*Celebrating the Marriage*



*of*

*Bride’s Name & Groom Name*

**[CHURCH NAME]**

**[DATE]**

# THE BRIDAL PARTY

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Reception of the Couple

## Greeting

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

## Welcome

We have come rejoicing into the house of the Lord

for this celebration, dear brothers and sisters,

and now we stand with {{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}

on the day they intend to form a home of their own.

For them this is a moment of unique importance.

So let us support them

with our affection,

with our friendship,

and with our prayer as their brothers and sisters.

Let us listen attentively with them

to the word that God speaks to us today.

Then, with holy Church,

let us humbly pray to God the Father,

through Christ our Lord,

for this couple, his servants,

that he lovingly accept them,

bless them,

and make them always one.

## Collect

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,

and in your kindness uphold

what you have established for the increase of the human race,

so that the union you have created

may be kept safe by your assistance.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Tobit 8:5-10

A reading from the book of Tobit

May God bring us to old age together.

Tobias said to Sarah, 'You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and protection.' They began praying for protection, and this was how he began:

'You are blessed, O God of our fathers;

blessed, too, is your name

for ever and ever.

Let the heavens bless you

and all things you have made

for evermore.

It was you who created Adam,

you who created Eve his wife

to be his help and support;

and from these two the human race was born.

It was you who said,

"It is not good that the man should be alone;

let us make him a helpmate like himself."

And so I do not take my sister

for any lustful motive;

I do it in singleness of heart.

Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me

and bring us to old age together.'

And together they said, 'Amen, Amen'.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127,1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or

R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord

and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. R.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table. R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed

the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children. R.

## Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians

Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:12

Alleluia, alleluia!

If we love one another,

God will live in us in perfect love.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 19:3-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

So then, what God has united, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test him they said, 'Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the creator from the beginning made them male and female and that he said: This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body? They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

# THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

## Introduction

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.

## Questions Before The Consent

{{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}, have you come here to enter into Marriage

without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I have.

The Priest continues:

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage,

to love and honour each other

for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

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.

## Consent

The Priest 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.

The bridegroom says:

I, {{GROOM}}, take you, {{BRIDE}}, 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 honour you

all the days of my life.

The bride says:

I, {{BRIDE}}, take you, {{GROOM}}, 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 honour you

all the days of my life.

## Reception of Consent

May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent

you have declared before the Church,

and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you.

What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Blessing of Rings

May the Lord bless + these rings,

which you will give to each other

as a sign of love and fidelity.

Amen.

## Giving of Rings

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

{{BRIDE}}, 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 bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

{{GROOM}}, 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.

## Universal Prayer

Dear brothers and sisters,

as we call to mind the special gift of grace and charity

by which God has been pleased to crown and consecrate

the love of our sister {{BRIDE}} and our brother {{GROOM}},

let us commend them to the Lord.

That these faithful Christians, {{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}},

newly joined in Holy Matrimony,

may always enjoy health and well-being,

let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

That he will bless their covenant

as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

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. R.

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. R.

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. R.

Graciously pour out upon this husband and wife, O Lord,

the Spirit of your love,

to make them one heart and one soul,

so that nothing whatever may divide those you have joined

and no harm come to those you have filled with your blessing.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Profession of Faith

**I believe in God,**

**the Father almighty,**

**Creator of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,**

At the words that follow, up to and including 'the Virgin Mary', all bow.

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died and was buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**on the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty;**

**from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and life everlasting. Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

## Preparation of the Offerings

## Prayer over the Offerings

## The Eucharistic Prayer

### Holy, Holy, Holy

### Eucharistic Prayer

### Memorial Acclamation

## The Communion Rite

### Lord's Prayer

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name;**

**thy kingdom come;**

**thy will be done**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us,**

**and lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

### Invitation to Nuptial Blessing

Dear brothers and sisters,

let us humbly pray to the Lord

that on these his servants, now married in Christ,

he may mercifully pour out

the blessing of his grace

and make of one heart in love

(by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood)

those he has joined by a holy covenant.

### Nuptial Blessing

O God, who by your mighty power

created all things out of nothing,

and, when you had set in place

the beginnings of the universe,

formed man and woman in your own image,

making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man,

that they might no longer be two, but one flesh,

and taught that what you were pleased to make one

must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage

by so great a mystery

that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed

the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man

and the companionship they had in the beginning

is endowed with the one blessing

not forfeited by original sin

nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favour on these your servants,

joined together in Marriage,

who ask to be strengthened by your blessing.

Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit

and pour your love into their hearts,

that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace

abide in your daughter {{BRIDE}},

and let her always follow the example of those holy women

whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband entrust his heart to her,

so that, acknowledging her as his equal

and his joint heir to the life of grace,

he may show her due honour

and cherish her always

with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you:

may these your servants

hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments;

made one in the flesh,

may they be blameless in all they do;

and with the strength that comes from the Gospel,

may they bear true witness to Christ before all;

(may they be blessed with children,

and prove themselves virtuous parents,

who live to see their children's children).

And grant that,

reaching at last together the fullness of years

for which they hope,

they may come to the life of the blessed

in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Sign of Peace

### Breaking of the Bread

### Communion

### Prayer after Communion

By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord,

accompany with your loving favour

what in your providence you have instituted,

so as to make of one heart in love

those you have already joined in this holy union

(and replenished with the one Bread and the one Chalice).

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

## Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

## Blessing

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

## Dismissal

Go forth, the Mass is ended.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Signing of the Register and Leaving the Church