



Marriage Preparation Workbook

St. Andrew and St. Mathias Catholic Churches
1108 Willow St.
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-829-1340

Marriage Preparation Prayer

Father in Heaven,
when You created mankind, You willed that man
and woman should be one. In preparing to
receive the Sacrament of Matrimony, send your
Holy Spirit upon us. Great Paraclete, bless us
that we may gain a deeper understanding of the
love Christ has for His Church and give us the
grace to live this love faithfully and fruitfully, so
that we may be living witnesses to Your divine
love in the world all the days of our life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.



Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your engagement! Know that our prayers are with you as you prepare for lifelong marriage in the Catholic Church. We hope to help you prepare for a life lived in joy, with Christ, drawing upon the bounty of His grace.

Marriage, like any vocation, is a call to holiness. Pope John Paul II often stressed this reality: "In God's plan, all husbands and wives are called in marriage to holiness, and this lofty vocation is fulfilled to the extent that the human person is able to respond to God's command with serene confidence in God's grace and in his or her own will."* Two goals of the marriage preparation process are found in the quote above: (1) to help you recognize God's desire to constantly bless you and be with you in your marriage and (2) to strengthen your resolve to always turn to God, in good times and in bad.

Through the Sacrament of Matrimony, you will become "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:6). Therefore, you will journey through life together - with God. Because the marital union is a re-presentation of Christ's union with His Church, you who become vessels for this re-presentation will indeed be blessed. You will share in the very love with which Christ loves His Church. However, because the marital union is a re-presentation of Christ's love for His Church, you will almost certainly face challenges that call for sacrifice and suffering love. Christ gives us the ultimate model in giving up His life for the Church.

Marriage can be defined by three characteristics based on Christ's relationship with the Church:

- Faithful -- refers to the exclusive nature of your vocation
- Forever -- refers to the fact that the marital union is lifelong
- Fruitful -- the marital union is called to be life-giving; open to children

This booklet mainly contains practical content for the day of your wedding. However, through this marriage preparation process, you will learn more about what is entailed in living this vocation. You will learn more about the theology of marriage and learn about how you can practically live this calling.

We commend your marriage preparation to the Holy Family. May St. Joseph; Mary, our Mother; and Jesus, our Lord; inspire and guide you, now and forever!

Sincerely,

Brainerd Lakes Catholic Churches

* John Paul II, Homily at the Close of the Sixth Synod of Bishops (Oct. 25, 1980)

Table of Contents

Marriage Preparation Guidelines	pg. 6
Options for Old Testament Readings.....	pg. 10
Options for New Testament Readings	pg. 16
Options for Gospel Readings	pg. 25
Options for Vows	pg. 31
Options for Nuptial Blessing	pg. 32
Options for Prayer of the Faithful	pg. 35

Forms

Marriage Planning Sheet.....	pg. 37
Wedding Liturgy Form, with Mass.....	pg. 39
Wedding Liturgy Form, without Mass	pg. 40
Checklist.....	pg. 41

Marriage Preparation Guidelines

MEMBERSHIP

Since Marriage is a Sacrament of the Catholic Church, it is normally celebrated in the parish where the couple worships. This means that in general, to get married in one of our parishes, at least one party is a parishioner, is becoming a parishioner, or grew up as a parishioner. For those who currently reside outside the Brainerd area, marriage preparation normally takes place at the parish where they currently live. The couple must provide confirmation of plans for marriage preparation to our parish office before a wedding date can be reserved.

TIME OF YOUR WEDDING

The wedding liturgy, with or without Mass, is normally scheduled either for the morning or early afternoon, depending on the church. The latest a Saturday wedding can be scheduled at any of our Churches is 2:00 p.m. Evening weddings are normally only workable on Friday evenings. Weddings are not celebrated during Holy Week, Sundays or Holy Days of Obligation, and it is preferable not to schedule weddings during Lent because of its penitential nature.

PREPARATION PROCEDURES

- o Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage begins at least 6 months prior to the planned date of the wedding. The marriage itself cannot be scheduled until an initial meeting with the priest (or deacon). Subsequent meetings with the clergy will follow.
- o Preparation also includes completion of the *Fully Engaged* inventory. This is followed by feedback sessions with a married couple in the parish.
- o Each engaged couple will participate in a pre-marriage course or retreat. You will receive information from the priest or deacon about possible retreat dates.
- o Please be aware that a pre-nuptial agreement generally renders marriage invalid.

DOCUMENTS NEEDED

- Baptismal Certificate
 - o For Catholics: a baptismal certificate issued within 6 months before the wedding. Those baptized at the Brainerd Churches can simply ask the parish secretary.
 - o Non-Catholics: a baptismal certificate. It need not be recent.
- Marriage License from the State of Minnesota.
 - o This is to be left at the parish office one week (7 working days) before the wedding. If you complete the entire parish marriage preparation process, the state allows you to pay a reduced rate for the license. Once your marriage prep is completed, you can obtain a notarized form from us to bring with you when you apply and pay for your marriage license.

LITURGY & ENVIRONMENT

The environment in the church reflects the liturgical season of the year: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. Occasional liturgies such as weddings can influence the environment, but they cannot remove or replace the seasonal décor. Please address any questions to Father no later than 8 weeks prior to your wedding.

- o The churches have candles and candelabra if you chose to use them. We also have a podium for the guestbook.
- o Please attach pew bows with ribbon, elastic or string. No tape, tacks or glue please.
- o Due to safety issues, no aisle runners may be used.
- o Flowers and plants are not permitted directly on top of the altar or ambo (pulpit). Plants may be removed or left as a floral gift to the parish. No balloons are allowed inside the church sanctuary.
- o Flower petals may not be scattered; nor are rice, bird seed, glitter or confetti permitted to be spread or used on church grounds.

PHOTOGRAPHER

- o During wedding pictures, no church furnishings are to be moved. All photography equipment is to be removed from the worship space at least ½ hour before the ceremony. Time for pictures in Church may be limited by the parishes due to other scheduled weddings/events.
- o Movement by the photographer during the wedding liturgy is to be kept to an absolute minimum. No flash is to be used during the ceremony.

MUSIC

“Songs that are chosen for the Liturgy should be appropriate for the celebration and express the faith of the Church.” USCCB document, *Sing to the Lord*, ¶220.

- o Please contact the music director at the beginning of your wedding preparations so that there will be enough time to select, plan and rehearse the music. All music must be discussed with, and approved by, the church music director. The Music Director must have the chance to review all music requests no later than 8 weeks prior to your wedding.
- o During wedding celebrations either within or outside the Mass only liturgical music is allowed.
- o If any other kind of music is desired for use, it must be discussed with the parish music director and, if approved, may be performed either before or after the liturgy, but still should retain a sacred character.
- o The Music Director will provide the music for your wedding. Selection of instrumentalists and vocalists will be under the guidance of the Music Director.
- o If you have family members or friends you would like to include in providing music for your wedding, the Music Director will help you find an appropriate time during the wedding for them to serve in that capacity. Please be advised that the Music Director’s fee must be paid in addition to any fees paid to outside musicians. The Music Director will discuss current fees with you. All musicians’ fees are to be paid prior to the wedding.
- o **Music Director for St. Andrew and St. Mathias:**
 - Anne Pritschet, 218-831-3088, apritschet@lakescatholic.org

REHEARSAL

Rehearsals are normally scheduled the day before the wedding at 5:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m. Arrange the time with Father. All members of the wedding are to be present. If someone must be absent, another person stands in his or her place and instructs the absentee prior to the wedding. The readers will practice the Scripture readings. Musicians are usually not present at the rehearsal but may practice before the rehearsal begins. Wedding rehearsals usually take about one hour. The bride and groom should arrive 15 minutes ahead of the scheduled rehearsal time to meet with the rehearsal leaders. Anyone that will be part of the procession, parents, readers, and ushers should be at the rehearsal and should arrive by the scheduled start time.

- Following the celebration the wedding party is responsible for removing all items brought into the church facilities (decorations, boxes, etc.) and placing all litter in waste baskets.
- If any kind of food or beverage is provided before the wedding, it can be placed and consumed only in the parish social hall. You should appoint someone who will be in charge of assuring the Bride's room and social hall are left clean prior to the wedding ceremony. No alcoholic beverages allowed. No food or drink in Church proper.

BRIDE'S ROOM

The bride's room must be cleared before the wedding. If another wedding is taking place the same day as yours, the amount of time you each will have for dressing and pictures will be discussed with the pastor of the parish.

DONATIONS

A contribution is normally given to the parish at which the wedding is celebrated. The suggested donation is \$250. This contribution can be dropped off when the Marriage License is dropped off at the parish office. In addition, you may choose to make an offering to the celebrating clergy.



Options for Old Testament Readings

* 1. Male and female he created them.

A reading from the Book of Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Then God said:

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

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

and over all the wild animals

and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image;

in the image of God he created him;

male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

“Be fertile and multiply;

fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air,

and all the living things that move on the earth.”

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

The word of the Lord.

*2. The two of them become one body.

A reading from the Book of Genesis 2:18-24

The Lord God said: “It is not good for the man to be alone.

I will make a suitable partner for him.”

So the Lord God formed out of the ground

various wild animals and various birds of the air,

and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them;

whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle,

all the birds of the air, and all wild animals;

but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man,

and while he was asleep,

he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib

that he had taken from the man.

When he brought her to the man, the man said:

“This one, at last, is bone of my bones

and flesh of my flesh;

This one shall be called ‘woman,’

for out of ‘her man’ this one has been taken.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother

and clings to his wife,
and the two of them become one body.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:
“I bowed down in worship to the Lord,
blessing the Lord, the God of my master Abraham,
who had led me on the right road
to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.
If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master,
let me know;
but if not, let me know that, too.
I can then proceed accordingly.”
Laban and his household said in reply:
“This thing comes from the Lord;
we can say nothing to you either for or against it.
Here is Rebekah, ready for you;
take her with you,
that she may become the wife of your master’s son,
as the Lord has said.”
So they called Rebekah and asked her,
“Do you wish to go with this man?”
She answered, “I do.”
At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave,
along with Abraham’s servant and his men.
Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:
“Sister, may you grow
into thousands of myriads;
And may your descendants gain possession
of the gates of their enemies!”
Then Rebekah and her maids started out;
they mounted their camels and followed the man.
so the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.
Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi
and was living in the region of the Negeb.
One day toward evening he went out . . . in the field,
and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching.
Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him,
she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,
“Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?”
“That is my master,” replied the servant.
Then she covered herself with her veil.
The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.
Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;
he married her, and thus she became his wife.

In his love for her Isaac found solace
after the death of his mother Sarah.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Tobit 7:6-14

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.
Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy.
But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight,
he was grieved and wept aloud.
He said to Tobiah:
“My child, God bless you!
You are the son of a noble and good father.
But what a terrible misfortune
that such a righteous and charitable man
should be afflicted with blindness!”
He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.
His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;
and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.
Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock
and gave them a cordial reception.
When they had bathed and reclined to eat,
Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah,
ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”
Raguel overheard the words;
so he said to the boy:
“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,
for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah
than you, brother.
Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you,
because you are my closest relative.
But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.
I have given her in marriage to seven men,
all of whom were kinsmen of ours,
and all died on the very night they approached her.
But now, son, eat and drink.
I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”
Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing
until you set aside what belongs to me.”
Raguel said to him: “I will do it.
She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses.
Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!
Take your kinswoman
from now on you are her love,
and she is your beloved.
She is yours today and ever after.
And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.
May he grant you mercy and peace.”

Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him.
He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words:
“Take her according to the law.
According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife.
Take her and bring her back safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity.”
He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,
So that he might draw up a marriage contract
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.
Her mother brought the scroll,
and he drew up the contract,
to which they affixed their seal.
Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Tobit 8:4b-8

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

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

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.

7. Stern as death is love.

A reading from the Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

Hark! my lover—here he comes
springing across the mountains,
leaping across the hills.
My lover is like a gazelle
or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall,
gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me,
“Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!
“O my dove in the clefts of the rock,
in the secret recesses of the cliff,
Let me see you,
let me hear your voice,
for your voice is sweet,
and you are lovely.”
My lover belongs to me and I to him.
He says to me:
“Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love,
nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Book of Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;
A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.
A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.
A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.
Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,
priceless her chaste soul.
A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.
Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord.

9. 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 31:31-32a, 33-34a

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.

Options for New Testament Readings

10. What will separate us from the love of Christ?

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

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,
how 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.

11A. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (Long Form)

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God,
to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.
Do not conform yourselves to this age
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,
that you may discern what is the will of God,
what is good and pleasing and perfect.
Let love be sincere;
hate what is evil,
hold on to what is good;
love one another with mutual affection;
anticipate one another in showing honor.
Do not grow slack in zeal,

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

The word of the Lord.

OR

11B. Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (Short Form)

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.

12. Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

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,
or 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.

13. Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord,
And the Lord is for the body;
God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.
Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?
Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.
Avoid immorality.

Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,
but the immoral person sins against his own body.

Do you not know that your body
is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?
For you have been purchased at a price.
Therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

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.

15. One Body and one Spirit.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians 4:1-6

Brothers and sisters:
I, a prisoner for the Lord,
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

***16A. 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 5:2a, 21-33 (Long Form)

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.

OR

16B. 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 5:2a, 25-32 (Short Form)

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

Husbands, love your wives,
even as Christ loved the Church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,

cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.
So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
He who loves his wife loves himself.
For no one hates his own flesh
but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the Church,
because we are members of his Body.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother
and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.
This is a great mystery,
but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

17. The God of peace will be with you.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians 4:4-9

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.

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians 3:12-17

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.

19. Let marriage be held in honor by all.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

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.

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

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter 3:1-9

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that,
even if some disobey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:

braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes,
but rather the hidden character of the heart,
expressed in the imperishable beauty
of a gentle and calm disposition,
which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God
once used to adorn themselves

and were subordinate to their husbands;
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."

You are her children when you do what is good
and fear no intimidation.

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

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called,
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

21. Love in deed and in truth

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 3:18-24

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.

22. God is love.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John 4:7-12

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.

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

A reading from the Book of Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

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.

Options for Gospel Readings

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12a

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.

25. You are the light of the world.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:13-16

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,
here 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.

26A. A wise man built his house on rock.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (Long Form)

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.

OR

26B. A wise man built his house on rock.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 7:21, 24-25 (Short Form)

Jesus said to his disciples:
“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 19:3-6

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew 22:35-40

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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to 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 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.

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 2:1-11

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.

31. Remain in my love.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples:

“As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

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

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

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

32. This is my commandment: love one another.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 15:12-16

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.

33A. That they may be brought to perfection as one.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-26 (Long Form)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“I pray not only for my disciples,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,

as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,

so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.
Father, they are your gift to me.
I wish that where I am they also may be with me,
that they may see my glory that you gave me,
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.
I made known to them your name and I will make it known,
that the love with which you loved me
may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

OR

33B. That they may be brought to perfection as one.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John 17:20-23 (Short Form)

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:
“Holy Father, I pray not only for these,
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,
so that they may all be one,
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,
that they also may be in us,
that the world may believe that you sent me.
And I have given them the glory you gave me,
so that they may be one, as we are one,
I in them and you in me,
that they may be brought to perfection as one,
that the world may know that you sent me,
and that you loved them even as you loved me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Options for Vows

Option 33A - Repeated after priest or deacon

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my wife. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), to be my husband. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.

Option 33B - "I do."

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) to be your wife? Do you promise to be faithful to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and to honor her all the days of your life?

Groom: I do.

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) to be your husband? Do you promise to be faithful to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and to honor him all the days of your life?

Bride: I do.

Option 34A - Repeated after priest or deacon

Groom: I, (name), take you, (name), for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

Bride: I, (name), take you, (name), for my lawful husband, , to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

Option 34B - "I do."

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) for your lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do you part?

Groom: I do.

Priest or Deacon: (Name), do you take (name) for your lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health to love and to cherish, until death do you part?

Bride: I do.

Options for Nuptial Blessing

Option 35

Dear brothers and sisters,
let us humbly pray to the Lord
that on these his servants, now married in Christ,
he may mercifully pour out
the blessing of his grace
and make of one heart in love
(by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)
those he has joined by a holy covenant.

And all pray in silence for a while.
Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

O God, who by your mighty power
created all things out of nothing,
and, when you had set in place
the beginnings of the universe,
formed man and woman in your own image,
making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,
that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,
and taught that what you were pleased to make one
must never be divided;
O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage
by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed
the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;
O God, by whom woman is joined to man
and the companionship they had in the beginning
is endowed with the one blessing
not forfeited by original sin
nor washed away by the flood.
Look now with favor on these your servants,
joined together in Marriage,
who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.
Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit
and pour your love into their hearts,
that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.
May the grace of love and peace
abide in your daughter N.,
and let her always follow the example of those holy women
whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.
May her husband entrust his heart to her,
so that, acknowledging her as his equal
and his joint heir to the life of grace,
he may show her due honor

and cherish her always
with the love that Christ has for his Church.
And now, Lord, we implore you:
may these your servants
hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;
made one in the flesh,
may they be blameless in all they do;
and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,
may they bear true witness to Christ before all;
(may they be blessed with children,
and prove themselves virtuous parents,
who live to see their children's children).
And grant that,
reaching at last together the fullness of years
for which they hope,
they may come to the life of the blessed
in the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Option 36

Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,
who come to the altar as they begin their married life,
that (partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ)
they may always be bound together by love for one another.

And all pray in silence for a while.

Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

Holy Father,
who formed man in your own image,
male and female you created them,
so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart,
they might fulfill their calling in the world;
O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love,
willed that the love of spouses for each other
should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made
with your people,
so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign,
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church
might become manifest
in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;
Graciously stretch out your right hand
over these your servants (N. and N.), we pray,
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.
Grant, O Lord,
that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,

they may share with one another the gifts of your love
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,
become one heart and one mind.
May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds
the home they are forming
(and prepare their children
to become members of your heavenly household
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).
Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter N.,
so that, by being a good wife (and mother),
she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure
and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.
Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord,
on N., your servant,
that he may be a worthy, good and
faithful husband (and a provident father).
Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,
they may one day have the joy
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Option 37

Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters,
God's blessing upon this bride and groom,
that in his kindness he may favor with his help
those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

All pray in silence for a short while.

Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,
who created man and woman in your own image
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,
we humbly beseech you for these your servants,
who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.
May your abundant blessing, Lord,
come down upon this bride, N.,
and upon N., her companion for life,
and may the power of your Holy Spirit
set their hearts aflame from on high,
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,
they may (adorn their family with children
and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,
in sorrow may they seek you out;
may they have the joy of your presence
to assist them in their toil,
and know that you are near
to comfort them in their need;
let them pray to you in the holy assembly
and bear witness to you in the world,
and after a happy old age,
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

Response: Amen.

Options for Prayer of the Faithful

Option 38

1. For the Church throughout the world. May our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another. We pray to the Lord.
2. For peace in our world. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation. We pray to the Lord.
3. For the protection and sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.
4. For all those preparing for the Sacrament of Marriage. May they grow in wisdom and grace, and see their vocation to married life as a sign of God's love. We pray to the Lord.
5. For N. and N., who begin their married life together this day. May they experience the love of God, the support of family and friends, and the blessing of children. We pray to the Lord.
6. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.

Option 39

1. For the Church and its leaders. May our commitment to the Gospel lead us to deepen our faith and trust in God. We pray to the Lord.
2. For our world and its leaders. May all people be treated with the dignity they deserve as God's children. We pray to the Lord.
3. For those who are sick, lonely or depressed. May they be strengthened by God's love and aided by friends and family. We pray to the Lord.

4. For all of the guests gathered here today. May they enjoy the company of family and friends and travel safely on their journey home. We pray to the Lord.
5. For N. and N., May they live long, blessed lives together, may their love grow stronger each and every day, and may they build a family rooted in faith and unconditional love. We pray to the Lord.
6. For all those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. May they enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. We pray to the Lord.



Marriage Planning Sheet

(Coordinator or Clergy will review this form with you approximately 8 weeks prior to wedding)

The Wedding of: _____ and _____

Date and time of Wedding: _____

Date and time of rehearsal: _____

The Church:

Will there be a printed program? ___ Yes ___ No

Other plans?

Participants

Ushers: *Ushers help to welcome people, to seat them, and to help clean up the Church after the ceremony.*

They are: _____

Lectors: *If you have one reading before the Gospel, you need one reader. If you have 2 readings before the Gospel, you may select either 1 or 2 readers. They should be accustomed to reading in Church or the public.*

If your wedding is a Mass, then the Lectors must be Catholic.

Musicians: *Please remember all music must be discussed with and approved by our Music Director.*

Attendants - *They are official witnesses to your wedding.*

Maid of Honor: _____ **Best Man:** _____

Others: _____

Please list anyone else that is involved in the wedding and their role:

Catholic Mass (If *yes*, fill out form on pg. 38; if *no*, fill out form on pg. 39) Yes _____ No _____
If yes, Approx. number of guests: _____

Altar Servers can be discussed with officiating clergy.

Bread and Wine will be (check one): Brought in from the back ___ At the credence table ___

Additional ministers of Holy Communion can be discussed with clergy.

Procession

Groom walks in with parents to lead procession? Yes _____ No _____

All walk in from back _____ Groomsmen up front _____

Flower girl: Yes _____ No _____ Ring Bearer: Yes _____ No _____

Requests for a Visiting Minister are discussed with clergy early in the Marriage Preparation process.

Vows (check one - see options on pg. 30-31 & write code on proper form; pg. 38 or 39)

Repeated _____ OR "I do." _____

Couple Presented as _____

Wedding Liturgy: Mass

Prelude music
Processional

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of Cross and Greeting
Penitential Rite
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD -- choose readings from pg. 9-30; write corresponding code

First Reading _____
(From the Old Testament, unless choosing only 1 reading prior to Gospel, then may be either from the Old Testament or from New Testament Epistles)

Responsorial Psalm - Talk to music director about options

Second Reading *(optional - from New Testament Epistles)* _____

Gospel _____

Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Questions/Exchange of Vows -- choose questions/vows from pg. 30-31;
write corresponding code _____

The Reception of the Consent *(After the priest or deacon has received the couple's consent, he will say: **Let us bless the Lord***
*All reply: **Thanks be to God***

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Optional: a hymn or canticle of praise may be sung

Lighting of a Unity Candle is not recommended but can be discussed

Prayer of the Faithful -- choose from pg. 34-35; write corresponding code _____

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Preparation of the Altar and Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing -- choose from pg. 31-34; write corresponding code _____

Sign of Peace

Communion Hymn

CLOSING RITE

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Introduction of Couple followed by Recessional

Wedding Liturgy: No Mass

Prelude music
Processional

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Sign of Cross and Greeting
Opening Prayer

LITURGY OF THE WORD -- choose readings from pg. 9-30; write corresponding code

****At least one reading must be chosen from those marked with an asterisk above.****

First Reading _____
(From the Old Testament, unless choosing only 1 reading prior to Gospel, then it may be either from the Old Testament or from the New Testament Epistles)

Responsorial Psalm - Talk to music director about options

Second Reading *(optional - from New Testament Epistles)* _____

Gospel _____

Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Questions/Exchange of Vows -- choose questions/vows from pg. 30-31;
write corresponding code _____

*The couple's consent, he will say: **Let us bless the Lord***

*All reply: **Thanks be to God***

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

Optional: a hymn or canticle of praise may be sung

Lighting of a Unity Candle is not recommended but can be discussed

Prayer of the Faithful -- choose from pg. 34-35;
write corresponding code _____

Nuptial Blessing -- choose from pg. 31-34;
write corresponding code _____

Lord's Prayer

CLOSING RITE

Final Blessing and Dismissal
Introduction of Couple
Recessional

Checklist

- START MARRIAGE PREP PROCESS AT LEAST 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE _____
- SET MARRIAGE DATE WITH PRIEST/DEACON _____
- BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES OBTAINED;
IF NECESSARY, FREEDOM TO MARRY AFFIDAVITS COMPLETED _____
- COMPLETE FULLY ENGAGED INVENTORY _____
- ATTEND PRE-MARRIAGE COURSE/RETREAT _____
- MEET WITH SPONSOR COUPLE _____
- PROPER MUSIC DIRECTOR IS CONTACTED AT BEGINNING OF MARRIAGE
PREP PROCESS AND ALL MUSIC SELECTIONS ARE APPROVED AT LEAST
8 WEEKS PRIOR TO THE LITURGY _____
- ACQUIRE MARRIAGE LICENSE & BRING TO PARISH OFFICE AT LEAST
7 DAYS BEFORE WEDDING (BRING STATE NOTARIZED FORM FROM
PARISH OFFICE TO RECEIVE DISCOUNT ON MARRIAGE LICENSE) _____
- DONATION DELIVERED TO CHURCH _____
- MUSICIAN FEES PAID PRIOR TO THE WEDDING _____
- INFORM PHOTOGRAPHER OF CHURCH GUIDELINES _____
- REHEARSAL IS SCHEDULED & WEDDING PARTY IS SCHEDULED TO
BE PRESENT _____
- SOMEONE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO CLEAN UP AFTER REHEARSAL
AND WEDDING _____
- SOMEONE HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO CLEAN UP BRIDE'S ROOM
BEFORE WEDDING CEREMONY _____