

A photograph of a wedding ceremony taking place in a church. The church has a high, vaulted wooden ceiling with exposed beams and a stone altar wall. A large crucifix is mounted on the wall above the altar. The bride and groom are standing at the altar, surrounded by wedding attendants. The pews are filled with guests. A semi-transparent dark box is overlaid on the top half of the image, containing white text.

Celebrating Your Marriage
at
St. Louise De Marillac

*Saint Louise de Marillac Parish
Upper St. Clair, PA 15241*

Congratulations!

St. Louise de Marillac Parish rejoices with you on your recent engagement. Moreover, we are honored that you have chosen to celebrate your wedding in your parish church. Your wedding is a source of happiness and blessing for the entire parish family.

As you begin preparations for your marriage, please be attentive to the guidelines outlined in this booklet, from the requirements for the preparation of the couple, to planning and celebrating your Wedding Mass or Liturgy. If questions arise at any stage of the process, please feel free to contact the parish office or the appropriate staff member for clarification.

Scheduling Your Wedding Date

Couples wishing to be married at St. Louise de Marillac Parish must contact the parish office approximately 1 year (no less than 6 months) prior to the anticipated wedding date. To be married at St. Louise Church at least one of the bridal couple, either the bride or the groom, must be a registered member of St. Louise Parish for at least six months prior to booking a wedding date (consideration is given to those who were past members of the church).

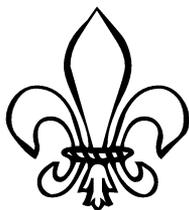
Beginning Your Preparations for Marriage as a Couple.

After contacting the parish office and identifying a wedding date, our office staff will inform you of the parish clergy (either a priest or deacon) assigned to work with you in preparation for marriage and to celebrate your wedding liturgy. You will need to contact the priest (or deacon) and schedule an initial meeting to take place about 9 months prior to your wedding date. All preparations for marriage require both the bride and groom to attend together.

At this first appointment, the necessary paperwork will be gathered and undertaken and the priest will conduct a brief 'interview' to determine that both the bride and the groom are free to marry in the Catholic Church. Those to be married will have to provide the priest with a record of valid baptism. For Catholics this **must be a newly issued baptismal certificate** obtained from the church where you were baptized. Baptized, non-Catholic Christians will also need to provide a record of Baptism, which may be either an original baptismal certificate (which would be immediately returned to you), or a more recently issued certificate or a letter from your church attesting to your Baptism.

If both the bride and groom reside outside of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, a priest from one of their local parishes **must** oversee their marriage preparation and must complete all necessary paperwork. A Marriage Preparation/Pre-Cana program must also be undertaken, either where the couple resides or in the Pittsburgh area. Completed paperwork must be forwarded to the priest at St. Louise de Marillac in the customary manner, and must be received at least six weeks before the wedding date.

All marriage couples must also plan to obtain a valid, **Pennsylvania Marriage License**. Please note that the license is valid for 60 days from the date of issue, and may be obtained from any county within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Marriage Preparation Program (“Pre-Cana”)

All couples **must** also participate in an approved Catholic Marriage Preparation Program (in addition to their meetings with the parish priest or deacon), which should be scheduled to be **completed 6 months prior to your wedding date**. For your convenience, several local options are listed on page 3. A couple may attend any approved Catholic pre-marriage program.

Saint Louise de Marillac Parish

www.stlouisedemarillac.org

Our parish Pre-Cana programs take place over a Friday evening and Saturday morning & afternoon. Sessions are typically scheduled twice each year, in the spring and fall. Contact the Parish Office for current Pre-Cana dates, 412-833-1010.

Engaged Encounter

www.pittsburghengagedencounter.org

Engaged Encounter is a whole-weekend program (Friday evening to Sunday morning), where couples will stay overnight at an area retreat center, such as St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center (South Side) or the Kearn Spirituality Center (North Hills, adjacent to LaRoche College). For information on scheduled weekends and locations call 412-861-0262.

Diocese of Pittsburgh Pre-Marriage Class

<http://diopitt.org/pre-marriage-preparation>

The Office for Marriage and Family Life of the Diocese of Pittsburgh offers a Pre-Marriage Class several times each year at Saint Paul Cathedral (108 N. Dithridge, Pittsburgh, PA 15213). Each class is held for 4 consecutive weeks, either on a Tuesday or Thursday evening. Pre-registration is required. A current schedule and registration form is available at the diocesan website listed above.

Various parishes in our diocese conduct similar programs at different times of the year. The Diocesan Office for Marriage and Family Life (412-456-3000) maintains a listing of these programs on their website: *<http://diopitt.org/pre-marriage-preparation>*



Planning for Your Wedding Ceremony

The celebration of your wedding in the Church is a Sacramental celebration. As such, we take care to respect our Catholic Tradition and to allow the liturgy (which is the official 'ritual' of the Church) to fully offer you, the bridal couple, and your family and guests a beautiful and prayerful context in which to begin and celebrate your marriage.

St. Louise church is the 'home' of our very active parish community, and not at all simply a 'wedding venue' or 'vendor.' The policies and planning notes we present here have been carefully compiled to help you plan a beautiful Catholic wedding, while taking into account the needs of our whole parish.

Wedding Music

The music selected for your wedding ceremony should reflect the religious and sacred nature of the Sacrament you are celebrating. Therefore, all music must be liturgical or sacred in nature (secular love songs or romantic ballads from shows or operas are never permitted).

All arrangements for your music must be made through our Music Director, Gregory Fincham, available by phone, 724-747-5877, or by email, gfincham@stlouisedemarillac.org. Please plan to contact Greg at least three months prior to your wedding date (and well before you consider any music plans on your own). Greg will be the principal musician for your wedding. Guest singers or musicians are very often welcomed to participate, but must do so with the advance approval of the Pastor and our Music Director.

Parish Wedding Coordinators

Our Parish Wedding Coordinators offer a volunteer ministry to you in celebrating your wedding, including helping to conduct the wedding rehearsal, being present on your wedding day before, during and after the ceremony, until the wedding party leaves church. Typically two coordinators will work together for your wedding. A wedding coordinator will contact the bride about 3 months before your wedding date. At that time, and through a few follow up phone conversations, they will help to gather some important details about your wedding ceremony before you arrive for the wedding rehearsal. Our Coordinator of Liturgical Ministry, Marcella Dalton-Lantzman, is available to answer any questions you may have. You can contact Marcella by phone, 412.833.1010, or by email, mlantzman@sja-stl.org.

Outside wedding coordinators are sometimes hired by couples to assist with wedding day events, but they take no active role in planning or conducting the Wedding Ceremony in church. Please be sure to inform the priest officiating at your wedding if you plan to have an outside wedding coordinator present.

Wedding Rehearsal

Generally, the rehearsal is conducted the evening before the wedding. It should begin promptly at the scheduled time and will last approximately 45 minutes. At the rehearsal the priest (or deacon) will have the assistance of a parish wedding coordinator or two. Both your officiating priest or deacon, and the wedding coordinators will work with you in the months beforehand in making choices so that the rehearsal can proceed smoothly and clearly for all involved in your wedding.

The Sacrament of Confession can be requested from the priest the evening of the rehearsal. However, it is strongly suggested that the prospective bride and groom go to Confession before the rehearsal. Please consult the parish bulletin for Confession times or feel free to make a personal appointment with the priest.

Church Availability on your Wedding Day

The church will be available to you on your wedding day within the following parameters:

for a Saturday 1:30 pm wedding, the church will be available from 12:45 - 3:00 pm, and

for a Saturday 4:00 pm wedding, the church will be available from 3:15 - 5:30 pm.

For Friday afternoon or evening weddings, the church will be available as the parish schedule permits. These parameters are to be strictly adhered to, so please share them with your photographer. Please Note: No beverages or food are to be brought into the church at any time, nor is alcohol to be consumed on church property.

Some other Options, Considerations and Policies

The parish priest celebrating your wedding, our parish sacristan (who takes care of our church building and assists with all celebrations there), and our parish wedding coordinators are all available to advise you and answer your questions. Below is a collection of details and policies which couples often ask about. If you have questions specific to the church setting, including lighting, seating, flowers, other accommodations for the bridal party or guests, you will probably be best served by contacting our, Marcella by phone, 412-833-1010, or by email, mlantzman@sj-stl.org.

Bride's Room

We accommodate the bride and her attendants in the sacristy (accessibly directly by a private, outside door), and the "cry room," as a place to gather just before the wedding begins. There is a larger bride's room located in the lower level of the church for your use prior to the start of your wedding if the bridal party needs larger accommodations or to dress at church. If you will be bringing personal belongings (clothing, hair products, etc.), please pack and return all items to your car before preparing to enter church for the ceremony.

Flowers

Flowers add to the festivity of a marriage celebration and are encouraged. Only fresh and natural flowers are permitted and should remain in church after the wedding ceremony. Flower deliveries must be scheduled in advance between the florist and our Coordinator of Liturgical Ministry. Please note that existing and seasonal decorations in the church or church sanctuary may not be moved or altered for a wedding celebration. Due to liability concerns and safety issues, the use of a crash/runner and any candelabras are not permitted at the church. This includes arrangements with lit candles and/or glass. Please be sure to give the enclosed "Floral Guidelines" form to your florist as an aid to their planning.

Photographers and Videographers

We have enjoyed working with many photographers and videographers who have visited St. Louise in the past. Please be sure to refer anyone you have engaged for your wedding day to the "Guidelines for Photographers and Videographers."

Pew Decorations

If you are planning on using pew bows or small floral arrangements, these may only be attached to the pews using cloth or rubber bands. The church also has a limited supply of padded pew clips which can be borrowed by your florist.

Unity Candle

The Unity Candle is an option for your celebration. If you choose to use one, you will need to purchase it beforehand. Please bring the Unity Candle to the wedding rehearsal. The two side candles and a stand will be provided for you by the church.

Children

Children are always welcomed in our church, and you may also consider including children in your wedding party. Please recognize that very young children (especially under the age of 4) often become afraid and confused once the procession begins and may be a distraction during the ceremony rather than the enhancement intended. Consider other ways to involve young children in the Wedding.

Rice and other 'thrown or tossed' items

We do not permit the throwing of rice, bird seed, confetti, flower petals, etc. either inside or outside of the church; nor do we permit the release of balloons, doves, or butterflies on our church property, out of a concern for the environment and safety issues.

Receiving Line

Because of limited space in the vestibule of church and time constraints, we discourage receiving lines after the ceremony and suggest they be held at the reception.

Offerings and Stipends for Church Staff and Volunteers

Many couples ask what they should give to the church and the various people who help them to celebrate their wedding. Except for the professional fees due to the church organist and cantor, the amounts you may wish to give as a gift to your church and others are up to your own sense of generosity.

The **professional fee for the church organist is \$200, and for the cantor, \$125.** They both spend time working with you and preparing the music for your wedding.

The church is consecrated to the worship of God, and is also your home and the home of our parish community. While there is not charge to "rent" the building, **a gift to the parish of \$150 for Registered Parishioners, or \$350 for non-parishioners,** assists with operation of the parish and church buildings and grounds. Typically **2 altar servers** are assigned to assist the priest (or

deacon) officiating at your wedding. Most couples find that a gift of **\$10-20 each** is appropriate.

You may also wish to offer a gift to the priest or deacon who has helped prepare you for and celebrated your wedding. Any amount that you wish to give is a pure gift on your part, but will have to be separate from the offering you make to the church or parish.

In order to avoid unnecessary confusion for you on the day of the wedding, you may wish to prepare these gifts and fees and place them in separate, clearly marked envelopes which you can bring to the wedding rehearsal and give to the parish wedding coordinators to distribute on the day of the wedding.

Directions

From Pittsburgh—Follow Rt. 19 South. Go past South Hills Village Mall on your left and Westminster Presbyterian Church on your right. At the bottom of the hill look for the Orange Belt sign. Turn right off Rt. 19 at cloverleaf and come around to the stop sign. Turn right onto McMurray Road. In approximately 1 1/4 miles, St. Louise Church is on the right.

From the International Airport—Take Parkway West to I-79 South towards Pittsburgh. Exit I-79 at Exit 54, Bridgeville. After exiting I-79 turn right toward Bridgeville on Rt. 50 staying in the right hand lane. At the T intersection (BP/Exxon/Bridgeville Dodge intersection), turn right onto Washington Pike (Rt 519). Go about 2 miles to Boyce Road. Watch for this closely as it is not well marked. Turn left onto Boyce Road. Go about 3 miles to Rt. 19. After crossing Rt. 19/Washington Road turn left at the stop sign. The road will bear right onto Johnston Road. Follow Johnston Road for about a mile to the light. Turn right onto McMurray Road. St. Louise Church is on the right.

Planning the Liturgy

The readings at a Catholic wedding liturgy are a proclamation of God's Word and of the Church's faith about marriage. For this reason, they are limited to readings from the scriptures (the Bible). There are nine options for the first reading from the Old Testament, thirteen options for the second reading from the New Testament and ten choices for the Gospel. You choose one from each of these categories. At least one reading that explicitly speaks of marriage must always be chosen (marked by an asterisk). During the Easter Season, the Old Testament reading should be replaced by the New Testament reading from the Book of Revelation.

You may find it helpful to reflect prayerfully on each reading and to choose those that speak to your hopes and dreams for your Christian marriage.



A. Old Testament Readings

(Please choose one of the following)

#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

#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

#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

into thousands of myriads;

And may your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!"

Then Rebekah and her maids started out;

they mounted their camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi and was living in the region of the Negeb.

One day toward evening he went out in the field,

and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching.

Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,

"Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?" "That is my master," replied the servant.

Then she covered herself with her veil.

The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;

he married her, and thus she became his wife.

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

The Word of the Lord

#4 *

(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.

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 seals.

Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The Word of the Lord

#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

#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

#7

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

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! My beloved, here he comes springing across the
mountains, leaping across the hills.
My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows,
peering through the lattices.
My lover speaks; he says to me,
"Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!

“O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff,

Let me see you,

let me hear your voice, For your voice is sweet,

and you are lovely.”

My beloved belongs to me and I to him.

He says to me:

“Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm;

For stern as death is love,

relentless as the nether world is devotion;

its flames are a blazing fire.

Deep waters cannot quench love,

nor floods sweep it away.”

The Word of the Lord

#8 *

(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

#9

(Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a)

A reading from the 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 ancestors: 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

B. New Testament Readings

(Please choose one of the following)

#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,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God
who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the
right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or
nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through
him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities,

nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth,

nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love
of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord

#2

(Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 *Longer Form*)

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

#2 (Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 *Shorter Form*)

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.

The Word of the Lord

#3 (Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13)

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

#4 (1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20)

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

#5

(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

#6

(Ephesians 4:1-6)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

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

The Word of the Lord.

#7 *

(Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 *Longer Form*)

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

#7 * (Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 *Shorter Form*)

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

#8

(Philippians 4:4-9)

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

#9

(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.

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

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts,

the peace into which you were also called in one Body.

And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,
as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing
psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God.
And whatever you do, in word or in deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to
God the Father through him.

The Word of the Lord

#10

(Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6)

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

#11 *

(1 Peter 3:1-9)

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved:

You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that,

even if some disobey the word,

they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct

when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.
Your adornment should not be an external one:
braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry,
or dressing in fine clothes,
but rather the hidden character of the heart,
expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm
disposition, which is precious in the sight of God.
For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God once
used to adorn themselves
and were subordinate to their husbands;
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."
You are her children when you do what is good and fear no
intimidation.
Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in
understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex,
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.
Finally, all of you, be of one mind,
sympathetic, loving toward one another,
compassionate, humble.
Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary, a blessing,
because to this you were called,
that you might inherit a blessing.

The Word of the Lord

#12

(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

#13

(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

A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying:

"Alleluia!

Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God." A voice coming from the throne said:

"Praise our God, all you his servants,
and you who revere him, small and great."

Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said:

"Alleluia!

The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty.

Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory.

For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready.

She was allowed to wear
a bright, clean linen garment."

(The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

Then the angel said to me, "Write this:

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

The Word of the Lord

C. Gospel Readings

(Please choose one of the following)

#1

(Matthew 5:1-12a)

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

#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."

The Gospel of the Lord

#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.

The Gospel of the Lord

#3 (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."

The Gospel of the Lord

#4 * (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, let no one separate."

The Gospel of the Lord

#5

(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."

The Gospel of the Lord

#6 *

(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

#7 *

(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.

The Gospel of the Lord

#8

(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."

The Gospel of the Lord

#9

(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

#10

(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."

The Gospel of the Lord

#10

(John 17:20-23 *Shorter Form*)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "Holy Father, I pray
not only for these

but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so
that they may all be one,

as you, Father, are in me and I in you,

that they also may be in us,

that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,

so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me,

that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world
may know that you sent me,

and that you loved them even as you loved me."

The Gospel of the Lord



D. The Celebration of Matrimony

Dearly beloved,
you have come together into the house of the Church,
so that in the presence of the Church's minister
and the community
your intention to enter into Marriage
may be strengthened by the Lord with a sacred seal.
Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you.
Through a special Sacrament,
he enriches and strengthens
those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism,
that they may be faithful to each other for ever
and assume all the responsibilities of married life.
And so, in the presence of the Church,
I ask you to state your intentions.

E. The Questions Before the Consent

N. and N., have you come here to enter into Marriage
without coercion,
freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I have.

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage,
to love and honor each other
for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God
and to bring them up
according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

F. The Consent

The priest/deacon invites them to declare their consent:

Since it is your intention to enter the covenant
of Holy Matrimony,
join your right hands and declare your consent
before God and his Church.

They join their right hands.

The bridegroom says:

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

The bride says:

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

The following alternative form may be used:

First, he asks the bridegroom:

N., do you take N. for your lawful wife,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do you part?

The bridegroom replies:

I do.

Next, the Priest asks the bride:

N., do you take N. for your lawful husband,
to have and to hold, from this day forward,
for better, for worse,
for richer, for poorer,
in sickness and in health,
to love and to cherish
until death do you part?

The bride replies:

I do.

G. The Blessing and Giving of the Rings

The priest/deacon says:

May the Lord bless these rings,
which you will give to each other
as a sign of love and fidelity.

R. Amen.

He sprinkles the rings, as the circumstances so suggest, and gives them to the bride and bridegroom.

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., receive this ring
as a sign of my love and fidelity.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.



