

Sacrament of Marriage

Preparation and Parish Guidelines



SS. Peter and Paul Roman Catholic Church
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General Information

This booklet has been designed to assist you with the preparation of your wedding liturgy. Marriage is experienced on three levels: personal, public and spiritual. Marriage is personal, in that it involves two individuals who promise to become one in a covenant of an intimate and lasting union. Marriage is also public because it involves companionship. It continues the human race and assures the welfare of family life and society at large. As Christians we recognize a third dimension of marriage, the spiritual dimension. We believe that marriage is a part of God's creation. It enables a man and a woman to fully express their love for one another. The Church celebrates marriage as a sign of Christ's love for His Church. Because the church sees God as an essential part of marriage, we believe it is a sacrament, a visible sign of God's grace. This is certainly your special day, but it is also a celebration for the Church.

At your wedding you will be asked to commit yourself to a covenant of love. A love that is unconditional, freely given and life-long. There is only one love that resembles this covenant, God's love for His people. As you make your promise to love one another, God continues His promise of love to each of you. By uniting your love with God's love, your love is strengthened and limitless.

Following the Second Vatican Council, a revised Rite of Marriage was issued which allows several options in the wedding liturgy. This new rite clearly states that the wedding couple is the ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage and should be actively involved in the preparation of the wedding liturgy. The guidelines in this booklet will help you to fully celebrate the Sacrament of Marriage.

Preparing your wedding liturgy is not difficult. It simply takes time and attention. What is true for shower parties, rehearsal dinners and the wedding reception is equally true for the wedding liturgy. If the basic elements have been prepared well ahead of time, everyone will be less anxious and really free to celebrate.

Discuss the various options in the liturgy with each other, pray over the scripture readings, be sensitive to each other's tastes, and be open to new ways of doing things. With this in mind, preparing your wedding liturgy can bring you closer together, and the result will be a liturgy that is festive and memorable for all involved.

The Sacrament of Marriage at SS. Peter and Paul Church

All of life is a journey. As a man and woman love and commit themselves to each other, they continue their journey of life together. The Sacrament of Marriage brings such a couple together in a spiritual bond that lasts through good times and bad, in sickness and health, as long as they both shall live.

At SS. Peter and Paul Church, we take our responsibility for your sacramental preparation very seriously, just as we do the preparation necessary before any sacrament is celebrated.

This booklet provides an overview of the timeline, requirements, and details of your preparation to be married in the presence of God and the Church.

Requirements

Either the bride or groom must be a Baptized Catholic and a member of SS. Peter and Paul Church. Recent Baptismal certificates (dated within six months of the wedding date) are required from Catholics and any record of Baptism for non-Catholic Christians.

- The couple must be eligible to marry in accord with the 1983 Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church. If either party has been married previously, their freedom to marry must be determined by processes that may take more than a year. If a previous marriage ended in death, the death certificate must be made available. If a previous marriage ended by divorce and was annulled by the church, the Declaration of Nullity must be available. This can be clarified through discussion with Fr. Jerry.
- The couple must participate in the marriage preparation process as outlined in this booklet.
- The couple must practice their faith as part of our worshipping community throughout the preparation process.

Marriage Preparation Process

During the first meeting with Fr. Jerry, the couple will provide information for the pre-marriage investigation paperwork, such as residency, birth date, Baptism, and previous marriages.

When the requirements of church law have been satisfied, Fr. Jerry will make every effort to see that your desired wedding date is available at SS. Peter and Paul Church. Weddings are scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Saturday except during Advent and Lent.

A \$100 non-refundable deposit is required. (Checks made payable to SS. Peter and Paul Church)

Pre-Marriage Evaluation

At your first meeting with Fr. Jerry, he will set another time to meet with you to administer the pre-marriage relationship evaluation tool. FOCCUS is a multiple-choice questionnaire designed to reveal the strengths and weaknesses of a relationship and assist you in addressing potential problems and delight in relationship strengths. Your FOCCUS relationship evaluation tool is administered in person, on paper. Once the computerized report has been received back at the parish office, you will be contacted by Fr. Jerry to discuss the results.

Wedding Workshop or Seminar

Many parishes have developed excellent pre-marriage seminars and workshops that help couples to dig more deeply into the spirituality of marriage and the role of faith in a couple's life together. When you meet with Fr. Jerry, he will provide you with a listing of seminars in the Archdiocese of Detroit and indicate which are best suited to your needs. It is your responsibility to participate in one of the programs and return the certificate of completion to Fr. Jerry for your marriage file.

Liturgy Preparation

In this booklet you will find all of the preparation options for your wedding liturgy: Scripture readings, intercessions, processions, and music. When two Catholics marry, we usually celebrate Marriage within a Mass. When a Catholic marries a non-Catholic or a non-Christian, Eucharist is not celebrated since the non-Catholic person cannot receive communion. Six weeks before the wedding day, you will need to meet with Fr. Jerry to finalize these details and choices. See the Wedding Data Form inside this booklet.

Celebrant

The Celebrant will be Father Jerry Piluś, Pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Church for parishioners unless otherwise specified. Non-parishioners can bring their own celebrant for their wedding and Fr. Jerry will witness if availability allows.

Musicians, Music, and Music Consultation

All music for the Liturgy is provided the Director of Music. An Organist and Cantor are required for your wedding and provided by the Parish for the amount specified in this booklet. Only musical selections listed in this planning guide as well as appropriate music from the Parish Hymnal are allowed during the Wedding Liturgy.

Wedding music consultations are primarily conducted after the 4:30 p.m. Mass on Saturdays or the 12:00 p.m. Mass on Sundays. This should be accomplished at your earliest convenience, at least six weeks before your wedding. It is your responsibility to contact the Director of Music to arrange this consultation. (313-846-2222 ext. 119)

Marriage License

If either the bride or groom lives in Wayne County, information on obtaining a marriage license may be found at www.waynecounty.com. Other counties also have websites with information regarding their licensing.

Rehearsal

Most weddings are rehearsed on Friday evening before the wedding. This takes about 45 minutes and is meant to familiarize the wedding party with the words, rituals, and processions that are part of a wedding liturgy. Fr. Jerry will set the day and time with you as soon as the wedding day is scheduled.

The Wedding Day: Flowers, Bows, and other Decorations

The church is carpeted, so an aisle runner is not used. There must be no throwing of flower petals, rice, confetti, seed, nor blowing of bubbles before, during, or after the wedding, whether indoors or outdoors. You

are welcome to have your florist bring one or two flower arrangements to church for the wedding. We ask that you leave them in church so the whole community can celebrate with you throughout the weekend. Bows can be placed on the end of rows using elastic or clips only. We do not permit candelabras, floral or balloon arches, nor anything that would impede the movement or visibility of the liturgy. If you are unsure, please consult with Fr. Jerry before finalizing your plans.

Unity Candle

Unity candles are not a part of the Catholic Rite of Marriage and therefore cannot be used at SS. Peter and Paul Church.

Photos and Videos

We recognize your desire to capture this special day on film and video and encourage the tasteful use to photography and videography. Photography and videography are not allowed in the Sanctuary. Please inform your photographer and/or videographer to consult with Fr. Jerry before the liturgy to review our rules for them.

Fees and Costs

Use of church, utilities, maintenance and supplies \$500

- Due on the day of the Rehearsal
- There is no charge for active parishioners who have been members of SS. Peter and Paul Church for at least two years.

Musician Fee \$250

- Due at the time of music consultation

Miscellaneous

If at any time you have questions or concerns about the marriage preparation process or the wedding day, contact Fr. Jerry at 313-846-2222 ext. 102

Rite of Marriage Liturgical Preparation Guide

Please choose from one of the following options:

- Option 1: Rite of Marriage during Mass

- Option 2: Rite of Marriage outside of Mass

The following pages will guide you in selecting music, readings and intercessions that are appropriate for the liturgy in which the Sacrament of Marriage takes place.

Wedding Data Form

General Information

Please **print** all information

Wedding Date & Time _____

Rehearsal Date & Time _____

Celebrant Fr. Jerry Pilus

Musicians _____

Groom _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Bride _____

E-mail Address _____

Phone Number _____

Timeline

6 weeks before (or earlier): **Date:** _____

- Schedule an appointment with the Director of Music to discuss your musical choices. Musician fee is due at this time.

2 Weeks before: **Date:** _____

- Bring Marriage License to Rectory

Day & Time of the Rehearsal: **Date:** _____

- Bring church fee to the rehearsal

Wedding Party

Please provide the names of your wedding party. The only wedding party needed is one witnesses each (Best Man/Maid of Honor). The wedding party participates in the processional and serves as ministers of hospitality before the liturgy. Names are listed in order of procession.

<hr/>		
Priest		
<hr/>		
Groom's Father	Groom	Groom's Mother
<hr/>		
Groomsman 1		Bridesmaid 1
<hr/>		
Groomsman 2		Bridesmaid 2
<hr/>		
Groomsman 3		Bridesmaid 3
<hr/>		
Groomsman 4		Bridesmaid 4
<hr/>		
Groomsman 5		Bridesmaid 5
<hr/>		
Groomsman 6		Bridesmaid 6
<hr/>		
Groomsman 7		Bridesmaid 7
<hr/>		
Ring Bearer		Flower Girl
<hr/>		
Best Man 1		Maid of Honor 1
<hr/>		
Bride's Father	Bride	Bride's Mother

Music and Liturgy Selections

Prelude Music: Music begins fifteen minutes before the Liturgy. Music selections are made by the Organist.

Procession: Two pieces of music are used for the procession. The first processional is for the wedding party and the second processional is for the bride.

Please choose one of the following pieces for the wedding party:

- "Canon in D" by Johann Pachelbel
- "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Johann Sebastian Bach
- "Largo" from Xerxes by George Frederic Handel
- "Air" by George Frederic Handel

Please choose one of the following pieces for the bride:

- "Prince of Denmark's March" by Jeremiah Clarke
- "Psalm 19" by Benedetto Marcello
- "Trumpet Tune" by Henry Purcell
- "Rondeau" by Joseph Mouret
- "Prelude to the Te Deum" by Marc-Antoine Charpentier
- "Bridal Chorus" by Richard Wagner

Liturgy of the Word: Please refer to the section of readings beginning on page 11. Scripture readings include a first reading, responsorial psalm, second reading and a gospel reading. The 1st and 2nd reading are proclaimed by two different people of your choice. The responsorial psalm is sung by the musician and the gospel is proclaimed by the priest. **Readers chosen must be practicing Catholics.**

Please choose a set of readings:

1st Reading: ____ Psalm: ____ 2nd Reading: ____ Gospel: ____

Reader #1: _____

Reader #2: _____

Prayers of the Faithful: Please refer to page 17. The prayers of the faithful are read by one person of your choice. **Reader chosen must be a practicing Catholic.**

Please choose one set of the prayers of the faithful:

- Set 1
- Set 2
- Set 3

Prayers of the faithful reader: _____

If Option 1 was chosen, please complete the following information:

Offertory: The Bride & Groom may present the gifts of Bread and Wine or choose others. **Those selected must be practicing Catholics.**

- The couple**
- Family members of the couple**
- Other friends or family**

The bread and wine will be presented by:

1. Bread: _____

2. Wine: _____

Communion Hymn: The Communion Hymn is sung as the congregation is receiving Holy Communion.

- O Sacrament Most Holy
- Gift of Finest Wheat
- Taste and See
- Eat this Bread
- Behold the Lamb
- Ubi Caritas
- One Bread, One Body
- I Received the Living God
- Panis Angelicus

Recessional: The Recessional music takes place as the bride/groom, wedding party, and congregation recess to the rear of the church.

- "Hornpipe" by George Frederic Handel
- "The Rejoicing" by George Frederic Handel
- "Festive Trumpet Tune" by David German
- "Fanfares" by Jacques Lemmens
- "Wedding March" by Felix Mendelssohn
- "Praise the Lord with Drums and Cymbals" by Sigfried Karg-Elert

First Readings

First Reading A

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Summary: 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.

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

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

The word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of 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.

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

Summary: 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.

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

*Summary: Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,
the beauty of 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 a 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.

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

Summary: 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.

Responsorial Psalms

Scripture from the Bible's book of Psalms that is sung between the 1st Reading and the 2nd Reading.

Responsorial Psalm A

Psalm 128: Blessed Are Those Who Fear the Lord

*Blessed are you who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways.
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork, blessed shall you be and favored.
Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants around your table.
Behold, thus is the man blessed who fears the Lord. The Lord bless you from Zion:
May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.*

+ + +

Responsorial Psalm B

Psalm 33: The earth is full of the Goodness of the Lord

*Blessed the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen for his own inheritance.
But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear him, upon those who hope for his kindness.
Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield,
For in him our hearts rejoice; in his holy name we trust.
May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us who have put our hope in you.*

+ + +

Responsorial Psalm C

Psalm 34: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord

*I will bless the lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad.
Glorify the Lord with me; let us together extol his name.
I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.*

Second Readings

Second Reading A

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Summary: 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.

Second Reading B

Romans 12:1-2, 9-13

*Summary: 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,
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.

Second Reading C

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

Summary: 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.

Second Reading D

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

Summary: 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 in him.

Avoid immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,

but the immortal person sins against his own body.

Do you not know that your body

is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,

whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you have been purchased at a price.

Therefore, glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

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

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.

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

*Summary: 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 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.

Philippians 4:4-9

Summary: 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.

Colossians 3:12-17

Summary: 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 put on love,
that is, the bond of perfection.

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

And be thankful.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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.

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.

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.

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

Summary: 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 A

Matthew 5:1-12a

Summary: 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 had sat down, his disciples came to him.
He began to teach them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad,
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Matthew 5:13-16

Summary: 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.

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Summary: 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.

Matthew 22:35-40

Summary: 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.

Gospel Reading E

Matthew 10:6-9

Summary: 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.

John 2:1-11

*Summary: 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.

Summary: 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.

Prayers of the Faithful: Set 1

Presider introduces and ends the General Intercessions.

Reader:

For Church leaders, that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our president and persons in government, that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For married people that they may continue to give, be able to forgive and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For N & N, now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others and good health until a ripe old age. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends. We especially remember:

We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For those who have died especially:

that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (*pause for five seconds*). We pray to the Lord.

The Priest will then conclude the prayers. The Reader remains at the Ambo until the Celebrant says "Amen".

Prayers of the Faithful: Set 2

Presider introduces and ends the General Intercessions.

Reader:

For leaders of Church and state, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households, that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple N and N, married today, for those who will marry tomorrow. . .that they may savor the joy of being together, a long life, constant love, children, friends, and a new day, every day. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us...

We pray to the Lord.

The Priest will then conclude the prayers. The Reader remains at the Ambo until the Celebrant says "Amen".

Prayers of the Faithful: Set 3

Presider introduces and ends the General Intercessions.

Reader:

For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation. We pray to the Lord.

Reader: For our world, to keep the promise of peace.

We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our country, to keep the promise of freedom. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For this parish, to keep the promise of service. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our hands, to keep the promise of giving. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our lives, to keep the promise of growing. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For N and N to keep the promises of marriage. We pray to the Lord.

Reader:

For our families and friends, those who are sick and for those have gone before us, especially:

We pray to the Lord.

The Priest will then conclude the prayers. The Reader remains at the Ambo until the Celebrant says "Amen".