

“Holy Father, you created humankind in your own image and made man and woman to be joined as husband and wife in union of body and heart and so fulfill their mission in this world...Father, grant that as they come together to your table of earth, so they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven.”

(From the Nuptial Blessing in the Rite of Marriage)

Congratulations on your Engagement

On behalf of the Staff and Parishioners of St. John Cantius, we extend our prayerful support for both of you as you prepare to begin your new life together.

Marriage is one of the seven sacraments of the Church and mirrors Christ's love for His bride, the Church. Jesus is seen as the bridegroom that loved, chose and redeemed his holy bride, the Church. The sacrament you are preparing for is sacred and holy. The theological foundation mirrors the eternal and unselfish love as lived in the life and death of Jesus Christ. Your preparation for this sacrament will be a journey of faith, prayer, and commitment.

This Marriage Preparation packet contains the following information:

- Components of Catholic Marriage Preparation
- Definition of the Sacrament of Marriage
- Required Documentation for Marriage
- Guidelines for Marriage Ceremonies
- Readings
- Fees
- Photographer/Videographer Information
- Music Information
- An article on Marriage & Married Life
- Information of Pre-Cana Program

Components of Catholic Marriage Preparation

There are several important components of marriage preparation that you will need to commit to that will prepare you for this life-long sacramental commitment. The Diocese of Cleveland regulates a minimum of 6 months prior to the wedding date be given for this important preparation period.

- **Active Faith Life:** Regular Mass attendance, registration in a parish, and reception of the sacraments on a regular basis constitute an active faith life for the baptized Catholic. When a couple approaches a priest and requests a sacramental marriage, it is presumed there already exists an 'active faith life.' If this is not the case, the priest will work with you and help you re-ignite your active life of faith in the Church.
- **Prayer:** Prayer is communication. Jesus must be the center of your life together and regular communication is important. Your priest can help develop this prayer experience during your time of preparation.
- **Prepare and Enrich** is a required instrument to help you prepare for your important life together. It is an online questionnaire that looks at various areas of married life (i.e., Religion, Communication, Finances, etc.). There are no right or wrong answers: the instrument compares the answers of each person and thus allows for observations for future growth. It is designed to spark new insights and questions between the couple during this preparation process as we often assume we have discussed everything there is to know about marriage and about one another.
- **Meeting with the Priest:** Marriage preparation will be done with the priest who is witnessing the marriage unless other arrangements are made. Each priest sets his own appointments and determines the number of meetings to best meet the needs of the couple.
- **Pre-Cana Day:** The Pre-Cana Day is a retreat/workshop experience for engaged couples. It is a required component of your marital preparation. It is planned and facilitated by other married couples that will share their marital experiences with you. Pre-Cana is generally a one-day workshop required for marriage preparation and is generally available at the Jesuit Retreat House, 5629 State Rd. Cleveland, OH (www.jrh-cleveland.org). You may also find a local parish offering Pre-Cana. Schedule a Pre-Cana Day as soon as possible as they tend to fill up quickly. The priest responsible for your wedding will need a copy of the Pre Cana-Certificate of completion for your permanent marriage file.

The Sacrament of Marriage

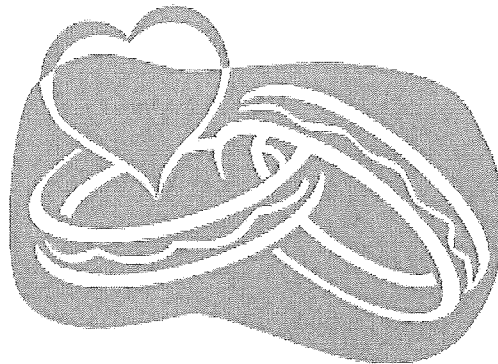
A Sacrament is an outward sign instituted by Jesus Christ to give grace. Sacraments are personal encounters with Jesus Christ. Every Sacrament brings us into contact with the saving love and grace of the Lord.

The ministers of the Sacrament of Marriage are the bride and groom. When they exchange wedding vows, they share in the life of Christ that they received in Baptism. They become one in the bond of matrimony on their earthly journey until death.

In the context of the wedding vows, the couple agrees to unconditionally love one another, vow an exclusive lifelong union, and be open to children.

The sacrament is permanent and lifelong until one of the spouses is deceased.

Christ is the center of Christian marriage. Therefore, attending Mass, prayer, and belonging to a parish are so very important in your preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.



Required Documents

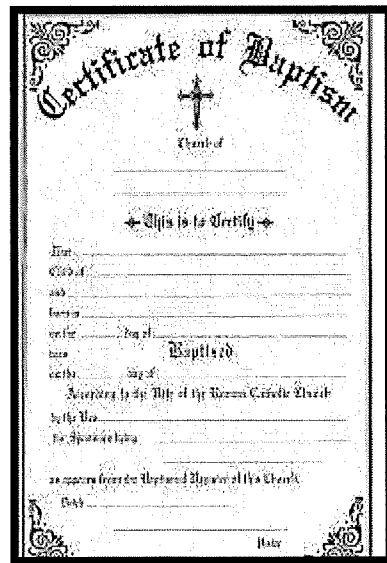
Sacramental Records: Catholic parties will need a baptismal certificate. These certificates are easily obtained from the church at which baptism was celebrated. The documents must be recent copies and obtained within 30 days of your initial visit with your priest. Non-Catholic baptized Christians must also obtain some proof of baptism that is to be presented to the priest marrying the couple.

Previous Marriages: If a person has been married before it is necessary to provide the following:

- Death Certificate of Former Spouse (if a widow or widower)
- Declaration of Nullity (record of annulment)

Civil Marriage License: It is necessary to obtain a civil license within sixty (60) days of the wedding date. Licenses are obtained through the Probate Court. If both parties are residents of Ohio, the license may be sought in any county in Ohio. For non-residents of the state of Ohio the license must be obtained at the County Probate Court where the wedding will take place.

Please submit the license to the priest no later than the evening of the Rehearsal. If the couple are not residents of the state of Ohio, the license must be obtained in the county where the wedding will take place. In this instance, St. John Cantius is in Cuyahoga County. Please take special note that **No** wedding will happen if there is no license present. No wedding is possible if the license is lost or not brought to the priest/ceremony prior to the wedding.



Guidelines for Marriage Ceremonies

- **Setting the Date and Time of Marriage**

Marriages may be on any day of the week except Sunday, Civil Holidays and certain major feast days. Marriages are strongly discouraged during the season of Lent. Most weddings are scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays. On Fridays, the time is flexible. On Saturday due to confession and 4pm Mass, Wedding times can only be scheduled at 12:00 noon or 1:30 pm.

- **The Wedding Mass**

The Sacrament of Marriage between two Catholic parties must happen in church. This means venues such as back yards, beaches, party centers etc. are not acceptable places for weddings. In certain cases, the priest, bride and groom may decide to have the marriage outside the celebration of a Mass. Marriages between a Catholic and a member of another faith tradition or an unbaptized person would always be celebrated without Mass. The Mass and the Eucharist instill a sense of community and unity. When a good portion of the congregation is unfamiliar and unable to participate, the Mass then strongly loses its sense of unity among all involved. Weddings without Mass are still a valid 'Catholic' wedding.

- **Place of Marriage**

Marriage should take place in the parish church of the bride or groom. Two Catholics marrying outside of their home parishes will need a letter of permission from their local pastor(s) extending permission for them to marry outside of their local parish community. In some instances, the marriage of a Catholic and baptized non-Catholic may take place in the Church of the non-Catholic party. The marriage must still take place in a sacred setting (i.e., one set aside explicitly for divine worship). There are special permissions that are needed. The priest will help obtain these permissions.

- **Witnesses for Marriage**

There needs to be two official witnesses for the Sacrament of Marriage. Generally, these are a "best man" and "maid/matron of honor."

- **Bridal Party**

The Bridal party gives witness and support to the bride and groom on the day of the wedding. A reasonable number of couples ought to be chosen as large crowds may impede the most important part of the day, your wedding!

- **Music**

Mr. Joseph Sutowski is the Director of Music. He is available for hire and is both a skilled organist and pianist. You may choose other musicians and singers for your wedding.

- **Planning the Wedding Mass**

For your wedding liturgy, the enclosed materials in this folder contain the various Scripture readings for the Wedding Mass. You should spend time prayerfully choosing the readings which you wish to have on the day of your wedding. You will need to choose people to

proclaim the scripture readings and general intercessions. Please choose someone who is comfortable with public speaking.

- **Flowers**

Floral arrangements for the church are provided by the bride and groom. You may want to inquire if there are any other weddings on the day of your wedding, so the cost of the floral arrangements could be shared with the other party. Floral arrangements should be tasteful and not distracting. Plastic aisle runners are **not** permitted in the church. They constitute a safety hazard as someone may trip and fall.

- **Unity Candle**

The Unity Candle is not part of a Catholic Wedding Mass. It has been borrowed from non-Catholic traditions representing a symbol unity between the newly married couple. For Catholics, our unity is derived not from any symbol but from the Eucharist that is one bread, broken and shared. In the Eucharist we form 'community' thus the very word 'Communion' stems from the reality of this unity.

- **Balloons, Birdseed, Confetti, Flower Pedals, or Rice**

For environmental, maintenance, and insurance reasons, birdseed, confetti, flower pedals or rice are NOT to be thrown when the bride and groom walk outside following the Marriage ceremony. Bubbles, bells and other non-invasive type things may be used. The rings are to be carried by the best man in his pocket. They should not be attached to the Ring Bearer's pillow. We also ask that Rose pedals NOT be thrown on the church floor before the procession weather real or artificial as they present a hazard for someone to slip and fall. No signage may be carried in or out of the church. Animals are never permitted in the ceremony – only for medical reasons as in the case of a licensed assisted animal. The church is a sacred space and must be respected.

- **Programs**

You are free to create a wedding program if you choose. They are NOT required. The internet has an ample supply of examples for your use. If you choose to use a program, please have the priest review your program before printing.

- **Rehearsal**

The rehearsal for your wedding ceremony is usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding. The rehearsal will take about 30 minutes. The rehearsals are in church.

- **Altar Servers**

Altar Servers are generally not used for a wedding. However, if you have family members or friends who would like to act as Altar Servers, please let your priest know.

- **Dignity of Wedding Ceremony**

The Catholic Wedding Ceremony or Mass must be done in a dignified manner that is respectful to the space (the Church) that it is being celebrated in. Things such as animals, wagons, tricycles and other such things may not be used. Please consult with the priest you are working with if you have any questions if something may or may not be appropriate.

Photography & Videography

- Preliminary pictures should be taken in a place other than the church. The time before the wedding, at the church is a time for the bride and groom to spiritually and emotionally prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage.
- Please be as inconspicuous as possible. Please do not enter the Sanctuary area at any time. (This includes the procession, vows, and the exchange of rings.)
- The use of flashes and lights is permitted if they do not distract those who have gathered for liturgy.
- Pictures are permitted following the liturgy. Please consult with the priest as to the length of time that the church may be used for pictures. There is often a second wedding on Saturdays and Confessions begin at 3:15 pm followed by Mass at 4 pm.
- Please do not move any of the church furnishings for pictures
- Please arrive early enough to the ceremony to clarify any questions you may have of the priest about these guidelines.



ST JOHN CANTIUS, PRAY FOR US

WEDDING HONORARIUM

While there is no charge for any Sacrament in the church, the following honorarium is set forth from our finance council to help defray the cost, maintenance, an upkeep of our 125-year-old parish. We have been in this location since 1898 and plan on being here for a very long time and want others to enjoy the space as you do. As a non-for-profit organization, the upkeep of our facility is totally dependent upon offerings, donations, and the weekly Sunday collections.

NON - PARISHIONERS	\$1,300.00*
PARISHIONERS	\$500.00*

***If for any reason there is difficulty providing the suggested honorarium, please discuss this with the pastor. The suggested honorarium is solely for the upkeep and maintenance of the church building.*

_____ (Initials of Couple)

_____ (Date)

Survey of Venue only costs:
 Garfield Memorial United Methodist Church (\$1,800.00); Old Stone Church (\$2,250.00); Unity Church Massillon (\$2,400.00); Cleveland Botanical Gardens (\$3,000.00 for 200 or more).

WEDDING LITURGY PLAN

Entrance Procession

Mothers escorted down aisle YES ____ NO ____

Bridal Procession: Groomsmen half way _____ Two by two from back of church _____

The Liturgy of the Word

Old Testament Reading (*number*) _____ Reader's Name _____

Responsorial Psalm is Sung (*Consult Musician for choices*)

New Testament Reading (*number*) _____ Reader's Name _____

Gospel _____ (*number*) Read by priest

Homily

The Celebration of Matrimony

Questions Before the Consent

The Consent

The Reception of Consent

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

(Unity Candle – Optional - preferably not used within Mass) YES ____ NO ____

Universal Prayers

Reader's Name _____

Offertory Song/Interlude (*consult with your musician for choices*)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Bread and Wine. How Many gift bearers _____

Holy Holy Holy/Memorial Acclamation/Great Amen *(all must be sung/consult your musician for settings)*

The Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Communion Rite

Sign of Peace

Breaking of the Bread/Lamb of God *(Sung/consult w. your musician for settings)*

Communion Procession Song *(Consult with your musician for musical selections)*

Solemn Blessing

Visit to Mary's Altar YES _____ NO _____

Introduction of the newly married couple by priest

OLD TESTAMENT

A-1. 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.

A-2. 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 wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body. The word of the Lord.

A-3. Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

A reading from the Book of Genesis 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 6 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

A-4. 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 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

A-5 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.

A-6 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs:

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.
The word of the Lord.

A-7 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 behind our wall, or a young stag. Here he stands 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. nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

A-8 Sirach 26:1-4,13-16

A Reading from the Book of Sirach:

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;

A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,
peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord;
Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,
and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband,
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;
A gift from the Lord is her governed speech,
and her firm virtue is 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

A-9 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

A reading from book of the Prophet Jeremiah:

The days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.
I will place my law within them, and write it upon their
hearts;

I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have need to teach their friends and
relatives

how to know the Lord.

All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

(B-1) 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, / 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 . . .

(B-2) Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 [Longer Form]—Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

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

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

(B-3) Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 [Shorter Form]—Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.

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

I urge you, brothers, and sisters, by the mercies of God, / to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, / holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. / Do not conform yourselves to this age / but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, / that you may discern what is the will of God, / what is good and pleasing and perfect. / Let love be sincere; / hate what is evil, / hold on to what is good; / love one another with mutual affection; / anticipate one another in showing honor. / 13 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 . . .

(B-4) Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13—Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you. A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans:

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please / ourselves; / let each of us please our neighbor for the good, / for building up. / For Christ did not please himself. / May the God of endurance and encouragement / grant you to think in harmony with one another, / in keeping with Christ Jesus, / that with one accord you may with one voice / glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. / Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, / for the glory of God. / May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, / so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE WORD OF THE LORD . . .

(B-5) 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20—Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians Brothers and sisters:

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

(B-6) 1 Corinthians 12:31-13: 8a—If I do not have love, I gain nothing.

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 . . .

(B-7) Ephesians 4:1-6—One Body and one Spirit.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

Brothers and sisters, I as 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 . . .

(B-8) Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 [Longer Form]—This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

Brothers and sisters, live in love, as Christ loved us
/ and handed himself over for us. / Be subordinate to

one another out of reverence for Christ. / Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. / For the husband is head of his wife / just as Christ is head of the Church, / he himself the savior of the body. / As the Church is subordinate to Christ, / so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. / Husbands, love your wives, / even as Christ loved the Church / and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, / cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, / that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, / without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, / that she might be holy and without blemish. / So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. / He who loves his wife loves himself. / For no one hates his own flesh / but rather nourishes and cherishes it, / even as Christ does the Church, / because we are members of his Body. / For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother / and be joined to his wife, / and the two shall become one flesh. / This is a great mystery, / but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church. / In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, / and the wife should respect her husband. THE WORD OF THE LORD . . .

(B-9) Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 [Shorter Form]—This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians:

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

(B-10) Philippians 4:4-9—The God of peace will be with you.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians:

Brothers and sisters, Rejoice in the Lord always. / I shall say it again: rejoice! / Your kindness should be known to all. / The Lord is near. / Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, / by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, / make your requests known to God. / Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding / will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. / Finally, brothers and sisters, / whatever is true, whatever is honorable, / whatever is just, whatever is pure, / whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, / if there is any excellence / and if there is anything worthy of praise, / think about these things. / Keep on doing what you have learned and received / and heard and seen in me. / Then the God of peace will be with you.

THE WORD OF THE LORD . . .

(B-11) Colossians 3:12-17—And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.

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

Brothers and sisters, Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, / heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, / bearing with one another and forgiving one another, / if one has a grievance against another; / as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. / And over all these put on love, / 16 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 . . .

(B-12) Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b—Let marriage be held in honor by all.

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews:

Brothers and sisters, Let mutual love continue. / Do not neglect hospitality, / for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. / Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, / and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, / for you also are in the body. / Let marriage be honored among all / and the marriage bed be kept undefiled. / Let your life be free from love of money / but be content with what you have, / for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you. / Thus we may say with confidence: / The Lord is my helper, / and I will not be afraid.

THE WORD OF THE LORD . . .

GOSPEL READINGS

(C-1) Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up to 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.”

(C-2) 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 lamp stand, / where it gives light to all in the house. / Just so, your light must shine before others, / that they may see your good deeds / and glorify your heavenly Father.”

(C-3) Matthew 7:21, 24-29 [Longer Form]

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

Jesus said to his disciples: / “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ / will enter the Kingdom of heaven, / but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.” / “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them / will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. / The rain fell, the floods came, / and the winds blew and buffeted the house. / But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. / And everyone who listens to these words of mine / but does not act on them / will be like a fool who built his house on sand. / The rain fell, the floods came, / and the winds blew and buffeted the house. / And it collapsed and was completely ruined.” / When Jesus finished these words, / the crowds were astonished at his teaching, / for he taught them as one having authority, / and not as their scribes.

(C-4) Matthew 7:21, 24-25 [Shorter Form]

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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

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

(C-5) Matthew 19:3-6

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:

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."

(C-6) 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?” / 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.”

(C-7) 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.”

(C-8) 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 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.

(C-9) 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 might be in you / and your joy might be complete. / This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

(C-10) 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.”

(C-11) John 17:20-26 [Longer Form]

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.”

(D-12) John 17:20-23 [Shorter Form]

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.

UNIVERSAL PRAYERS (Need a Reader)

Our Response to the Universal Prayers will be “LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER”

For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family, that God will richly bless them and sustain them throughout their married life, We Pray to the Lord.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all the relatives and friends of this newly married couple and for all who have assisted them to bring them to this moment, We Pray to the Lord.

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all couples preparing to enter the Sacrament of Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life, We Pray to the Lord

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For all families throughout the world and for a respect for all human life, We Pray to the Lord

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For the family and friends of this couple who have passed away, that they always be remembered for their love and generosity We Pray to the Lord,

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER

For the Church, the holy People of God, for unity among all Christians and peace throughout our world, We Pray to the Lord

LORD HEAR OUR PRAYER