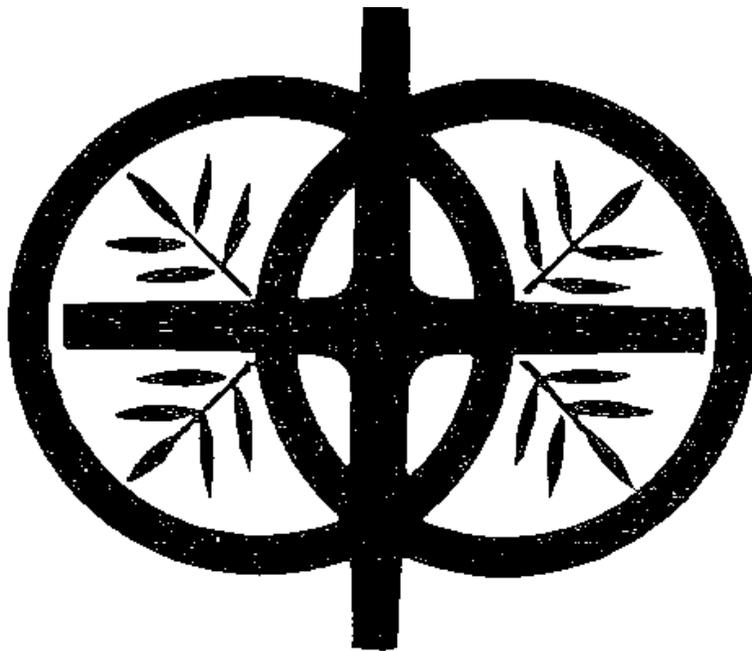


St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church



Marriage Guidelines

1940 South Prospect Avenue
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
(310) 540-0329 www.stlm.org



The Wedding of Mary & Joseph; Giotto ca. 1305

Dear Engaged Couple,

Congratulations! The St. Lawrence Martyr Catholic Church faith- community rejoices with you and welcomes you to this Sacrament of Marriage in the spirit of Jesus who said:

*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.*
(John 15:12-13)

To enter into this irrevocable and indissoluble bond, your preparation for the Sacrament is something that we take quite seriously. *"A wedding is a day, a marriage is a lifetime."* Your wedding day will hold many wonderful memories as the years unfold, but marriage is an evolving lifelong experience. Your preparation for this is of uppermost importance to us, the Church that desires to support you.

We know that planning a wedding is both exciting and stressful. Couples getting married in the Catholic Church know that their wedding day is much more than getting the right flowers or venue, but those practical details can get in the way of a focus on the couple's faith and trust in God's love in the Sacrament. If you've had your wedding planned since the fourth grade – or if you're at a loss for where to start – this information will help answer questions you have about your Catholic wedding, and give you practical ways to keep God, your faith, and love at the center of the big day. It is our hope that the information provided in this book will assist you in initiating the planning of both your "wedding" and your "marriage." We encourage you to prepare well.

Marriage is not an isolated event. From the nurturing environment of the family we each come forth, finding our place in the search to continue the cycle of love and life. In the midst of this Parish family, your commitment will be celebrated. We, therefore, hope that your relationship with us will continue beyond this moment so that, now united together in love, you might participate in building up the Body of Christ in our midst.

May God's richest blessings be yours in everlasting love.

The Clergy and Staff of St. Lawrence Martyr Church

*Father, you have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery
that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and his Church.*
(The Order of Celebrating Matrimony)

Marriage Preparation Process

At the heart of responsible marriage preparation is the opportunity for you to seriously reflect, in a comprehensive and challenging way, on the meaning of this important step in your lives. While reflection and in-depth sharing of your future together has undoubtedly already begun, the Church offers further opportunities for you to reflect on your life-long journey with one another.

The Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles asks for a six-month preparation period prior to the wedding day. This allows time for evaluation of a couple's readiness for sacramental married life. Your priest will lead you in the process of discernment, personal assessment testing, and education. You may be asked to complete a FOCCUS* Premarital Inventory, and to attend one (or more) counseling sessions with a Marriage and Family Therapist. Through these you will gain insights about each other regarding what is required for a successful marriage.

**Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study*

Since readiness for marriage cannot be scientifically measured, Premarital Inventories help engaged couples to make sure that they have discussed the most important issues. These are not tests, but rather instruments that prompt discussion on sometimes sensitive issues.

Marriage preparation programs come in many forms: residential weekends, a weekly series, one day programs, parish-based programs, and couple-to-couple meetings with a mentor couple. One such widely-used program is Engaged Encounter. You find out more about these opportunities when you meet with your priest.

Reserving Your Rehearsal and Wedding Dates

After the priest has verified your eligibility to marry in the Catholic Church, you will be able to reserve your rehearsal and wedding dates on our parish calendar.

- Rehearsal: Thursday or Friday – 6:00 pm or later
- Wedding: Saturday – 10:00 am, 12:00 pm or 2:00 pm

Our Wedding Coordinator will conduct your rehearsal, normally a 45 minute event. Priests and musicians do not attend wedding rehearsals. It is critical that all members of the wedding party be present for this rehearsal, as well as those you have been selected as lectors for the liturgy. Out of respect for the Wedding Coordinator, please ensure that you and your entire wedding party arrive on time for a prompt start! She will contact you to discuss the various ritual choices that are open to you in planning your ceremony, and she will be present on your wedding day, typically arriving at the church an hour prior to prepare. In addition to your needs, she also acts as a Sacristan, preparing the altar and sanctuary for the priest.

On your wedding day, we ask that you and your whole wedding party arrive at least 45 to 1 hour prior for prep time & pictures. Your ceremony will take approximately one hour. Pictures may also be taken up to half an hour after the service. Please encourage those gathered for pictures to respect that Parishioners may also be in the church to pray. Thank you!

Marriage Documentation & Our Administrative Secretary

Although Marriage is foremost a sacrament, it is also a binding contract under church codes and civil laws. Your priest will advise you as to which documents you will need to obtain. Some of the various documents required may include:

- Baptismal Certificate
- Pre-nuptial Questionnaire
- Affidavits of Freedom to Marry
- Civil Marriage License

Aside from your priest, **Susan Roberts** is your contact regarding the church and civil documentation of your marriage. She will help to keep you on track of all the legal preparation for your great day. Please feel free to call when you have questions. **Her office is in the Pastoral Center, phone number (310) 540-0329, ext. 223.**

The LA County Office of the Registrar-Recorder requires that both bride and groom appear in person to obtain a **marriage license, which is valid for 90 days only.** These are the locations:

Office Locations for Marriage Licenses The contact number for all offices is: (800) 201-8999 https://www.lavote.net/home/county-clerk/marriage-licenses-ceremonies/general-info		
Location	Address	Hours
Beverly Hills	9355 Burton Way, 1st Floor Beverly Hills, CA 90210	M-F, 8:30am - 4pm
East Los Angeles	4716 E. Cesar Chavez Ave., Building B Los Angeles, CA 90022	M-F, 8:30am - 4pm
Florence/Firestone	7807 S. Compton Ave., 1st Floor Los Angeles, CA 90001	M-F, 8:30am - 4pm
LAX Courthouse	11701 S. La Cienega Blvd., 6th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90045	8:30am - 4pm
Lancaster	44509 16th St. West, Suite 101 Lancaster, CA 93534	8:30am - 4pm
Norwalk (Main Office)	12400 Imperial Hwy. 2nd Floor, Room 2001 Norwalk, CA 90650	M-F, 8am - 5pm 3rd Thu/month: 8am - 7pm
Van Nuys	14340 W. Sylvan St. Van Nuys, CA 91401	M-F, 8:30am - 4pm

Bring your marriage license to the wedding rehearsal

No Alcohol or Drugs on Church Premises

We encourage you to set a tone of reverence and respect at the rehearsal and on the wedding day. Wedding Coordinators need the full attention and cooperation of you and your wedding party. The Marriage ceremony is a sacred affair requiring the full conscious and active participation of all those present. Please advise your wedding party to celebrate at the reception and not on church premises.

Preparing the Liturgy

All Catholic liturgical rites are joyous and festive occasions. The assembled faithful (including all your guests, Catholic and non-Catholic) are called to be active participants in attentive listening and with voices raised in song and prayer. This is how we worship God with thanks and praise. At your wedding, we will be witnesses to the Sacrament of Marriage that you will administer to one another.

Study what follows to help you select for the many choices you have regarding the Scripture readings, music, vows, the Universal Prayer and other prayers for your ceremony. Your choices will need to be relayed in a timely manner to your Priest, Wedding Coordinator and the Music Director.

Note that family members and friends may participate in the liturgy by reading some of the Scriptures, the General Intercessions, or by bringing up the Gifts and the gift basket during the Mass.

Sacred Music for the Liturgy

Music plays an integral part in Catholic rituals and engages all present to participate in the celebration. Consider that sacred music is the Church norm, whereas secular music is more appropriate for receptions. Pre-recorded music and backing tracks are not allowed. Whether your taste in music is traditional or contemporary, we can help you select music to make your ceremony a true celebration.

Contact our Music Director, René Ayala, to begin planning your music: (310) 316-0090, rene.ayala@stlm.org

Selecting Musicians

In addition to song choices, our Music Director will help you secure musicians for your wedding. St. Lawrence has a number of excellent instrumentalists and vocalists; please consider them first. Non-parish musicians need to be coordinated through our Music Director. In these instances, a sound technician may be required to set up and handle our equipment. The Wedding Coordinator does not handle any music or sound equipment. All music needs must be arranged through the Music Director.

Church Environment

The Church's liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time dictate how the church is decorated throughout the year. We adhere to these environment guidelines allow our community to enter into a spirit of sacred time. Flowers, lighting, urns, banners and other materials are used at various times to enhance our celebrations. For this reason, we do not alter our décor for weddings. During the Christmas or Easter seasons the church is highly decorated. If your wedding is during one of these seasons, you'll have little need to purchase flowers for the church. Note: the church is not decorated for Christmas until a few days before December 24th.

Label Personal Flowers

Ask your florist to label each corsage and boutonniere with the actual name of the person for whom it is intended, not with their role or relationship to you. This helps the Wedding Coordinator to distribute them.

White Pew Bows

We have pew bows of white tulle available for your use. Fourteen bows will be placed on alternating pews down the center aisle, seven on each side of the front section of the church. Let the Coordinator know you'd like to use our bows; no charge.

If you decide to use your own bows, you must use plastic holders, available from your florist. Also, please assign someone to remove them at the end of the ceremony.

*No Metal Holders or Adhesive Tape on the Pews
No Aisle Runners, Rice, Birdseed, or Flower Petals (real or silk)
No items may be thrown on the ground, inside or outside of the church; no exceptions*

Bride's Waiting Room

A small room is available in the Pastoral Center adjacent to the Church for the bride's convenience.

A Gift Basket for the Poor

Non-perishable food items for our Outreach Pantry may be brought up with the bread and wine during a Mass. It is an optional, though wonderful, gesture of Christian service that you may consider. We can provide a basket, or you can assign a friend to assemble it. This is another opportunity to include family and friends in the liturgy.

Guidelines for Florists, Photographers & Videographers

When choosing vendors to provide these services for your wedding, we ask you give them these guidelines. Remind them that your Marriage ceremony in this Catholic Church is sacred time in a sacred space. In carrying out their duties, they should never detract from this reality. Everyone involved in the ceremony should serve in a respectful way.

Guidelines for the Florist:

1. Flowers should be delivered at least one hour prior to the wedding ceremony. Preparation should be concluded at least a half-hour prior. We are unable to accommodate earlier deliveries.
2. No tape, nails, wires, or metal holders may be used to attach bows or flower arrangements to the pews. Use plastic holders only. Nothing may be attached to our church bows.
3. Candles may not be used in the floral arrangements.
4. Aisle runners may not be used.

Guidelines for the Photographer and /or Videographer:

1. Arrive for set-up at least an hour prior to the wedding ceremony.
2. Dress professionally for the occasion: no sneakers, jeans, tee shirts or other inappropriate wear.
3. Observe the basic "line of sight" rule throughout the ceremony: *if the guests can see you, you are in the wrong place.* Avoid blocking the view, being in front of pews, or standing in the Sanctuary.
4. Flash photography may be used sparingly; flood lights are not permitted; do not move church furnishings.
5. The Church is not a studio or a movie set. Be respectful and show reverence throughout the ceremony and while taking group pictures before and after. Be mindful of parishioners who may be in church to pray or to go to confession. After-service picture taking is limited to one half-hour.
6. Intentionally violating these guidelines may result in being asked to leave.

Vendors should follow any directions given by the Priest or the Wedding Coordinator

Donations & Fees

Every wedding involves a considerable amount of time and preparation on the part of the priest and the other ministers. Bear in mind the importance of the church ceremony to the overall celebration of your wedding day. Accordingly, your donation to the church should reflect that appreciation. This donation helps to cover church operating and maintenance expenses. Separate fees include those for the Wedding Coordinator and each Musician hired. When non-parish musicians are used, an SLM Sound Technician may be required to run our sound system. Discuss with the Music Director.

Church Donation for Active Parishioners	\$700
Church Donation for Non-Parishioners	\$1,000

***A 50% donation deposit is due after initial meeting with your priest
Balance of donation is due at your rehearsal
A gift to your Priest is separate from the church donation***

Wedding Coordinator Fee	\$175
Musician Fee, per each	\$200
Sound Technician Fee (<i>only as needed</i>)	\$125

***Bring all final donations, gifts and fees in separately marked envelopes
and deliver to your Wedding Coordinator at your rehearsal***



Checklist

<i>Appointments</i>	Date	Time
Wedding Day	_____	_____
Wedding Rehearsal	_____	_____
Initial Visit with Priest	_____	_____
Second Visit	_____	_____
Third Visit (<i>as needed</i>)	_____	_____
Fourth Visit (<i>as needed</i>)	_____	_____
Meeting with Music Director	_____	_____
Engaged Encounter	_____	Place _____
Wedding Coordinator	Name _____	Phone _____

<i>Documents</i>	Bride	Groom
Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire	_____	_____
Affidavits of Freedom to Marry	_____	_____
Baptismal Certificate (Catholics Only)	_____	_____
Completion of Engaged Preparation Program	_____	_____
Dispensation (if needed)	_____	_____
Civil Marriage License	_____	_____

Marriage Music Planning Form

Date/Time _____ Presider _____ Wedding Coordinator _____
Bride _____ Groom _____

_____ Music Director: Guitar & Vocal – René Ayala 310-316-0090; rene.ayala@stlm.org
_____ Organ & Piano – Diana Brownson
_____ Other Musicians _____



Prelude Music _____

Introductory Rite *choose one*

First Form *The Priest welcomes and receives the Bridal Party at the entrance of the Church, within the foyer. All process toward the Altar in order: Cross-bearer, other Ministers, Priest, Bridal Party, Parents, Bride & Groom*
Processional Music _____
As Procession ends, the Priest takes his place in the Sanctuary
Gathering Hymn _____

or

Second Form *The Priest takes his place in the Sanctuary. The Wedding Party processes toward the Altar in order:*
Processional Music: Bridal Party _____
Bride _____
When the Couple arrives at their place, the Priest welcomes and receives them.
Gathering Hymn _____

Sign of the Cross, Greeting & Introductory Address to the Couple and Those Present
Glory to God *sung during Mass at discretion of the Priest*
Collect *Opening Prayer*

Liturgy of the Word *At least one of the Scripture Readings chosen must explicitly speak of Marriage*

First Reading _____
Psalm _____
Second Reading *optional* _____
Gospel Acclamation *Alleluia* _____
Gospel & Homily _____

Celebration of Matrimony

Questions before Consent
Consent (Exchange of Vows)
Reception of Consent
Blessing and Giving of Rings
Blessing and Giving of Arras/Coins *optional cultural custom*
Universal Prayer / Prayers of the Faithful

Liturgy of the Eucharist *omitted when Ceremony Without Mass*

Song at Preparation of Gifts _____

Eucharistic Prayer *with Acclamations*

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing and Placing of Lazo/Veil *optional cultural custom*

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Lamb of God

Sing for Communion _____

Prayer after Communion

Conclusion of Celebration

Flowers to Mary *optional cultural custom*

Final Blessing

Recessional Music _____



SUGGESTED MUSIC

Processional Music

1. Air on a G String (Bach)
2. Canon in D (Pachelbel)
3. Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)
4. Trumpet Tune (Purcell)
5. Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)

Entrance Hymn

1. A Rightful Place (Angrisano)
2. All Creatures of Our God and King (Trad.)
3. City of God (Schutte)
4. For the Beauty of the Earth (Trad.)
5. Hear Us Now, Our God and Father (Trad.)
6. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee (Trad.)
7. Morning Has Broken (Trad.)
8. Sing of the Lord's Goodness (Sands)
9. Table of Plenty (Schutte)

Psalm (*sung after Reading 1*)

33-The Earth is Full of the Goodness of God

34-Taste and See

103-The Lord is Kind and Merciful

128-Blest Are Those Who Love You

145-I Will Praise Your Name

145-Our God as Compassion

148-Let All Praise the Name of the Lord

Preparation of the Gifts Hymn

1. Prayer of St. Francis (Temple)
2. The Servant Song (Gillard)
3. We Have Been Told (Haas)
4. When Love Is Found (Trad.)
5. Where There Is Love (Haas)
6. Wherever You Go (Norbet)
7. You Alone (Hart)

Communion Hymn

1. Blest Are They (Haas)
2. Gift of Finest Wheat (Kreutz)
3. Here at this Table (Whitaker, Whitaker)
4. One Bread, One Body (Foley)
5. Miracle of Grace (Stephan)
6. Pan de Vida (Hurd)
7. Pescador de Hombres (Gabarain)
8. Taste and See (Hurd) / (Moore)
9. Ubi Caritas (Hurd)

Flowers to Mary

Ave Maria (Schubert)

Recessional Music

1. Hornpipe, Water Music (Handel)
2. Ode to Joy (Beethoven)
3. Wedding March (Mendelssohn)

LITURGY OF THE WORD
Choice of Scriptural Texts

At least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage must always be chosen
These passages are indicated by an asterisk ()*

Old Testament Readings

***B-1 (144) Genesis 1:26-28, 31a**

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

Then God said:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The Word of the Lord.

***B-2 (145) Genesis 2:18-24**

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord God said:

"It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

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

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

***B-4 (147) Tobit 7:6-14**

A reading from the Book of Tobit.

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him. Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy. But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and wept aloud. He said to Tobiah: My child, God bless you! You are the son of a noble and good father. But what a terrible misfortune that such a righteous and charitable man should be afflicted with blindness!"

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

Afterwards, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and gave them a cordial reception. When they had bathed and reclined to eat, Tobiah said to Raphael, "Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah." Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy: "Eat and drink and be merry tonight, for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah than you, brother. Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you, because you are my closest relative. But I will explain the situation to you very frankly. I have given her in marriage to seven men, all of whom were kinsmen of ours, and all died on the very night they approached her. But now, son, eat and drink. I am sure the Lord will look after you both."

Tobiah answered, "I will eat and drink nothing until you set aside what belongs to me." Raguel said to him: "I will do it. She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses. Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven! Take your kinswoman; from now on you are her love, and she is your beloved. She is yours today and ever after. And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace."

Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him. He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words: "Take her according to the law. According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife. Take her and bring her back safely to your father. And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity."

He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll, so that he might draw up a marriage contract stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife according to the decree of the Mosaic law. Her mother brought the scroll, and he drew up the contract, to which they affixed their seals.

Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The Word of the Lord.

***B-5 (148) Tobit 8:4b-8**

A reading from the Book of Tobit.

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife,
“Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.”

Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They began with these words:

“Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

They said together, “Amen, amen.”

The Word of the Lord.

B-7 (150) Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

A reading from the Song of Songs.

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 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 said 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.

Responsorial Psalm

*It is customary for a Cantor to sing the Psalm. Discuss your options with the Music Director.
If the Psalm is to be recited by a Lector, the following selection should be used.*

*C-5 (171) Psalm 128: 1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a

Antiphon: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or: See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in his ways!

By the labor of your hands you shall eat; you will be blessed and prosper:

Antiphon

Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house;

Your children like shoots of the olive around your table.

Antiphon

Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children.

Antiphon

New Testament Readings

D-1 (153) Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not 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.

D-5 (157) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

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

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

D-9 (161) Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

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

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.

D-12 (164) 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The Word of the Lord.

D-13 (165) 1 John 4:7-12

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

F-1 (178) **Matthew 5:1-12**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.
Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

The Gospel of the Lord.

F-2 (179) **Matthew 5:13-16**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

The Gospel of the Lord.

F-5 (182) Matthew 22:35-40

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking,
"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

Jesus 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.

***F-6 (183) Mark 10:6-9**

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said:

"From the beginning of creation,

'God made them male and female.

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,
and the two shall become one flesh.'*

So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

The Gospel of the Lord.

F-7 (184) John 2:1-11

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.

When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you."

Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers 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.

F-8 (185) John 15:9-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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 may be in you and your joy may be complete.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

F-9 (186) John 15:12-16

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples:

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

No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

F-10 (187) John 17:20-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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.

THE CONSENT
Declaration of Consent (Vows)
Choice of preferred wording, and form of statement or question

96a Statement: I promise

I, N., take you, N., to be my *(wife/husband)*. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and honor you all the days of my life.

96b Alternate Statement: To have and to hold

I, N., take you, N., for my lawful *(wife/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.

97a Question: I promise

Priest: N., do you take N. to be your *(wife/husband)*? Do you promise to be good to *(her/him)*, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love *(her/him)* and to honor *(her/him)* all the days of your life?

Reply: I do.

97b Alternate Question: To have and to hold

Priest: N., do you take N. for your lawful *(wife/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?

Reply: I do.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER
Prayers of the Faithful (A)

216 **Priest** *in these or similar words:*

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we call to mind the special gift of grace and charity by which God has been pleased to crown and consecrate the love of our sister N. and our brother N., let us commend them to the Lord.

Intercession Reader

That these faithful Christians, N. and N., newly joined in Holy Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being,
we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer. *Repeated after each petition*

That he will bless their covenant as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee,
we pray to the Lord.

That they be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength, and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian,
we pray to the Lord.

That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day, and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help and grace from above,
we pray to the Lord.

That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in all married persons here present,
we pray to the Lord.

For all our unspoken needs, known in the silence of our hearts (pause),
we pray to the Lord.

Priest *in these or similar words:*

Graciously pour out upon this husband and wife, O Lord, the Spirit of your love, to make them one heart and one soul, so that nothing whatever may divide those you have joined, and no harm come to those you have filled with your blessing. Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Prayers of the Faithful (B)

217 **Priest** *in these or similar words:*

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us accompany this new family with our prayers, that the mutual love of this couple may grow daily and that God in his kindness will sustain all families throughout the world.

Intercession Reader

For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family,
we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer. *Repeated after each petition*

For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this couple,
we pray to the Lord.

For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to
another state in life,
we pray to the Lord.

For all families throughout the world, and for lasting peace among all people,
we pray to the Lord.

For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the
departed,
we pray to the Lord.

For the Church, the holy people of God, and for unity among all Christians,
we pray to the Lord.

For all our unspoken needs, known in the silence of our hearts (pause),
we pray to the Lord.

Priest *in these or similar words:*

Lord Jesus, who are present in our midst, as N. and N. seal their union, accept our prayer
and fill us with your Spirit. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: Amen.