

The Order of the Liturgy

The wedding liturgy is very similar to the Sunday Eucharist. Below you will find an outline of the wedding liturgy together with some possible options.

Introductory Rites

Pre-service music – instrumental and/or vocal solos

Processional music – an instrumental or vocal solo, or hymn sung by all is appropriate for the procession with the Presider, bride, groom, parents and attendants

The Greeting, and Opening Prayer – When everyone is in their place, the Presider will welcome those who have gathered for this celebration and will invite them to pray.

Liturgy of the Word

1st Reading

Responsorial Psalm

2nd Reading

Gospel

Homily

The Rite of Marriage

Following the homily the Presider will invite the bride and groom to stand and face each other in front of the whole assembly for the exchange of vows. The attendants will also come forward at this time. Please choose one of the two ways to say your vows, listed below. Following the exchange of vows there is a blessing and exchange of rings.

VOWS (consent)

A

The Groom/Bride Says:

I, _____, take you, _____, 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 to honor you
all the days of my life.

or by question:

_____, do you take _____ to be your husband/wife?

Do you promise to be faithful to him/her
in good times and in bad,
in sickness and in health,
to love him/her and honor him/her
all the days of your life?

Response: I do.

B

The Groom/bride Says:

I, _____, take you, _____, for my lawful husband/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.

or by question:

_____, do you take _____ for your lawful husband/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?

Response: I do.

Universal Prayers are prayers for the needs of the Church, for public authorities and the salvation of the world, for the oppressed by any need, and for the local community. In the wedding liturgy intercessions may refer more specifically to the occasion, for the bride and groom and their families. Please choose from the following.

A

That he will bless their covenant as
he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee,
let us 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,
let us 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 of grace from above,
let us pray to the Lord.

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

B

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

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

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

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

For the Church, the holy People of God,
and for unity among all Christians,
let us pray to the Lord.

Liturgy of the Eucharist *(when there is Mass)*

The Preparation of the Altar and Gifts The focus changes from proclaiming the Word of God and witnessing the exchange of your vows to sharing the Eucharist. The unity of the families and friends can be reflected in the presentation and preparation of the gifts. This may be done by the parents of the bride and groom, or other family members, or the bride and groom may decide to bring the bread and wine to the altar.

The Eucharistic Prayer will be chosen by the Presider and invite those gathered to participate with him in praising God, thanking Him for His goodness and remembering the Lord's death and resurrection. The Eucharistic acclamations (Holy, Holy, memorial acclamation, concluding acclamations) should be sung.

The Communion Rite— the Lord's Prayer follows the Eucharistic Prayer. The Lord's Prayer is meant to be the prayer of the entire congregation. It should not be sung as a vocal solo. A special nuptial blessing follows the Lord's Prayer. After this special wedding blessing, but before the congregation shares in the one bread and one cup, there is the sign of peace.

Little needs to be said of the beauty and power of the reception of communion by the couple. It is the presence of the Lord Himself. In Him you were baptized, and in Him you will become one flesh. He becomes an integral part of your love and marriage. He is the very foundation of your dignity; He is the essence of your love for each other; it is He who brought you together.

Communion hymn – During Holy Communion it is appropriate for all to sing a general Eucharistic song of thanks or unity.

Flowers to Mary (optional) Bringing flowers to Mary is done after Communion. This is often done to seek the guidance and blessings of the Lord, through a ceremony that requests the intercession (to request on your behalf) of the Blessed Virgin Mary, through prayer and the laying of flowers.

Concluding Rite

The Blessing Following Communion the Presider will invite all gathered to join with him in calling God's blessing upon you and upon your married life. Please choose one of the following:

A

May God the eternal Father
keep you of one heart in love for one other,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you
and abide always in your home.

R: **Amen**

May you be blessed in your children,
have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.

R: **Amen**

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and the needy who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.

R: **Amen**

B

May God, the all-powerful Father grant you his joy
and bless you in your children.

R: **Amen**

May the Only Begotten Son of God
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

R: **Amen**

May the Holy Spirit of God
always pour forth his love into your hearts.

R: **Amen**

C

May the Lord Jesus,
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,
bless you and your loved ones.

R: **Amen**

May he, who loved the Church to the end,
Unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

R: **Amen**

May the Lord grant
that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

R: **Amen**

The Presider will present the newly married couple to the congregation and then all process out.

Recessional – An instrumental or hymn sung by all is appropriate.

****Please fill out one of the following selection records and turn into the parish office along with the marriage license once week prior to your wedding date.**

Marriage within Mass Selection Record

Date of Wedding _____

Groom _____ Bride _____

Best Man _____ Maid of Honor _____

Number of couples in the wedding _____

Pre-service music _____

Processional music _____

1st Reading (Old Testament) _____

Read by _____

Responsorial Psalm

2nd Reading (New Testament) _____

Read by _____

Gospel _____

Vows Wording A _____ B _____
 repeated after priest _____ or as a question _____

Universal Prayers
read by _____

Presentation of the Gifts
brought forward by _____

Lord's Prayer

Communion hymn _____

Flowers to Mary – music _____

Blessing A _____ B _____ C _____

Recessional music _____

Marriage Ceremony Selection Record

Date of Wedding _____

Groom _____ Bride _____

Best Man _____ Maid of Honor _____

Number of couples in the wedding _____

Pre-service music _____

Processional music _____

1st Reading (Old Testament) _____

read by _____

Responsorial Psalm

2nd Reading (New Testament) _____

read by _____

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel _____

Vows Wording A _____ B _____
repeated after priest _____ or as a question _____

Universal Prayers

read by _____

Flowers to Mary – music _____

Blessing A _____ B _____ C _____

Recessional music _____