

St. Anthony Parish

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Guidelines for the Sacrament of Marriage

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ST. ANTHONY'S GUIDELINES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

St. Anthony's Parish staff extends congratulations to those engaged to be married. The decision to enter into marriage is serious and can serve as a great sign of commitment, faith, and hope. If considering a wedding at St. Anthony's Parish, the following guidelines will help answer any questions and assist in planning your marriage in the sight of God and before family and friends. Please read these guidelines carefully.

Introduction

In the Church's eyes, marriage is a covenant in which a man and a woman establish a lifelong partnership. The nature of the Sacrament of Matrimony orders the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring. A marriage between individuals who have been baptized is one that Christ the Lord has raised to a sacrament's dignity. In this sacrament, spouses receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the seal of the marriage covenant.

The marriage of any Catholic is governed not only by divine law but also by the church or canon law. It is without prejudice to the competence of the civil authority concerning the civil effects of marriage.

Date and Time

Before any other arrangements have been made, contact the parish office to check for available wedding dates and times. Weddings at St. Anthony's are usually scheduled on Saturday and other days on request but not on Sundays. Since we have a limited number of spaces available for weddings and some paperwork must be completed beforehand, we suggest contacting us a year in advance; notice is required at the very least six months. Wedding ceremonies do not usually occur during Lent. However, before the date and time for the wedding are confirmed, couples must meet privately (have an interview) with the parish priest or deacon. Contact the parish office at (708) 768-1878.

For Those Previously Married

An individual who has been previously married and is now seeking marriage in the Catholic Church must obtain a Declaration of Nullity or Freedom to Marry before a wedding date is booked. These documents are issued by an ecclesiastical Marriage Tribunal (a diocesan office). This step is necessary even if the previously married party is non-Catholic or if the previous marriage was entered outside of the Catholic Church. This step is not required if the former spouse is deceased. The parish Priest or Deacon can answer any questions.

Documentary Requirements

An exchange of love and fidelity vows in the Catholic Church is a careful procedure. The Church is responsible for discerning a couple's intentions and capacities for making this promise; thus, several documents will be required. The following is a list of such documents:

Prenuptial Interview

The purpose of the prenuptial interview is to determine the couple's freedom to marry in the Catholic Church. Contact the parish priest to arrange a consultation. Proof of identification must be brought to this interview. For example, suppose both individuals, or the Catholic party, live outside the Diocese of Thunder Bay. In that case, the parish priest can determine where and by whom the prenuptial interview and wedding file must be completed.

Certificate of Completion of a Marriage Preparation Course

Marriage Preparation Courses are designed to help the couple build a successful marriage by deepening their understanding of each other and addressing communication, finance, psychology, faith, sexuality, and family living. Marriage Preparation courses are offered annually by St. Anthony's Parish. They may also be completed at another Catholic parish or in another diocese. Information on such courses is always available at any Catholic Church Office.

Baptismal Certificate

For Catholics, the Baptismal Certificate should be newly issued and dated at the priest's initial interview. Catholics should contact the parish where they were baptized, inform them of the upcoming marriage, and pick up the certificate or send it to St. Anthony's Parish. The mailing address of the parish of baptism must be provided along with the documents. A copy of their original baptismal certificate is necessary for a fiancé(e) who is a non-Catholic Christian. In the case of a fiancé(e) who is non-Christian, a signed letter from their parents will suffice if the certificate is not found. This letter should state that they have never been baptized and were not previously married; it must be dated and include contact information. If the individual's parents are deceased, another person who has known that individual since childhood must vouch for their previous marital history in writing. These are essential documents and should be collected as early as possible and brought to the office, keeping them in the wedding file.

Record of Confirmation

When a Catholic receives the Sacrament of Confirmation, a notification is sent back to the parish of baptism, recorded in their register. This should appear on the newly issued baptismal certificate. If it does not appear here, a copy of the original Confirmation certificate will suffice. Please note that a Catholic can still be married in the Church without being confirmed. Always, it is highly recommended that one receive the Sacrament of Confirmation before the marriage occurs. Anyone seeking Confirmation is asked to contact the parish office. If approached early enough, the necessary preparation can also be given with the R.C.I.A. course, and the sacrament can be received.

Civil Marriage License

The Civil Marriage license is a necessary civil document for your marriage. All persons marrying in the Province of Ontario must obtain a Marriage License. It is obtained from the Department of Service Ontario in Thunder Bay.

Marriage licenses in Ontario are valid for 90 days from the date of issue. The fee for a marriage license is now around \$ 125.00. Applications must be made on time and received at the church office at least 3weeks before the ceremony can be performed. The priest or deacon serving the marriage is responsible for completing and returning it to Ontario's Department of Service. So the Marriage Licence must be brought to the parish office to be included in the wedding file.

Church Fees

St. Anthony's Parish seeks to provide for the spiritual needs of its parishioners. The wedding offers help cover the expenses incurred by the parish in celebrating the wedding day. These expenses include maintenance and upkeep of the church (including heating, lighting, cleaning, and repairs) and the time needed for the priest and staff to prepare for and celebrate your wedding. The parish offering for weddings is \$300.00 (\$150.00 each for the parish and the priest) or better if your generosity has no restrictions. This fee has to be paid before the wedding (at rehearsal or practice day) and given to the priest - deacon or delivered to the parish office. These fees do not include musicians or soloists, who have separate fees (please contact them).

Your Contact Information

If your contact information changes at any time, it is your responsibility to inform St. Anthony's Parish. We cannot guarantee your scheduled time and date; we presume that your wedding is cancelled.

THE WEDDING CELEBRATION



The Ceremony

A Nuptial Mass with Holy Communion is recommended for a Catholic marrying another Catholic. We recommend a Wedding Ceremony without Holy Communion for a Catholic marrying a non-Catholic Christian or a Catholic marrying a person of another religion. The priest will help to determine which option is best. He will also assist in planning many other details for the ceremony. A wedding is a joyful and exciting occasion, but it is important to remember that St. Anthony's Church is a sacred place for witnessing the wedding vows before God. An atmosphere of reverence and respect is to be maintained at all times.

Readings

Scripture readings appropriate for use at weddings follow in the next pages. Non-scriptural readings, song verses, or poems are never permitted. Couples are welcome to choose relatives and friends who are good readers to proclaim the reading(s) and the General Intercessions. The priest or deacon reads the Gospel.

Music

In consultation with the Music ministry person and Organist of St. Anthony's Church, the couple plans music for the wedding. He can make particular recommendations and give advice. For example, the organist can meet with the couple to choose the music or choose a suitable music program. There is normally an organist and cantor (singer) for every wedding. St. Anthony's Parish has several professional singers who regularly sing for weddings. We prefer to use our singers since they are accustomed to our liturgical practices. We also have several professional instrumentalists (e.g. trumpet, flute, violin, etc.) who regularly play at St. Anthony's Parish and could play for the wedding. At a Catholic wedding, the emphasis must be on liturgical music that gives honour and glory to God, whose blessings we invoke on the bride and groom's union. As the Wedding Ritual puts it: "Music in Catholic worship must express the worship of God for the mystery of love God created and transforms in this sacrament." For this reason, St. Anthony's Parish does not allow any secular music, such as popular love songs or themes from movies. Instead, recorded music has to be discussed. For example, when planning your wedding at St. Anthony's Parish, these points should be considered. Our organist is entrusted with judging the suitability of musical selections within the context of a Catholic marriage; they must approve all music chosen for the ceremony. Our organists are responsible for music at all weddings. If other musicians are permitted to provide music for some reason, our organists and soloists may have different fees.

Rehearsal

Rehearsals should be booked through the priest well in advance of the ceremony. They usually occur a few days before the wedding after all participants have arrived. Rehearsals last about 30 minutes. Please meet inside the church's main entrance, and as with the ceremony itself, punctuality is presumed.

If there is a flower girl or ring bearer, they should be present at the rehearsal. It is suggested that children performing these roles be present.

Flowers

Arrangements are left to the couple's choice. They are to be placed with the approval of the priest. Please arrange for the removal of decorations immediately after the ceremony. We respectfully ask that no confetti, rice, and similar bubbles and flower petals be used inside the church.

The Unity Candle

The Unity Candle has emerged in contemporary times as an additional "symbol of unity" at weddings. It is not a real part of the Roman Catholic wedding ritual tradition, but it may be used as the family provides. The genuine part and symbol of unity are the vows. The rings exchanged as a sign of love and fidelity also symbolize the permanence of the marriage vows.

Photographs & Video Recording

Photographers and videos operators and their assistants are welcome. Because of the sacred nature of the ceremony, they must remain respectful and discreet at all times. During the ceremony, they are not to stand on the pews or enter the sanctuary (beyond the first step from the main aisle). They may take photographs before, during, and after the ceremony. A designated photographer may enter the sanctuary at signing the register and license. Photographers and video operators should introduce themselves to the priest and consult before the ceremony.

Wheelchair and Disability Access

St Anthony's Church is easy to access with a wheelchair, and there is also free handicap parking for cars in front of the church's main entrance. There are also wheelchair-accessible washrooms at the same level as the entrance to the right.



THE FIRST READING (from the Old Testament)

1 - Genesis 1:26-28, 31

2 - Genesis 2:18-24, 3&4

3 - Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67 5&6

4 - Tobit 7:9-10a, 11b-14

5 - Tobit 8:5-7a

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

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

8 - Jeremiah 31:31-34



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1 - A Reading from the book of Genesis

Gn: 1:26-28, 31a

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air,

and over the cattle, and overall the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image; in the image of God, he created them; male and female, he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth."

God saw everything he had made, and indeed, it was very good.

And there was evening, and there was morning, the sixth day.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

2 - A Reading from the book of Genesis

Gn: 2:18-24

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner."

So out of the ground, the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, the birds of the air, and every field animal, but there was no helper as his partner for the man.

So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

"This, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore, a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, becoming one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Abraham's servant said to Laban, "Then I bowed my head and worshiped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

Then Laban and Bethuel answered, "The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you anything bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."

And they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?"

She said, "I will." So they were sent away from their sister Rebekah and her nurse, Abraham's servant, and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids arose, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus, the servant took Rebekah and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi and was settled in the Negeb.

Isaac went out to walk in the field in the evening, looking up and seeing camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?"

The servant said, "It is my master." So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all things that he had done. Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her. So Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

4 - A Reading from the book of Tobit

Tobit 7:9-10a, 11b-14

Then Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and received them very warmly. When they had bathed and washed and had reclined to dine, Tobias said to Raphael, "Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah."

But Raguel overheard it and said to the lad, "Eat and drink and be merry tonight. For no one except you, brother has the right to marry my daughter Sarah. Likewise, I am not at liberty to give her to any other man than yourself because you are my nearest relative.

But now, my child, eat and drink, and the Lord will act on behalf of you both." But Tobias said, "I will neither eat nor drink anything until you settle the things that pertain to me." So Raguel said, "I will do so. She is given to you following the decree in Moses's book, and it has been decreed from heaven that she be given to you. Take your kinswoman; from now on, you are her brother, and she is your sister. She is given to you from today and forever. May the Lord of heaven, my child, guide and prosper you both this night and grant you mercy and peace."

Then Raguel summoned his daughter Sarah. When she came to him, he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias, saying, "Take her to be your wife following the law and decree written in the book of Moses. Take her and bring her safely to your father. And may the God of heaven prosper your journey with his peace."

Then he called her mother and told her to bring writing material, and he wrote out a copy of a marriage contract, to the effect that he gave her to him as his wife according to the decree of Moses's law. Then they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

5 - A Reading from the book of Tobit

Tobit 8:5-7a

Tobias and Sarah began to pray and implore to be kept safe.

Tobias began by saying, "Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors, and blessed is your name in all generations forever. Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.

You made Adam, and for him, you made his wife Eve as a helper and support. From the two of them, the human race has sprung.

You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make a helper for him like himself.' I now am taking this kinswoman of mine, not because of lust, but with sincerity.

Grant that she and I may find mercy and that we may grow old together."

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

6 - A Reading from the Song of Songs

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

The voice of my beloved; look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills, my beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag, look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the covert of the cliff, let me see your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely."

My beloved is mine, and I am his.

Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is strong as death, passion fierce as the grave.

Its flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame. Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

7 - A Reading from the book of Sirach

Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Happy is the husband of a good wife; his days will be doubled. A loyal wife brings joy to her husband, and he will complete his years in peace.

A good wife is a great blessing; she will be granted among the blessings of the man who fears the Lord.

Whether rich or poor, his heart is content, and his face is cheerful at all times.

A wife's charm delights her husband, and her skill puts flesh on his bones.

A silent wife is a gift from the Lord, and nothing is so precious as her self-discipline.

A modest wife adds charm to charm, and no scales can weigh the value of her chastity.

Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord, so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

8 - A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely 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 that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord.

But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,

says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord,"

for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their inquiry, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

THE SECOND READING (from the New Testament)

- 1 - Romans 8:31-35, 37-39
- 2 - Romans 12:1-2, 9-18a
- 3 - 1 Corinthians 6:13c - 15a, 17-20
- 4 - 1 Corinthians 13:4-13
- 5 - Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33
- 6 - Colossians 3:12-17
- 7 - 1 John 3:18-24
- 8 - 1 John 4:7-12
- 9 - Revelation 19:1, 5-9a



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1 - A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus died, yes, who was raised, who is at God's right hand, who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will hardship, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, or sword? No, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us in all these things.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

2 - A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18a

Therefore, I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by renewing your minds so that you may discern the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect is.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour.

Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

3 - A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

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

The body is for the Lord and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Anyone united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?

For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

4 - A Reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Corinthians 13:4-13

Love is patient; love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, is not inflated, is not rude, does not seek its interests, is not quick-tempered, does not brood over injury, 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. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing.

We partially know and propesy, but the partial will pass away when the perfect comes.

When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things.

At present, we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present, I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known.

So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

5 - A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33E

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. For the husband is the wife's head just as Christ is the head of the Church, the body of which he is the Saviour. Just as the Church is subject to Christ, wives ought to be in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, to present the Church to Himself in splendour, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind - yes, so that she may be holy without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the Church because we are members of his body. "For this reason, a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the Church. However, each of you should love your wife as yourself, and a wife should respect her husband.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

6 - A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

Colossians 3:12-17

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body.

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

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

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

7 - A Reading from the first letter of John

1 John 3:18-24

Little children, let us, love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this, we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them.

And by this, we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

8 - A Reading from the first letter of John

1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. This is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

9 - A Reading from the book of Revelation

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

After this, I John heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power to our God".

And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, and all who fear him, small and great."

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready; to her, it has been granted to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure"- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

And he said to me, "These are true words of God."

The word of the Lord.

Response: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

1 - Psalm 33

2 - Psalm 103

3 - Psalm 145



ALLELUIA - Verses

1. God is love; let us love one another as he has loved us. - **ALLELUIA**

2. If we love one another, God will live in us in love. - **ALLELUIA**

3. He who lives in love lives in God, and God is in him. - **ALLELUIA**

4. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows him. - **ALLELUIA**

Psalm 33

Reader: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord

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

Happy the nation whose God is the Lord, the people he has chosen for his inheritance. But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who praise him, upon those who hope for his kindness.

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

Our soul waits for the Lord, who is our help and our shield.

For in him our heart rejoice; in his holy name, we trust.

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

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

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

Psalm 103

Reader: The Lord is kind and merciful.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. As a father who has compassion for his children, the Lord has a heart for those who praise him.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity to eternity toward those who praise him and his justice toward children's children among those who keep his covenant.

R. The Lord is kind and merciful.

Psalm 145

Reader: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

R. The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

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

R. The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

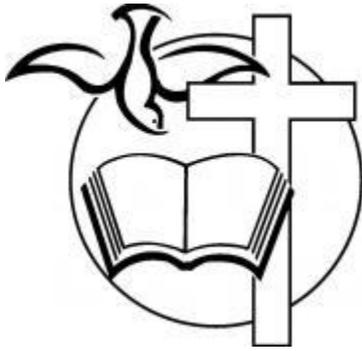
Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord, and let your faithful ones
bless you. The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their
food in due season.

R. The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

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

R. The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

G O S P E L R e a d i n g s



1 - Matthew 5:1-12

2 - Matthew 5:13-16

3 - Matthew 7:21, 24-29

4 - Matthew 19:3-6

5 - Matthew 22:34-40

6 - Mark 10:6-9

7 - John 2:1-11

8 - John 15:9-12

9 - John 15:12-16

10 - John 17:20-26



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1 - A Reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak and taught them, saying:

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

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness's sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

2 - A Reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world, and a city built on a hill cannot be hidden.

After lighting a lamp, no one puts it under the bushel basket but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

3 - A Reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Everyone who hears my words and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat that house, but it did not fall because it had been founded on the rock.

And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell - and great was its fall!"

Now when Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as their scribes.

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

4 - A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 19:3-6

Some Pharisees came to him, and to test him, they asked,

"Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause?"

He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 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, let no one separate."

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

5 - A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 22:34-40

One of the Sadducees, a lawyer, asked Jesus a question to test him.

"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it:

You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

6 - A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

Mark 10:6-9

Jesus said:

"From the beginning of creation, 'God made them male and female.'

For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and join his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

7 - A reading from the holy gospel according to John

John 2:1-11

On the third day, there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and me?"

My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing, there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.

When the steward tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him,

"Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

8 - A Reading from the holy gospel according to John

John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your satisfaction may be complete.

This is my commandment that you love one another as I have loved you."

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

9 - A Reading from the holy gospel according to John

John 15:12-16

Jesus said to his disciples, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you servants because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends because I have learned everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name."

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

10 - A Reading from the holy gospel according to John

John 17:20-26

Jesus looked up to heaven and said: "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Father, I desire those you have given me, maybe with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me.

I made your name known to them, and I will make it known so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

RITE OF MARRIAGE – VOWS

The priest addresses Groom and the Bride

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

Each answer the questions separately

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

Yes – Yes

Will you love and honour each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives?

Yes – Yes

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

Yes – Yes

The priest invites the couple to declare their consent

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

Groom says louder ... (maybe whispered slowly by the priest)

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

The bride says louder ... (maybe whispered slowly by the priest)

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

The priest receives the consent

You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessing. What God has joined, man must not divide.

Amen.

The priest blesses the rings

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

Amen.

Holding the ring in his right hand Groom says louder ... (whispered slowly by the priest)

N ... take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity.

In the name of the Father and the sun and the Holy Spirit.

Holding the ring in his right-hand Bride says louder ... (maybe whispered slowly by the priest)

N ... take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity.

In the name of the Father and the sun and the Holy Spirit.

The priest says

N ... & N ... I declare you Husband and Wife.

Groom and Bride kiss each other and share congratulations with ... Witnesses ... Families ... Friends ...



PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL - A

1 - For the Church, for fidelity in proclaiming the gospel, for faith in good times and in bad, for unwavering commitment to unity: May God's people never cease to profess boundless love for all God's own.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2 - For the world and all peoples, for those without food, shelter, or clothing; for those without hope, joy, or peace: May we be a word of comfort for them and a sign of Christ's abundant love.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3 - For our families and friends, for those gathered here and those far away, for those united in love many years and those just beginning: May Christ deepen our bond to each other in God's strong embrace.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4 - For all who begin married life today, for peace in times of chaos and confusion; for generosity when there is little to give; for faith in each other and love: may their lives be a sacrament of Christ's great and special love for us all.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5 - For the members of N... and N...'s families who have passed away and for those who feel their absence most keenly at this time of joy.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the Faithful - B

1 - For the Church of God that we may be more aware of our vocation as disciples of Christ.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2 - For the safety of travellers and hospitality for all who seek refuge and consolation.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3 - For all who are married in the Lord, that God will help them grow in love and sustain them in their efforts to do their best in life.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4 - That the gifts of the Holy Spirit will be given to N.... and N.... in abundance and make of their union an ever more powerful sign of Christ's love for the Church.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the Faithful - C

1 - For God's holy people, that through this celebration, we all may grow in our desire to serve and love the world.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2 - For the world, that in its hunger for love, it may turn to Christ and acknowledge him as Lord and Saviour.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3 - For N.... and N....'s families, as they rejoice in this new life of marriage, may they be happy all the days of their life.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4 - For all married couples present here that they may renew their commitment to love and to share with the world the mystery of God's friendship.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

5 - For N.... and N.... that God will make them rejoice in mutual love that is faithful to the end.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Prayers of the Faithful - D

1 - For our Holy Father, the Pope, all the bishops, and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to a deeper faith in God and love for others.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

2 - All of us gathered here and called to grow in love for the good of the human community and use our gifts to build a better world.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

3 - For ourselves united here in God's name, that the Word of God may sustain us all in our journey of life as a vocation to love.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

4 - For N.... and N.... on this day of great joy: for the grace to persevere in love, cherish each other in all things with love through all the days of their life.

We pray to the Lord. - **Lord, hear our prayer.**

NUPTIAL BLESSING

My dear friends, let us ask God for his continued blessing upon

N and **N**

Holy Father, creator of the universe,

The maker of man and woman in your likeness,

Source of blessing for married life,

we humbly pray to you for **N** and **N**

who today are united in this sacrament of marriage.

May your fullest blessing come upon them so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love.

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 where you live forever and ever.

AMEN

