



**HOLY FAMILY
PARISH**

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Marriage Guidelines

July 2021

CONGRATULATIONS! On behalf of Holy Family Parish, we want to congratulate you on your decision to begin preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. It is an important and exciting time in your lives and is important for our parish community as well.

You have asked to celebrate a Sacrament of the Church, to publicly profess that your marriage is a sign of the love that God has for all people. This will place a special responsibility upon you to take seriously not only your marriage preparation but also the living out of your basic Christian commitment. It also places a responsibility on us to help and support you the best we can so that your life as a married couple is long and fruitful.

The information in this booklet is **only a guide**. One of the most important contacts you will have with the parish will be the priest or deacon who will lead your preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage and preside at your wedding. On the Holy Family Parish Marriage webpage at <https://www.holyfamilystow.org/matrimony> there is a helpful Marriage Preparation Checklist that will help you through the preparation process.

Please accept our welcome and our congratulations! We hope that your time in preparation will help you to know each other more deeply and help to open you to the ways that God may love you through each other and your witness to love in the Sacrament of Marriage.

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ANSWERS TO SOME BASIC QUESTIONS

WHAT SHOULD WE DO FIRST?

Before making any plans for the wedding (*setting a date, getting a hall*) you should contact the parish priest or deacon you would like to prepare you and preside at your wedding. The couple should make this contact; parents and others should encourage the couple but not become involved in wedding plans and arrangements with the Church. This must be done, in most cases, at least ten months before the intended date of the wedding. Each couple must participate in the Marriage Preparation Program described in these guidelines.

A date is not considered confirmed until the priest or deacon is able to meet with the couple and is assured that all is in order for them according to Church, Diocesan and Holy Family Parish Marriage Policies.

You may choose any of the parish priests or deacons to officiate at your wedding liturgy if their schedule allows. If you choose a deacon, only the Liturgy of the Word and marriage ritual is performed. Since each minister may have a slightly different style or approach to wedding preparation, it is important to recognize that the following information is offered as a guide to you and to your future spouse.

WHO MAY BE MARRIED IN THE CHURCH?

At least one of the parties to be married must be a practicing Catholic. This means that they have been baptized in the Catholic faith and are living out that faith in a consistent manner. Ordinarily one of the parties must be a registered member of Holy Family Parish. Persons who are members of the other Catholic parishes should discuss this with the priest or deacon.

Many times Catholics find themselves engaged to a member of another faith tradition (i.e. Protestant, Orthodox, Jewish). We welcome the opportunity to work with the couple in this context. Many options are available today that were not available years ago. It's best to talk with the priest or deacon about your particular circumstances.

Each person approaching the church for marriage also must be free to marry; that is, there must be no reason that person cannot be married. One who is not "free to marry" does not mean that person may never marry in the Church. Persons previously married and divorced, for example, must have, or obtain, an annulment prior to a second marriage in the Church. This generally holds true even if that person was not married in the Catholic Church. If you have questions about the need for an annulment, please consult with a priest or deacon of Holy Family Parish. He can answer your questions and, if necessary, guide you through the annulment process.

It is important that you find out directly from a priest or deacon of Holy Family Parish what your eligibility is for marriage in the Catholic Church and not just consult with friends or family members.

WHERE CAN THE MARRIAGE TAKE PLACE?

If both persons are Catholic, the marriage may take place in the parish of either the bride or the groom. In the case of an interfaith marriage, please consult with a priest or deacon of Holy Family Parish as to the options available. It may be possible for a wedding to take place in another place of worship by obtaining permission from the Bishop's office. This permission can be obtained by the priest or deacon working with the couple. Weddings are not permitted to be celebrated outside a building dedicated to worship (i.e. garden weddings).

WHAT DOCUMENTS DO I NEED?

Permissions

If neither party is a registered member of Holy Family Parish but wish to be married at Holy Family Church, written permission of their own pastor is required.

Baptism Certificates

A recent copy (*obtained within the last six months*) of the record of baptism of both the bride and groom is required and will be kept with the permanent marriage record. To obtain a baptismal certificate, call or write the church of your baptism. This record will not be returned to you.

For Christians of other traditions, please submit a photocopy of whatever baptismal record you may have.

Marriage License

The church does not provide a civil marriage license. The civil marriage license must be obtained from the Probate Court in the county in which you live. In Summit County, the cost is \$50 cash. Both the bride and groom must apply for the civil marriage license in person. The license is good for sixty days. There are restrictions that the county has regarding age and if you have been married before. Call the Summit County Probate Court at 330.643.2345 or go to <http://summitohioprobate.com/im-getting-married/>

The civil marriage license must be presented at the rehearsal!

PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE

The purpose of evaluation and marriage preparation is threefold:

Evaluation – to be sure that what you intend by marriage is consistent with what Christ and the Church understand as marriage.

Preparation – to help you understand the sacramental aspects of matrimony and to reflect on the dynamics of a successful and happy marriage.

Liturgy planning – to plan the Wedding ceremony itself.

“Church marriage” is a far different reality than merely having one’s marriage in a church. It implies a life of faith and the practice of that faith within a Church Community. If one does not practice the faith with some regularity, and if such a person has no intention or desire to deepen their participation, then a Church Marriage should be reconsidered. The action of coming to the Church for marriage implies a specific intent, which flows from faith and the understanding of marriage as a sacramental act.

These are some questions to consider as a couple considers a true “Church marriage”:

- ◆ What do we consider the difference between “a wedding” and “a marriage”?
- ◆ How important is it, for each of you, to be an active member of the Church community?
- ◆ Will Catholic Christian values have an impact on how we live our married life?
- ◆ As a sacrament, how will your marriage reflect the Church’s effort to present Christian values to the world?

MARRIAGE PREPARATION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING:

1. INITIAL INTERVIEW

The priest or deacon will want to meet with you to become acquainted with you and to obtain some basic information. He will be able to further explain the preparation process for marriage and answer any particular questions that you may have.

2. PRE-MARRIAGE INVENTORY

After an initial interview, each couple preparing for marriage will take an online premarital inventory known as PREPARE/ENRICH. This inventory will serve to affirm those things in the couples' relationship, which are positive, and to promote discussion about those areas which may need attention. It is presumed that the results of this inventory will be discussed before any other marriage preparations are finalized.

3. SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Each couple is required to participate in one of the following three options:

Options A and B are preferred for most couples:

- A) **COUPLES MINISTRY:** The engaged couple meets with a trained married couple from Holy Family Parish. During these sessions, the married couple facilitates dialogue and conversation around a variety of marriage related topics. These sessions are informal, are scheduled around the couples' availability and are offered at no cost.
- B) **ENGAGED ENCOUNTER:** Similar to a Pre-Cana Day (below) but is expanded to a retreat style from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Holy Family Parish does not offer this program but it is available at many parishes and/or retreat centers in the diocese. There is a charge to the engaged couple for the Engaged Encounter. Information can be obtained at <http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/> or by calling 216.334.2978.

If neither of the above programs are compatible with your schedule or availability, the following less-preferred option is offered:

- C) **PRE-CANA DAY:** The engaged couple joins other engaged couples in a day-long (12-13 hours) sharing by trained married couples who share their experiences of marriage and marriage issues. The engaged couples are given the opportunity to discuss these same topics with each other. Holy Family Parish does not offer this program but it is available at many parishes and/or retreat centers in the diocese. There is a charge to the engaged couple for the Pre-Cana Day. Information can be obtained at <http://www.clevelandcatholiccharities.org/mfm/> or by calling 216.334.2978.

Please discuss your choice with the priest or deacon.

4. NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

The Catholic Church requires that all couples be educated on and informed of Natural Family Planning (NFP). Information will be provided to you at your first meeting with the priest or deacon preparing you for the Sacrament of Marriage. Resources for NFP are available at <https://www.holyfamilystow.org/matrimony>.

5. WEDDING LITURGY PLANNING

This consists of meeting with the priest or deacon who will preside at your wedding and at least one meeting with Julia Schellenberger (Wedding Musician 330.686.1262). The important points that will be discussed are described in the following section.

PLANNING AND CELEBRATING YOUR WEDDING LITURGY

The priest or deacon who is presiding at your wedding will assist you in planning your wedding ceremony and will be expecting you to participate in the process of planning your wedding celebration. For most couples, planning a liturgical experience is something new. We hope this section will help you.

It is important to start with a clean slate. One of the greatest gifts couples can give themselves in planning a wedding is to start with an open mind. We can have a lot of preconceived ideas about what a perfect wedding ought to be like. It is probably a lot more helpful to begin with questions so that our planning remains sensitive not only to our own wishes, but to some other values as well.

1. The first question we might ask is ‘who is celebrating the wedding?’

The answer to this question might give an insight into the shape of this particular wedding liturgy. For example, if each of you is a member of a different Christian tradition (e.g. Protestant and Catholic) then perhaps it might be valuable to look at the possibility of NOT having Mass. It may be more hospitable and comfortable for your guests not to struggle with an unfamiliar type of prayer and then be excluded from receiving communion. The Catholic Church wishes to welcome members of other faith communities to worship with us; unfortunately, conditions do not yet exist between churches which allow us to offer the Eucharist to non-Catholic persons except in rare circumstances. We would encourage you to plan a celebration that includes everyone present and celebrates what unites us.

2. A second important question might be ‘what is it that we are celebrating?’

Is this celebration something more than a wedding? If we are serious about a church wedding, then we must be sensitive to what the church celebrates in her sacrament of marriage. Any sacramental celebration is a witness to our belief in God, and in God’s wonderful ways of working in and through us. Since this is a celebration of the faith of the Christian Community, certain limitations on what you may want to do exist.

To assist you in choosing elements of a Wedding liturgy, a Planning Guide, Scripture reading choices, music options and Prayer of the Faithful sample petitions can be found at <https://www.holyfamilystow.org/matrimony>.

NECESSARY RITUALS AND LOCAL CUSTOM

Necessary rituals are those elements of the Marriage Ceremony prescribed or required by the liturgical text. These are elements that cannot be altered. Examples of such elements are; the use of readings from Sacred Scripture during the Liturgy of the Word and the wording of the marriage vows.

Local customs are actions or gestures that have actually been incorporated into the ceremony and are not essential to the sacrament that we celebrate. Examples of such customs are: the entrance procession of the bridal party; the unity candle; and the placing of flowers at the Marian Shrine.

The entrance procession, as part of the Introductory Rites, has the character of beginning, introduction, and preparation. Symbolically, but simply, the entrance procession should show the communal dimension of the marriage celebration: the new family being created through this marriage is a mingling of two families; it involves the parish community and indeed the whole church, all of whom pledge their support to the couple. While the “Bridal March” remains largely used, there are other options, which include being led by the cross bearer, the bridal party, witnesses, readers and the bride and groom while the assembly sings the gathering hymn. This procession could also be

accompanied only by instrumental music as well. Unfortunately, due to the eclectic nature of the assembly, singing at wedding liturgies is usually minimal, even when the hymn numbers are announced. The priest or deacon will assist you in selecting a processional option that is appropriate using *Appendix A*.

The unity candle is a commercial product and recent innovation, but not mentioned within the liturgical books of our Church. At Holy Family it is **not to be** used during the Wedding Liturgy, since a more appropriate use would be at the reception prior to the meal. In this environment, all of your guests can participate in this symbol of your commitment and the candle may burn brightly through the course of the reception. Sample meal blessings have been provided for you in *Appendix C*. You may discuss this further with the priest or deacon presiding at your wedding. Perhaps the best man or maid of honor may lead you in prayer. An appropriate toast of good taste would be a perfect follow-up to this event.

The Blessed Virgin Mary has always held a role of honor in our Faith, but moments of personal piety should not be the focus of our attention at public worship. Therefore, such gestures during the wedding liturgy are not a required part of the liturgy, but an option. In addition to this, at Holy Family, some couples choose a visit to the Holy Family Shrine. If you wish to honor Mary in a special way at the time of your wedding, but not during the actual wedding itself, you might consider doing so at the conclusion of the wedding rehearsal. It would be appropriate to gather the wedding party at the statue of Mary or the Holy Family and pray for their protection before leaving the church (See *Appendix D*). If desired, flowers may be left there at that time.

TIME, PLACE AND DAY OF THE WEDDING

Weddings are normally celebrated sometime Friday evening or on Saturday at either 11:00 am or 1:00 pm. Generally, only one wedding will be scheduled on a particular day. Because Catholic weddings are celebrations of community faith, they take place where the community normally gathers for worship: in the parish church.

Likewise, due to the nature of certain feast days and seasons, some days may not be available for weddings (e.g. holy days of obligation and the season of Lent) or your choices for Scripture readings and hymns may be reduced. Again it is important to speak with a priest or deacon to schedule the wedding date and time **prior** to making any other wedding arrangements.

REHEARSAL

Please arrange the date and time of your rehearsal with the priest or deacon. It is important that you and your wedding party be at the church promptly at the arranged time. Please be sensitive to other parish events or services that may be planned near the time of the rehearsal. The priest or deacon presiding at the wedding will conduct the wedding rehearsal. Please remember to bring your civil marriage license to the rehearsal.

PARTICIPANTS AT YOUR WEDDING LITURGY

You may wish to include some people in the wedding in particular ministerial roles for example: readers, servers etc. Here are some thoughts:

Readers: We would encourage you to choose someone to proclaim the scriptures and to present the prayer of the faithful (petitions). There may be one or more persons selected. Keep in mind that since they function as ministers, they ought to be good people who are capable of doing what you have asked of them.

Servers: The parish provides two servers for the wedding; however, you are also welcome to invite family members or friends who are servers (even in other parishes) to function in this role. Again, they should be of sufficient ability and maturity to perform their task well.

Members of the Wedding Party: Catholics, members of other Christian churches and non-Christians may be witnesses (e.g. best man and maid of honor) at the celebration of marriage. The wedding party plays an important role in the celebration. In choosing friends and family to be a part of this special group please choose wisely. We are sure you agree with us that they should act in a mature and respectful manner during the ceremony. For example, ushers and bridesmaids need to be able to welcome wedding guests to the Church and lead them to a seat helping them to feel at home. Often, young children are not sufficiently mature to handle the excitement and nervousness of the occasion, and consequently become a distraction for everyone.

Gift Bearers: Please invite members of your family or wedding party to present the gifts of bread and wine (in weddings celebrated at Mass) at the appropriate time.

FLOWERS and DECORATIONS

There are no requirements for flowers for weddings. Flower arrangements should be a tasteful addition to the church environment so as not to impede movement or become a focus of the ceremony. Pews bows on the end of the pews are permitted, however tape is not permitted to be used. Arches, trellises and other large free-standing objects are not permitted. If you have any questions about flowers or other decorations, please contact Mrs. Sandy Michaels (330.688.6412, ext. 250) prior to making any arrangements with a florist.

Flowers and corsages and other items are often delivered to the church in some sort of box or carton. If bows are used on the pews they should be removed immediately following the wedding. Because of other church events, it is necessary for you to leave the Church (including the Bride/Bridesmaid's room) in the same condition in which you found it.

For safety reasons, an aisle runner is not permitted.

PHOTOGRAPHERS and VIDEOGRAPHERS

Memories of your wedding day will be all the more vivid with well-done photographs. Experienced professional photographers know how to take good pictures without being noticed or without being a distraction. Choose your photographer carefully. Ask the photographer to dress well at the wedding so they will blend in with other well-dressed guests.

Picture-taking after the wedding ceremony is allowed. The "re-staging" of the rituals is not permitted. You may consider the photographer take some pictures prior to the wedding. The Lower Church Hall may be available for pictures prior to or after the wedding ceremony. The Lower Church Hall can be reserved by calling the Parish Office at 330.688.6411.

Videographers are becoming quite common at weddings these days. Video cameras should be used from one of the pews or from the choir loft. They may not add additional lighting.

The photographer and/or videographer should introduce him/herself to the priest or deacon before the wedding begins. The priest or deacon will explain where the photographer and videographer is permitted to stand during the wedding. Please ask family members with cameras of any kind to remain **in** their seats!

OTHER ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED

Seating of the Wedding Guests

There is no requirement to have a 'bride's side' or a 'groom's side' of the aisle when the wedding guests are seated. We encourage you to seat the wedding guests on both sides as they arrive filling the pews from the third row back. This further shows that two families are becoming one.

Booklet or Worship Aid

These can be a very effective way of making people feel at home at your wedding. Well done, they can enhance the participation of all present. We would suggest that your booklet, if you choose to make one, contain not only the names of those in the wedding party, but also an Order of Service. You may also wish to include the hymn numbers from the hymnals in the pews. A sample outline for a wedding liturgy booklet is provided in *Appendix B*.

Fertility Rituals

The throwing of rice, bird seed, confetti and other items pose a hazard for people entering and exiting the Church building, as well as clean-up of the Church building. Use of these are not permitted—either in the church or outside the church. Items that may be used to celebrate the couple's joining together are the sending up of helium balloons, blowing bubbles and the ringing of tiny bells. If chosen, we ask that these items be distributed outside of the church building and remain outside once distributed. If any other items are being considered, please consult with the priest or deacon preparing you for Marriage to obtain permission prior to the purchasing of the item.

Bride's and Bridesmaid's Room

The Church has a small bridal room available for the bride and bridesmaids to wait prior to the wedding. While it is equipped with a mirror and a restroom, everyone should be dressed in their wedding clothes prior to coming to the church.

MUSIC AT THE WEDDING LITURGY

1. The Parish Wedding Musician

Make arrangements for your musicians and music well in advance of your wedding. Making contact with the musicians shortly after the date has been determined will ensure adequate time for planning.

2. Meeting with the Parish Wedding Musician

A meeting between the bride, groom and our Wedding Musician is necessary before you choose your music. It should happen AFTER you have discussed the general shape of the ceremony with the priest or deacon. Julia Schellenberger (Wedding Musician 330.686.1262) will help guide your selection of appropriate music for your wedding celebration. Please consult music choices at <https://www.holyfamilystow.org/matrimony> and come with ideas, but not with finalized plans. We strongly urge you to use our parish music ministry. The organist, cantor and musician's fees should be discussed at your meeting with Julia Schellenberger.

3. Guest Musicians and Vocalists

If you plan to use guest musicians or vocalists (*one not presently connected to this parish*), you NEED to contact Julia Schellenberger 330.686.1262 prior to your asking these other musicians and vocalists. The person's qualifications, training and experience will be considered before granting permission.

LITURGICAL GUIDELINES FOR WEDDING MUSIC

1. Since your wedding is taking place in the Church, before God and the Community of Believers, the music you choose should reflect that fact. The music should attest to the relationship between man, woman and God as well as the love between bride and groom.
2. Three considerations should be applied in selecting Wedding Music for Liturgical use:
 - a) **Musical:** the music must be technically, aesthetically and expressively good.
 - b) **Liturgical:** each piece of music must be appropriate in content and style for its particular placement in the liturgy. For example, a Eucharistic hymn is appropriate for the communion procession but not for the presentation of the gifts.
 - c) **Pastoral:** the liturgy of the church requires full and active participation from the assembly. Thus, the music you choose should encourage your guests to actively participate and pray, not be entertained by musicians.

For these reasons, be **VERY** careful in your choice of music for the wedding liturgy; your choice does **NOT** include popular or secular music during the liturgy.

This type of music may be more appropriately done at the wedding reception. Another example of a pastoral consideration might be this: In our Catholic understanding of marriage, we recognize that TWO approach the altar for marriage – both bride AND groom. Therefore, while a few couples still choose the processional ‘Here Comes the Bride’, this is a less desirable choice for Catholic wedding liturgies.

3. The following parts of the Mass should be sung by all:

- ◆ The Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia)
- ◆ The Preface Acclamation (Holy...)
- ◆ The Memorial Acclamation
- ◆ The Great Doxology (Amen)
- ◆ The Communion Procession Song

Consideration might also be given to an entrance Hymn, as it is an important processional moment.

4. The following items should be sung:

- ◆ The Responsorial Psalm (which must be a Psalm from the Old Testament Book of Psalms)
- ◆ A concluding hymn (if one is chosen)
- ◆ The Lamb of God

5. Times where appropriate hymns or songs may be sung:

- ◆ Before the ceremony
- ◆ Presentation of the Gifts
- ◆ Sign of Peace

OFFERINGS

Since Holy Family Parish is not in the “Marriage Business”, we do not charge for sacraments. However, as with any celebration, there are costs that are incurred for preparing a couple for this special day and hosting a wedding in our church building. If the offering to the Church is a problem, please discuss this with the priest or deacon preparing you for marriage.

The **suggested** offering which includes the preparation materials, priest or deacon, servers, set-up & clean-up of the church is:

\$250 for registered parishioners

\$400 for non-parishioners

This payment should be made either in cash or by a check (payable to Holy Family Church). This offering should be given to the priest or deacon at the time of the rehearsal.

APPENDIX A

THE WEDDING ENTRANCE PROCESSION

Being mindful of marriage as a sacrament, it is important to remember that the bride and groom together, are the ministers of the sacrament of marriage. As such, they should ideally be part of the entrance procession, entering the assembly from the same door, thus avoiding any visual suggestion that one is more important than the other.

Also in the procession are the other ministers for the liturgy (*server, book bearer, cross bearer, readers, and Presider*), parents, the two witnesses and perhaps special friends of the bride and groom (*groomsmen and bridesmaids*).

If children (up to age 5) are to be part of the procession, they should walk with adults.

The separation of the men and women in the procession, for example, *the bridesmaids first in a single file, met by the groomsmen, single file*, may not be a good choice because it separates those you have chosen to be partners for the day. It also lengthens the opening procession and makes it something akin to a fashion show.

Therefore, in forming the entrance procession, please consider the following as these work best in our worship space and fit more appropriately with what the Sacrament of Marriage conveys to all who are gathered. Remember, the following are some suggestions of the processions that work in our space; other options are possible, please remember to discuss this with your priest or deacon.

The Presider and servers go to the entryway to welcome the bride and groom. All then enter in procession with the cross bearer leading the way.

Please review these plans as suggestions. If you have any ideas or thoughts about the following, please convey these to the priest or deacon with whom you are working well in advance of the Wedding.

Plan 1:

Cross Bearer
Presider
Server
Book Bearer
(Lector)
Groomsman-Bridesmaid
Groomsman-Bridesmaid
Groom's Witness-Bride's Witness
Parents* of the Groom
Parents* of the Bride
Bride and Groom
*And/or close family members/friends

Plan 2:

Cross Bearer
Presider
Server
Book Bearer
(Lector)
Groomsman-Bridesmaid
Groomsman-Bridesmaid
Groom's Witness–Bride's Witness
Bride and Groom

Plan 3:

Cross Bearer
Presider
Server
Book Bearer
(Lector)
Groomsman-Bridesmaid
Groomsman-Bridesmaid
Groom's Witness–Bride's Witness
Mother*–Groom–Father*
Mother*–Bride–Father*
*and/or close family members/friends

Plan 4:

Cross Bearer
Presider
Server
Book Bearer
(Lector)
Groomsman–Bridesmaid
Groomsman–Bridesmaid
Groom–Groom's Witness
Bride–Bride's Witness

Plan 5:

Cross Bearer
Server
Groom
Groomsman–Bridesmaid
Groomsman–Bridesmaid
Groomsman–Bridesmaid
Bride–Bride's Father/Mother
Book Bearer
Presider

APPENDIX B

SAMPLE WEDDING LITURGY BOOKLET OUTLINES

Wedding Mass

Prelude Music (references)

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Processional (reference)

Introductory Rite and Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: (reference) Read by: (name)

Responsorial Psalm: (words)

Second Reading: (reference) Read by: (name)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: (reference)

Homily

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Exchange of Consent

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayer of the Faithful: (people's response)

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Offertory Gifts presented by (names)

Offertory Song or Hymn: (reference)

Prayer Over The Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Communion Song or Hymn: (reference)

Prayer After Communion

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing and Dismissal

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional: (reference)

Wedding Liturgy Outside of Mass

Prelude Music (references)

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Processional (reference)

Introductory Rite and Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: (reference) Read by: (name)

Responsorial Psalm: (words)

Second Reading: (reference) Read by: (name)

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: (reference)

Homily

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Exchange of Consent

Exchange of Vows

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Prayer of the Faithful: (people's response)

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing and Dismissal

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional: (reference)

APPENDIX C

A PRAYER FOR THE LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE AT THE WEDDING RECEPTION:

Option 1:

As we see, two separate candles have been lit by those who love you. Each candle is a distinct light capable of going its separate way. To bring bliss and happiness to your home, there must be the merging of these two lights into one light. This is what the Lord meant when He said: *"on this account a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and the two shall be one flesh."* From now on your thoughts should be for each other rather than for your individual selves. Your plans shall be mutual, your joys and sorrows shall be shared alike.

Now, as you take your separate candles, together light the center one, thus letting the center candle represent the union of your lives into one flesh.....*pause*

As this one light cannot be divided, neither shall your lives be divided but a united testimony in a Christian home. May the radiance of this one light be a testimony of your unity in the Light of the world, the light of our Lord Jesus Christ for ever and ever. Amen.

Option 2:

Lord, Our God, you are the source of all light and goodness. Tonight we ask your blessing on _____ as they now light this single candle as a sign of their unity. Let your light shine upon them as they join their lives together as one. We ask your blessing upon their marriage, upon their future children and upon all their friends and family who are gathered here. Finally, we ask your blessing upon the food we are about to eat. May we always be grateful for the blessing we receive from you through Christ our Lord. Amen.

APPENDIX D

A PRAYER SERVICE FOR THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen

Leader: Let us pray (pause) God of love, in all time you have called your people your own, your beloved and espoused. Even when we have turned away from you and have forgotten you, your love for us has been faithful, lasting and true. For all the ways in which you have been with us, we praise you and give you thanks. We bless you, and name you the Holy One. Be with us this day/night as we prepare for the wedding of N and N. whose lives have been showered with your love. Calm all anxious hearts and be with us in the power and presence of your Spirit. We pray as we do always in the name of Jesus who is Lord for ever and ever.
All: Amen

MARIAN PRAYER SERVICE AT THE WEDDING REHEARSAL

Takes place at statue of Mary

Leader: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

Leader: Let us pray (pause) God of love, in all time you have called your people your own, your beloved and espoused. Even when we have turned away from you and have forgotten you, your love for us has been faithful, lasting and true. For all the ways in which you have been with us, we praise you and give you thanks. We bless you, and name you're the Holy one. Be with us this day/night as we prepare for the wedding of N and N. whose lives have been showered with your love. Calm all anxious hearts and be with us in the power and presence of your Spirit. We pray as we do always in the name of Jesus who is Lord for ever and ever.
All: Amen

One of the Scriptures chosen for the Wedding liturgy can be read at this time or Luke 1:46-55.

After the reading:

Leader: We spend this time together lifting our hearts to the Lord, listening to God's word, and asking the prayerful help of Mary, whose love and faithfulness is a model for us all.

If flowers are to be placed at the statue, this is an appropriate moment.

Leader: With a special and prayerful remembrance of our family and friends who have gone before us, marked with the sign of faith, we pray in the words that our Savior gave us:
All: ***Our Father...***

Leader: May almighty God bless us + The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All: Amen