involved and the time that will be required to prepare the music you select with them. Please plan to compensate the altar server who assists the priest during the wedding liturgy at least \$25.00. It is also customary, and you are certainly free to make a gift to the priest or deacon.



## A WEDDING CHECKLIST

The following check list is provided as an aid to you as you prepare for your wedding. Of course, not everything is required, but we have tried to include preparations that many couples make as they prepare for their wedding day.

### Ten to 12 months...

- Meet with your priest or deacon to discuss your desire to marry. **Do not set a date until after this initial meeting.** Ask about the marriage preparation program and make arrangements.
- If you do not already, start praying together on a regular basis. Make sure that you attend Sunday Mass each week if you are Catholic.
- Agree on a budget for your wedding, and decide who pays for what.
- Choose your wedding party.
- Book your reception venue and the caterers.
- Book a photographer and videographer, if you plan to use one.
- Start looking around to decide what you and the wedding party are going to wear.
- Start thinking about where you want to go on your honeymoon.

### Six to 10 months...

- Meet with a member from the parish staff to take the FOCCUS inventory. Sign up for and begin participating in a marriage preparation program.
- Meet with the director of music to discuss the music for your wedding.
- Compile the guest list with both families.
- Alert out-of-town guests of your wedding date.
- Order your wedding gown and veil.
- Select bridesmaid dresses.
- Select a florist.
- Book a DJ or band, and begin selecting music for the reception.
- Reserve hotel rooms for out-of-town guests.

### **Four to six months...**

- Meet with the priest or deacon to go over the results of your FOCCUS inventory and to talk about how the marriage preparation process is going.
- Think of friends or relatives you would like to read and bring up gifts at the wedding.
- Order your invitations and other wedding stationery, such as thank-you notes.
- Start planning menus with caterers.
- Order your cake.
- Book your rehearsal dinner location.
- Book your wedding cars/transport for the family and guests, and talk with friends and family about whose cars will be used on the day.
- Purchase wedding rings, and get them engraved, if you want.
- Choose accessories for bride's and bridesmaids' ensembles: shoes, jewelry, handbags, wraps and other items.
- Decide what the groom will wear, and order tuxedos for groom and groomsmen if needed.
- Start your wedding registries before any shower invitations are sent.
- Help shower hosts with guest lists and other ideas as needed.
- Reserve any rental equipment you may need: chairs, tables, chair covers, etc.

### **Two to four months...**

- Meet with your priest or deacon again to talk about the marriage preparation process and to begin to make some choices about the way that the wedding liturgy will unfold.
- Look at Scripture readings and begin deciding which ones you would like to be read at your wedding and by whom.
- Finish your marriage preparation classes and go on retreat together.
- Finalize your guest list.
- Schedule hair stylist and makeup appointment if you plan to use professionals.
- Check or renew your passport if you are traveling out of the country for your honeymoon. Make sure the name on your passport is the same as the name on any travel documents. (You can update your name after the wedding if applicable.)

- Book a hotel room for your wedding night, if needed.
- Plan and order or make favors, if you are having them.
- Find gifts for your attendants and parents, and for your shower hosts and each other if you choose.
- Have your first bridal gown fitting.

### **One to two months...**

- Send your invitations out at least six weeks before the wedding, eight weeks if you have a large number of out-of-town guests. Record RSVPs as they come in.
- Make sure your guests have details of hotel accommodations.
- Register for your marriage license.
- Order liquor and other beverages if your reception site does not provide them.
- Check that all wedding gowns, tuxes and other attire are near completion.
- Visit your hairdresser with your veil or headpiece and plan what style you want. If you are styling your hair yourself, do a practice run.
- Have a practice makeover.
- Check that all the transportation arrangements are in place.
- Write thank-you notes for any shower gifts or wedding gifts received early.

### **Two to four weeks...**

- Meet with your priest or deacon to discuss the wedding ceremony and finalize arrangements.
- Design the worship aid for your wedding once all the ceremony details are in place with the help of the template provided in this booklet. Bring or email a proof of the worship aid to your priest or deacon before printing so that he can review it.
- Call guests who haven't RSVP'd and ask if they are coming. Parents can help with this too.
- Confirm final guest count with caterers.
- Arrange bachelor and bachelorette party, but don't have it the night before the wedding!
- Finalize honeymoon plans.

- Notify rehearsal dinner guests of plans for rehearsal and dinner.
- Make final arrangements with photographer, including a must-have shot list.
- Finalize music list with reception DJ or band, including must-play and don't-play songs.
- Mail sight-seeing and other information to out-of-town guests if necessary.

### **One to two weeks...**

- Bring your marriage license to the parish office.
- Make final checks on your clothing.
- Wear your wedding shoes at home to break them in.
- Confirm all beauty appointments.
- Finalize all arrangements with vendors.
- Create and hand out a schedule or checklist for the wedding day that lets all attendants, relatives and designated drivers know when they need to be where, and what they need to do.
- Make sure to arrange for someone to provide snacks or a light lunch before the ceremony, if necessary.
- Bride, have your final gown fitting.
- Pick up your wedding gown, and make sure your shoes, jewelry and other accessories are all in one place.
- Pick up the groom's tux, and make sure other men pick up their tuxes.
- Give a trusted friend or relative a copy of your honeymoon itinerary. Make sure you've arranged for someone to take care of your pets.

### **The day before...**

- Make arrangements to receive the sacrament of reconciliation.
- Have the rehearsal for the ceremony. Give gifts to your attendants and family members to thank them for their support.
- Give a list of payment envelopes to whomever is responsible for paying vendors. Don't forget to include tips if applicable, and it's nice (but not required) to include a donation for your priest if you are not paying him.
- Give your announcement cards to someone to mail after the wedding.
- Hand out schedules and checklists to ensure everyone knows their tasks.

- Bride, get a manicure if you're having one.

### **The wedding day...**

- Take some time before all the action begins to be alone, relax and pray.
- Try to eat breakfast and drink plenty of water.
- Bride: wear a button-down shirt to your hair and makeup appointments.
- Let go of all the planning details. Let your trusted friends worry about them instead.
- Take deep breaths all day, and try to remain in the present moment as you float through the day. It will help you remember details of your wedding later.

### **After the wedding...**

- Call the priest who witnessed your wedding and invite him over for dinner or just say hello. He'd like to hear from you.
- Bride, get your gown cleaned and preserved, or donate it to a charity.
- Groom, be sure someone takes care of returning the tuxes.
- Write thank-you notes.
- Get bride's bouquet preserved, if you wish.
- Take care of any name changes, if applicable.
- Meet with photographer and/or videographer to finalize album and/or video details.

## **TEMPLATE FOR A WEDDING WORSHIP AID**

Please feel free to use all or part of the following template as you put together the worship aid for your wedding.

Note that this template is for a Wedding Mass. If you plan to have your wedding without a Mass, then you will need to omit the entire 'Liturgy of the Eucharist,' except for the 'Nuptial Blessing,' which remains in the same place.

If you would like a copy of this document in Microsoft Word or Adobe Acrobat, we would be happy to email you the file. Just contact our office.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to contact one of the staff at the office, and we will be happy to help you.

- TEMPLATE, p. 1 -

The Marriage Celebration  
of  
*John A. Groom*  
and  
*Jane A. Bride*

*Reverend Joseph A. Priest*, Presider  
Our Lady of Perpetual Fidelity Church  
Our Town, Maine  
June 15, 2007

- TEMPLATE, p. 2 -

*The Wedding Liturgy*

Prelude – Music for Organ

**INTRODUCTORY RITES**

Entrance Rite

***Mothers' Entrance***

*Arioso* – J.S. Bach

***Procession of the Wedding Party***

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* – J.S. Bach

***Procession of the Bride***

*The Prince of Denmark's March* – Jeremiah Clarke

Penitential Rite

Opening Prayer

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

First Reading

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

Responsorial Psalm

***Psalm 103 – "The Lord is Kind and Merciful"***

Second Reading

***Colossians 3:12-17***

Gospel Reading

Homily

- TEMPLATE, p. 3 -

**RITE OF MARRIAGE**

Exchange of Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

General Intercessions

**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Preparation of the Altar

*Hymn – When Love is Found – RS 942*

Prayer over the Gifts

The Eucharistic Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Distribution of Communion

*Communion Hymn*

*Oh Food of Exiles Lowly - Heinrich Isaac*

Prayer after Communion

**CONCLUDING RITE**

Final Blessing

Recessional

*Trumpet Tune – Henry Purcell*



- TEMPLATE, p. 4 -

*The Wedding Party*

Parents of the Bride	<i>Mr. and Mrs. John Bride</i>
Parents of the Groom	<i>Mr. and Mrs. Jack Groom</i>
Maid of Honor	<i>Jane A. Maid</i>
Bridesmaids	<i>Jess A. Maid</i> <i>Jen A. Maid</i> <i>Jan A. Maid</i>
Best Man	<i>Jack A. Man</i>
Groomsmen	<i>Joe A. Man</i> <i>John A Man</i> <i>Jim A Man.</i>
Flower Girl	<i>Jane A. Girl</i>
Ring Bearer	<i>Jack A. Bearer</i>

*Liturgical Ministers*

Reader(s)	<i>Jack A. Reader</i> <i>Jill A. Reader</i>
Organist	<i>Jim A. Organist</i>
Cantor	<i>Jane A. Cantor</i>

Directions to the Reception Location, thank-you message,  
or other information can be placed here.

## READINGS FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY

### *First Reading: from the Old Testament*

*Please choose one of the following options:*

#### **1.**

*Genesis 1: 26-28, 31a*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said:

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

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,  
the birds of the air, and the cattle,  
and over all the wild animals  
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;  
in the image of God he created 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

#### **2.**

*Genesis 2:18-24*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said: “It is not good for the man to be alone.  
I will make a suitable partner for him.”

So the Lord God formed out of the ground  
various wild animals and various birds of the air,  
and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;  
whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

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

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man,  
and while he was asleep,

he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.  
The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib  
that he had taken from the man.  
When he brought her to the man, the man said:

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
This one shall be called ‘woman,’  
for out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.”

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

The word of the Lord

### 3.

*Genesis 24: 48-51, 58-67*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

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

Laban and his household said in reply:

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

So they called Rebekah and asked her,

“Do you wish to go with this man?”

She answered, “I do.”

At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave,  
along with Abraham’s servant and his men.

Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

“Sister, may you grow  
into thousands of myriads;  
And may your descendants gain possession  
of the gates of their enemies!”

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

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

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

The word of the Lord

## 4.

*Tobit 7:6-14*

A reading from the Book of Tobit

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.  
Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy.  
But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight,  
he was grieved and wept aloud.

He said to Tobiah:

“My child, God bless you!

You are the son of a noble and good father.

But what a terrible misfortune  
that such a righteous and charitable man  
should be afflicted with blindness!”

He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.  
His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;  
and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.

Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock  
and gave them a cordial reception.

When they had bathed and reclined to eat,  
Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah,  
ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”

Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy:

“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,  
for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah  
than you, brother.

Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you,  
because you are my closest relative.

But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.

I have given her in marriage to seven men,  
all of whom were kinsmen of ours,  
and all died on the very night they approached her.

But now, son, eat and drink.

I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”

Tobiah answered, “I will eat and 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.

## 5.

*Tobit 8:4b-8*

A reading from the Book of Tobit

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,

“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord  
to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

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

They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers;  
praised be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.

You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve  
to be his help and support;  
and from these two the human race descended.

You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone;  
let us make him a partner like himself.’

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine  
not because of lust,  
but for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and on her,  
and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The word of the Lord.

## 6.

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

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,  
her value is far beyond pearls.  
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,  
has an unfailing prize.  
She brings him good, and not evil,  
all the days of her life.  
She obtains wool and flax  
and makes cloth with skillful hands.  
She puts her hands to the distaff,  
and her fingers ply the spindle.  
She reaches out her hands to the poor,  
and she 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.

## 7.

*Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a*

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! my lover — there he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,  
in the secret recesses of the cliff,

Let me see you,  
let me hear your voice,

For your voice is sweet,  
and you are lovely.”

My lover belongs to me and I to him.  
He says to me:

“Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on your arm;  
For stern as death is love,  
relentless as the nether-world is devotion;  
its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

## 8.

*Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16*

A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,  
twice-lengthened are his days;  
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.  
A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;  
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;  
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.  
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,  
priceless her chaste soul.  
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;  
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.  
Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

## 9.

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

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord,  
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel  
and the house of Judah.  
It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:  
the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.  
But this is the covenant which I will make  
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.  
I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;  
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.  
No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives  
how to know the Lord.  
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.



## *Second Reading: from the New Testament*

*Please choose one of the following options:*

### **1.**

*Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

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

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

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

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

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,

or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

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

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities,

nor present things, nor future things,

nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us

from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

### **2.**

*Romans 12:1-2, 9-18*

#### **LONG FORM**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,

to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,

holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age

but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,

that you may discern what is the will of God,

what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere;  
hate what is evil,  
hold on to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection;  
anticipate one another in showing honor.  
Do not grow slack in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit,  
serve the Lord.  
Rejoice in hope,  
endure in affliction,  
persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,  
exercise hospitality.  
Bless those who persecute you,  
bless and do not curse them.  
Rejoice with those who rejoice,  
weep with those who weep.  
Have the same regard for one another;  
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;  
do not be wise in your own estimation.  
Do not repay anyone evil for evil;  
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.  
If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.  
The word of the Lord.

### **SHORT FORM**

*Romans 12:1-2, 9-13*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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

Let love be sincere;  
hate what is evil,  
hold on to what is good;  
love one another with mutual affection;  
anticipate one another in showing honor.  
Do not grow slack in zeal,  
be fervent in spirit,  
serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope,  
    endure in affliction,  
    persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the holy ones,  
    exercise hospitality.

The word of the Lord.

### 3.

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

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

For Christ did not please himself.

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

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you,  
    for the glory of God.

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

The word of the Lord.

### 4.

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

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

Brothers and sisters:

    The body is not for immortality, 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.

## 5.

*1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a*

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

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues  
but do not have love,  
I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy  
and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge;  
if I have all faith so as to move mountains,  
but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,  
and if I hand my body over so that I may boast  
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, is not pompous,  
it is not inflated, it is not rude,  
it does not seek its own interests,  
it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,  
it does not rejoice over wrongdoing  
but rejoices with the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,  
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

## 6.

*Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33*

### LONG FORM

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 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 great mystery,

but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,

and the wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

## SHORT FORM

*Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32*

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

The word of the Lord.

## 7.

*Philippians 4:4-9*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,  
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,  
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding  
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,  
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,  
whatever is just, whatever is pure,  
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious,  
if there is any excellence  
and if there is anything worthy of praise,  
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received  
and heard and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

## 8.

*Colossians 3:12-17*

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

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

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

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

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,  
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another,  
singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs  
with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed,  
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

## 9.

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

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not neglect hospitality,

for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment,

and of the ill-treated as of yourselves,

for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all

and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money

but be content with what you have,

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

Thus we may say with confidence:

*The Lord is my helper;*

*and I will not be afraid.*

The word of the Lord.

## 10.

*1 Peter 3:1-9*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that,

even if some disobey the word,

they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct

when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:

braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, but

rather the hidden character of the heart,

expressed in the imperishable beauty

of a gentle and calm disposition,

which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God

once used to adorn themselves

and were subordinate to their husbands;

thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."

You are her children when you do what is good

and fear no intimidation.



Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex, since we are joint heirs of the gift of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

## 11.

*1 John 3:18-24*

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.

## 12.

*1 John 4:7-12*

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

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

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:  
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world  
so that we might have life through him.

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

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

No one has ever seen God.  
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,  
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

### 13.

*Revelation 19:1, 5-9a*

A reading from the Book of Revelation

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

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

A voice coming from the throne said:

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

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

“Alleluia!  
The Lord 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.

## WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING AID

### Introductory Rites

#### *Entrance Procession:*

1. Procession of Mothers?: Yes No

Mother of the Bride escorted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother of the Groom escorted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Will light unity candles (optional).

(Note that our preference is that the unity candle ceremony occur at the rehearsal dinner or the reception, since it is not a part of our tradition.)

2. Procession of Bridesmaids?: Yes No

# of Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_

Escorted by Groomsmen? Yes No

3. Procession of:

Flower girl(s) Yes No # \_\_\_\_\_

Ring bearer Yes No # \_\_\_\_\_

(Flowergirls and ringbearers should be accompanied by an adult during the procession if they are under 4 years old.)

4. Procession of the Bride:

Bride will be escorted by \_\_\_\_\_.

Bride and Groom will each be escorted by their parents.

Bride and Groom process down together

(The last option is the Church's preference because it emphasizes the equality of the man and woman as they prepare to receive this sacrament).

### Liturgy of the Word

*First Reading* #: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

*Second Reading* #: \_\_\_\_\_

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

***General Intercessions***

Read by: \_\_\_\_\_

**Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Gifts brought forward? Yes  No

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Flowers presented to Our Lady after communion? Yes  No

**Concluding Rite**

*Recessional*

Who processes out? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and bring this Wedding Liturgy Planning Aid to your meeting with the director of music and to your last meeting with the priest or deacon who will preside at your wedding.

**IMPORTANT:**

**MAKE SURE THAT AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR WEDDING DATE YOU BRING YOUR MARRIAGE LICENSE TO THE PARISH OFFICE AND GIVE IT PERSONALLY TO THE PREIST OR DEACON WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING. NO LICENSE = NO WEDDING.**