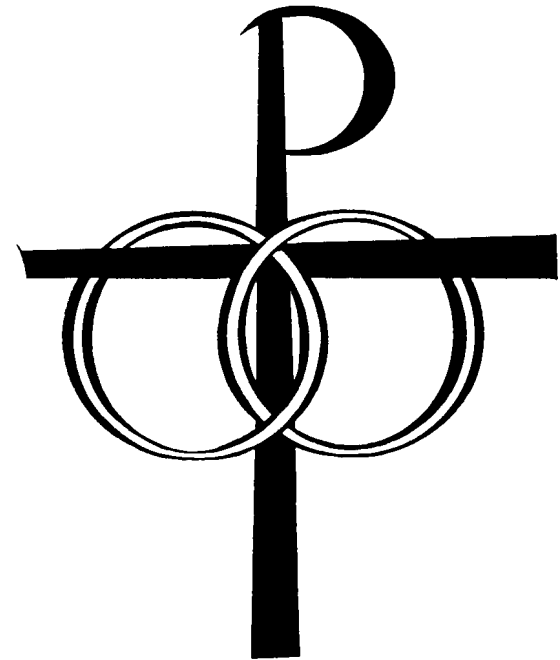


Assumption of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary Church  
Centereach, NY



Sacrament of Matrimony  
Couple's Preparation Guide



## Prayer over the Gifts

- Prayer over the Gifts 1
- Prayer over the Gifts 2
- Prayer over the Gifts 3

## Blessing and Giving of the *Lazo* or the Veil (optional)

### Nuptial Blessing

- Nuptial Blessing 1       Nuptial Blessing 3
- Nuptial Blessing 2       Blessing between a Catholic and Catechumen  
or Non-Catholic

## Prayer after Communion

- Prayer after Communion 1
- Prayer after Communion 2
- Prayer after Communion 3

## Final Blessing

- Blessing at the End of the Celebration 1
- Blessing at the End of the Celebration 2
- Blessing at the End of the Celebration 3

# Congratulations on Your Upcoming Marriage!

Our parish family offers this booklet to help you prepare the liturgy for the upcoming celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony. In these pages you will find specific directions in terms of choosing from the various prayer options and readings available for the celebration of the sacrament. Simply go to the section that applies to you, e.g., Celebrating the Sacrament outside of Mass (pages 5 and 6) or Celebrating the Sacrament within Mass (pages 7—9). From there you'll be guided to the appropriate choices. When you meet with the priest/deacon, review your choices with him so he can prepare his part of the celebration.

Our hope is that you will use this time of preparation to deepen your relationship with God and with one another. We know that preparing for a wedding involves a great many details which can easily overwhelm and/or preoccupy engaged couples. It's so easy to get caught up in the planning of the secular aspects of the wedding day: invitations, photos, reception, flowers, etc. While these things are good and enjoyable, they can easily detract from the beauty of the wedding celebration itself. Therefore, our prayer for you is that you will have the courage to be different and will avoid getting swallowed up by society's demand of consumption and empty appearances. What is important is the love you share, strengthened and sanctified by God's grace working in you. Don't be afraid to opt for a more modest and simple celebration in which your love for one another and God's love for you take precedence over everything else.

Pay special attention to the Scripture readings available for your celebration (pages 19-30). Share your thoughts with one another as you seek to discover which Scripture reading best speaks to your hopes and dreams as a couple. One way you can accomplish this is to set time aside several times a week. At the designated time and place (choose a place where there are no distractions) prayerfully read one selection from the Old Testament (pages 19-22), one from the New Testament (pages 23-27) and one from the Gospel (pages 28-30). Then share with each other what catches your attention in the passages you read. Perhaps it is a word or a phrase or an image. End your prayer time by joining hands and praying the Lord's Prayer. You'll be amazed at how you'll begin to hear God's speaking to your heart.

Finally, remember that our parish family is here to support you. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call. Phone numbers are listed below. Also, check out our parish website — [abvmcentereach.com](http://abvmcentereach.com). It's easy to navigate and filled with helpful information. You can view the parish calendar, bulletin, ministry schedules, office hours, mass schedule, etc. In addition, we list parish hours, email addresses, important links to other sites and up-to-date information regarding parish activities.

## Phone Numbers

Rectory: 631-585-8760 or email [rectory@abvmcentereach.com](mailto:rectory@abvmcentereach.com)  
Fr. Chris: 631-585-8760 ext. 211  
Fr. Joseph: 631-585-8760 ext. 102  
Deacon Mike: 631-585-8760 ext. 104  
Rob Ruymaker (contemporary music): 516-523-1668 or see him after mass  
Fran (organ music): 631-807-5679

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# Check List for Marriage within Mass

## Entrance Choices

Option 1  Other  
 Option 2

## Collect (Opening Prayer)

Collect 1  Collect 4  
 Collect 2  Collect 5  
 Collect 3  Collect 6

## Scripture Choices

Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_  
New Testament \_\_\_\_\_  
Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

## The Consent

Option 1  Option 3  
 Option 2  Option 4

## Blessing of the Rings

Blessing of the Rings 1  
 Blessing of the Rings 2  
 Blessing of the Rings 3

## Blessing of the *Arras* (optional)

### Universal Prayers

List those who are ill for whom you wish to pray

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List those who have died for whom you wish to pray

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### Presentation of the Gifts

Indicate one or two people who would bring up the gifts of bread and wine

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# **Celebrating Matrimony outside of Mass**

## **The Introductory Rites**

### **Entrance Procession**

There are several options from which to choose. They are found on page 9. Discuss with the priest/deacon which best fits your need.

### **Sign of the Cross & Greeting of the People**

The Priest/Deacon places the entire community under the protection of Jesus' Cross after which he greets the people. If the wedding takes place during Mass, the Gloria is said/sung by the community to emphasize the festive nature of the celebration.

### **Collect (Opening Prayer)**

There are several opening prayers which may be used depending on the liturgical season. They are found on pages 9-10.

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

The Scripture selections are found on pages 19-30. You may choose one from the Old Testament (pages 19-22), one from the New Testament (pages 23-27), and one Gospel (pages 28-30). In choosing your readings note that one of your choices must include a reading marked with an asterisk (\*). During the Easter Season, the first reading should be from the Book of Revelation in the New Testament (page 27).

## **The Celebration of Matrimony**

The Priest/Deacon begins by acknowledging the importance of the Sacrament of Matrimony. He then asks several questions of the bride and groom about their freedom of choice, their fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children. Each person responds separately.

### **The Consent**

Next is the actual consent of the bride and the groom when they declare their willingness to enter into a lifelong marriage covenant.

There are several options to express this consent which you can review with the Priest/Deacon during your time of preparation. They are found on page 11.

After the consent is given the Priest/Deacon "receives" that consent by affirming God's grace in the Sacrament.

Once the consent is given, the entire community is asked to join in praising God for the gift of married life and the grace poured out upon the bride and the groom. This can be done through song.

### **The Blessing and Giving of Rings**

You may choose one of several choices for the Blessing of Rings.

They can be found on page 11. After the rings are blessed, the couple exchanges the rings with one another.

It is after the Blessing and Giving of Rings that additional local customs, e.g., the Blessing and Giving of the *Arras* may take place.

## The Universal Prayer

This is the Prayer of the Faithful during which time we pray for those present as well as those in need. Discuss with the Priest/Deacon if you have specific petitions you would like used at this time, especially remembering those who are ill or have died.

## The Lord's Prayer

The entire community prays this prayer together.

(The Blessing and Placing of the *Lazo* or the Veil takes place after the Lord's Prayer.)

## Nuptial Blessing

This is an essential part of the celebration – a beautiful prayer which recounts the graces of Marriage throughout God's Plan of Salvation.

You may choose one of three options which are found on pages 13-16.

## The Concluding Rite

### Final Blessing

You may choose one of several choices for the Final Blessing. They can be found on page 18.

### Recessional

# Check List for Marriage outside of Mass

## Entrance Choices

- Option 1  Other  
 Option 2

## Collect (Opening Prayer)

- Collect 1  Collect 4  
 Collect 2  Collect 5  
 Collect 3  Collect 6

## Scripture Choices

- Old Testament \_\_\_\_\_  
New Testament \_\_\_\_\_  
Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

## The Consent

- Option 1  Option 3  
 Option 2  Option 4

## Blessing of the Rings

- Blessing of Rings 1  
 Blessing of Rings 2  
 Blessing of Rings 3

## Blessing of the *Arras* (optional)

### Universal Prayers

List those who are ill for whom you wish to pray

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---

List those who have died for whom you wish to pray

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## Blessing and Giving of the *Lazo* or the Veil (optional)

### Nuptial Blessing

- Nuptial Blessing 1  Nuptial Blessing 3  
 Nuptial Blessing 2  Blessing between a Catholic and Catechumen  
or Non-Catholic

### Final Blessing

- Blessing at the End of the Celebration 1  
 Blessing at the End of the Celebration 2  
 Blessing at the End of the Celebration 3

## **John 15:12-16 (NAB)**

<sup>12</sup> Jesus said to his disciples: This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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.

## **John 17:20-26 (NAB—Long Form)**

<sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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. <sup>25</sup> Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. <sup>26</sup> 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."

## **John 17:20-26 (NAB—Short Form)**

<sup>20</sup> 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, <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, <sup>23</sup> 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.

# **Celebrating Matrimony within Mass**

## **The Introductory Rites**

### **Entrance Procession**

There are several options from which to choose. They are found on page 9. Discuss with the priest/deacon which best fits your need.

### **Sign of the Cross & Greeting of the People**

The Priest/Deacon places the entire community under the protection of Jesus' Cross after which he greets the people. If the wedding takes place during Mass, the Gloria is said/sung by the community to emphasize the festive nature of the celebration.

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There are several opening prayers which may be used depending on the liturgical season. They are found on pages 9-10.

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It is after the Blessing and Giving of Rings that additional local customs, e.g., the Blessing and Giving of the *Arras* may take place.

### **The Universal Prayer**

This is the Prayer of the Faithful during which time we pray for those present as well as those in need. Discuss with the Priest/Deacon if you have specific petitions you would like used at this time, especially remembering those who are ill or have died.

## **The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

### **Presentation of the Offerings**

If desired, the bride and the groom (or others designated by the couple) may bring the gifts of bread and wine to the altar.

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

You may choose one of several choices for the Prayer over the Offerings. They can be found on page 12.

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

This is the beautiful prayer said by the Priest which recounts the gift of Jesus' presence in the bread and wine, which is His Body and Blood offered to us as a sign of His eternal love and presence.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

The entire community prays this prayer together.

(The Blessing and Placing of the *Lazo* or the Veil takes place after the Lord's Prayer.)

### **Nuptial Blessing**

This is an essential part of the celebration – a beautiful prayer which recounts the graces of Marriage throughout God's Plan of Salvation. You may choose one of three options which are found on pages 13-16.

### **Sign of Peace**

The Sign of Peace reminds us that our communion is not simply with God but necessarily must be with one another.

### **Distribution of Communion**

After the bride and groom, the best man and the maid of honor receive communion, the Priest will invite those who are prepared to come forward to receive. We will begin with the wedding party and continue until all who desire to receive have done so. To help your guests feel comfortable, the Priest will give offer direction to the congregation as to how to proceed.

After the distribution of communion there is a time of silent prayer.

### **Prayer after Communion**

You may choose one of several choices for the Prayer after Communion. They can be found on pages 17.

## **The Concluding Rite**

### **Final Blessing**

You may choose one of several choices for the Final Blessing. They can be found on page 18.

### **Recessional**

### **Matthew 19:3-6 (NAB)\***

<sup>3</sup> Some Pharisees approached him, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?" <sup>4</sup> He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator '*made them male and female*' <sup>5</sup> 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*'? <sup>6</sup> So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

### **Matthew 22:35-40 (NAB)**

<sup>35</sup> One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking, <sup>36</sup> "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" <sup>37</sup> He said to him, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup> This is the greatest and the first commandment. <sup>39</sup> The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

### **Mark 10:6-9 (NAB)\***

<sup>6</sup> But from the beginning of creation, '*God made them male and female.*' <sup>7</sup> *For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife,* <sup>8</sup> *and the two shall become one flesh.*' So they are no longer two but one flesh. <sup>9</sup> Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate."

### **John 2:1-11 (NAB)\***

<sup>1</sup> On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. <sup>2</sup> Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. <sup>3</sup> When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." <sup>4</sup> (And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." <sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." <sup>6</sup> Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. <sup>7</sup> Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. <sup>8</sup> Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. <sup>9</sup> And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> 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.

### **John 15:9-12 (NAB)**

<sup>9</sup> As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup> This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.



## Gospel Readings

### Matthew 5:1-12a (NAB)

<sup>1</sup> When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> He began to teach them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup> Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

<sup>8</sup> Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

### Matthew 5:13-16 (NAB)

<sup>13</sup> “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. <sup>14</sup> You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

### Matthew 7:21, 24-29 (NAB—Long Form)

<sup>21</sup> “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. . . .<sup>24</sup> “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> 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.

<sup>27</sup> The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

And it collapsed and was completely ruined.” <sup>28</sup> When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, <sup>29</sup> for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

### Matthew 7:21, 24-25 (NAB—Short Form)

<sup>21</sup> “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. . . .<sup>24</sup> “Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. <sup>25</sup> 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.

## Prayers and Blessings

### Entrance

There are several options from which to choose.

Option 1 The Priest/Deacon meets the bridal party at the entrance of the Church. There he greets the bride and groom expressing the joy of the entire Church community. Once done, the entire bridal party, led by the Priest/Deacon, proceeds toward the altar. It is especially fitting for the parents of the bride to accompany their daughter and the parents of the groom to accompany their son in this procession. During the processing the Entrance Song/Chant is sung by the community.

Option 2 The Priest/Deacon goes to the celebrant’s chair as the bridal party proceeds toward the altar. It is especially fitting for the parents of the bride to accompany their daughter and the parents of the groom to accompany their son in this procession. When the couple arrives at the front of the Church, the Priest/Deacon greets them after which the entire community sings the Entrance Song/Chant.

Option 3 Other. Discuss with priest/deacon additional possibilities, e.g., parent escorting bride down the aisle.

### Collects (Opening Prayers)

#### Collect 1 (cannot be used with 1<sup>st</sup> Nuptial Blessing)

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his church, grant, we pray, to these your servants, that what they receive in faith they may live out in deeds. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

#### Collect 2

O God, who in creating the human race willed that man and wife should be one, join, we pray, in a bond of inseparable love these your servants who are to be united in the covenant of Marriage, so that, as you make their love fruitful, they may become, by your grace, witnesses to charity itself. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### Collect 3

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,  
and in your kindness  
pour out your grace on these your servants (N. & N.)  
that, coming together before your altar,  
they may be confirmed in love for one another.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### Collect 4

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that these your servants,  
now to be joined by the Sacrament of Matrimony,  
may grow in the faith they profess  
and enrich your Church with faithful offspring.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### Collect 5

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,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### Collect 6

O God, who since the beginning of the world  
have blessed the increase of offspring,  
show favor to our supplications  
and pour forth the help of your blessing  
on these your servants (N & N),  
so that in the union of Marriage  
they may be bound together  
in mutual affection,  
in likeness of mind,  
and in shared holiness.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### 1 John 3:18-24 (NAB)

<sup>18</sup> Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> (Now) this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. <sup>21</sup> Beloved, if (our) hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God <sup>22</sup> and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> 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.

### 1 John 4:7-12 (NAB)

<sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. <sup>12</sup> 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.

### Revelation 19:1, 5-9a (NAB)

<sup>1</sup> After this I heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying: "Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God...."

<sup>5</sup> A voice coming from the throne said: "Praise our God, all you his servants, (and) you who revere him, small and great."

<sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment." (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

<sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

### Philippians 4:4-9 (NAB)

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! <sup>5</sup> Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. <sup>7</sup> Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers, 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. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

### Colossians 3:12-17 (NAB)

<sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one body. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

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

<sup>1</sup> Let mutual love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. <sup>3</sup> Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup> Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled...<sup>5</sup> 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.*" <sup>6</sup> Thus we may say with confidence: *The Lord is my helper, (and) I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?*"

### 1 Peter 3:1-9 (NAB)\*

<sup>1</sup> Likewise, 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 <sup>2</sup> when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior. <sup>3</sup> Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God once used to adorn themselves and were subordinate to their husbands; <sup>6</sup> thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord." You are her children when you do what is good and fear no intimidation. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. <sup>9</sup> 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 Consent (The Vows)

- Option 1 I, N., take you, N., to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.
- Option 2 I, N., take you, N., for my lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.
- Option 3 N., do you take N., to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to be faithful to her/him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her/him and to honor her/him all the days of your life? (Each person responds, "I do.")
- Option 4 N., do you take N., to be your lawful wife/husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part. (Each person responds, "I do.")

## Blessing of Rings

### Blessing of Rings 1

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

### Blessing of Rings 2

Bless, O Lord, these rings, which we bless † in your name, so that those who wear them may remain entirely faithful to each other, abide in peace and in your will, and live always in mutual charity. Through Christ our Lord.

### Blessing of Rings 3

Bless † and sanctify your servants in their love, O Lord, and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness, remind them of their love for one another. Through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer over the Offerings

### Prayer over the Offerings 1

Receive, we pray, O Lord,  
the offering made on the occasion  
of this sealing of the sacred bond of Marriage,  
and, just as your goodness is its origin,  
may your providence guide its course.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### Prayer over the Offerings 2

Receive in your kindness, Lord,  
the offerings we bring in gladness before you,  
and in your fatherly love  
watch over those you have joined in a sacramental covenant.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### Prayer over the Offerings 3

Show favor to our supplications, O Lord,  
and receive with a kindly countenance  
the oblations we offer for these your servants,  
joined now in a holy covenant,  
that through these mysteries  
they may be strengthened  
in love for one another and for you.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 (NAB—Long Form)\*

<sup>2a</sup> Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us....

<sup>21</sup> Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body.

<sup>24</sup> As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her

<sup>26</sup> to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,

<sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

<sup>29</sup> For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church,

<sup>30</sup> because we are members of his Body.

<sup>31</sup> *“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.”*

<sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

<sup>33</sup> In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

## Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 (NAB—Short Form)

<sup>2a</sup> Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us....

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her

<sup>26</sup> to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,

<sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> So (also) husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

<sup>29</sup> For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church,

<sup>30</sup> because we are members of his body.

<sup>31</sup> *“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.”*

<sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.

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

<sup>1b</sup> Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; <sup>2</sup> let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself; ... <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God....

<sup>13</sup> 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.

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

<sup>13b</sup> Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; <sup>14</sup> God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

<sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? ... <sup>17</sup> But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. <sup>18</sup> Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> 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? <sup>20</sup> For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

## 1 Corinthians 12:31—13:8a (NAB)

<sup>31</sup> Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

<sup>1</sup> If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, <sup>5</sup> it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, <sup>6</sup> it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. <sup>7</sup> It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup> Love never fails.

## Ephesians 4:1-6 (NAB)

<sup>1</sup> I, then, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love,

<sup>3</sup> striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:

<sup>4</sup> one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## Nuptial Blessings

### Nuptial Blessing 1

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 favor 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 N., 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 honor 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.

## Nuptial Blessing 2

Holy Father,  
who formed man in your own image,  
male and female you created them,  
so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart,  
they might fulfill their calling in the world;  
O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love,  
willed that the love of spouses for each other  
should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people,  
so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign,  
the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church  
might become manifest  
in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;  
Graciously stretch out your right hand  
over these your servants (N. and N.), we pray,  
and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Grant, O Lord, that, as they enter upon this sacramental union,  
they may share with one another the gifts of your love  
and, by being for each other a sign of your presence,  
become one heart and one mind.  
May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds  
the home they are forming  
(and prepare their children  
to become members of your heavenly household  
by raising them in the way of the Gospel).  
Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter N.,  
so that, by being a good wife (and mother),  
she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure  
and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.  
Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord,  
on N., your servant,  
that he may be a worthy, good and  
faithful husband (and a provident father).  
Grant, holy Father,  
that, desiring to approach your table  
as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence,  
they may one day have the joy  
of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Readings from the New Testament

### Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 (NAB)

<sup>31b</sup> Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who 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? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. <sup>34</sup> 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. <sup>35</sup> What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? ... <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

### Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 (NAB—Long Form)

<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> 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....

<sup>9</sup> Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;

<sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

<sup>11</sup> Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

<sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute (you), bless and do not curse them.

<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

<sup>16</sup> Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;

do not be wise in your own estimation.

<sup>17</sup> Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

<sup>18</sup> If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

### Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (NAB—Short Form)

<sup>1</sup> I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. <sup>2</sup> 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....

<sup>9</sup> Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good;

<sup>10</sup> love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor.

<sup>11</sup> Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

<sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

### **Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 (NAB)\***

<sup>1</sup> Happy the husband of a good wife,  
twice-lengthened are his days;

<sup>2</sup> A worthy wife brings joy to her husband,  
peaceful and full is his life.

<sup>3</sup> A good wife is a generous gift  
bestowed upon him who fears the LORD;

<sup>4</sup> Be he rich or poor, his heart is content,  
and a smile is ever on his face.

<sup>13</sup> A gracious wife delights her husband,  
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

<sup>14</sup> A gift from the LORD is her governed speech,  
and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

<sup>15</sup> Choicest of blessings is a modest wife,  
priceless her chaste person.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace;  
indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

<sup>16</sup> Like the sun rising in the LORD'S heavens,  
the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

### **Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a (NAB)**

<sup>31</sup> The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32a</sup> 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; ... <sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> No longer will they have need to teach their friends and kinsmen how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD.

### **Nuptial Blessing 3**

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,  
who created man and woman in your own image  
and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,  
we humbly beseech you for these your servants,  
who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,  
come down upon this bride, N.,  
and upon N., her companion for life,  
and may the power of your Holy Spirit  
set their hearts aflame from on high,  
so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,  
they may (adorn their family with children  
and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,  
in sorrow may they seek you out;  
may they have the joy of your presence  
to assist them in their toil,  
and know that you are near  
to comfort them in their need;  
let them pray to you in the holy assembly  
and bear witness to you in the world,  
and after a happy old age,  
together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,  
may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Blessing between a Catholic and Catechumen or Non-Catholic

Now let us humbly invoke God's blessing upon this bride and groom, that in his kindness he may favor with his help those on whom he has bestowed the bond of Marriage.

*And all pray in silence for a while. Then, the Priest (or Deacon), standing and turned toward the bride and bridegroom with hands extended over them, continues:*

Holy Father, maker of the whole world, who created man and woman in your own image and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants, who are joined today in the Marriage covenant.

May your abundant blessing, Lord, come down upon this bride, N., and upon N., her companion for life, and may the power of your Holy Spirit set their hearts aflame from on high, so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may be known for the integrity of their conduct (and be recognized as virtuous parents).

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord, in sorrow may they seek you out; may they have the joy of your presence to assist them in their toil, and know that you are near to comfort them in their need; and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

## Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 (NAB)\*

- <sup>10</sup> When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.  
<sup>11</sup> Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.  
<sup>12</sup> She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.  
<sup>13</sup> She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands....  
<sup>19</sup> She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.  
<sup>20</sup> She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy....  
<sup>30</sup> Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
<sup>31</sup> Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

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

- <sup>8</sup> Hark! my lover—here he comes  
springing across the mountains,  
leaping across the hills.  
<sup>9</sup> My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.  
Here he stands behind our wall,  
gazing through the windows,  
peering through the lattices.  
<sup>10</sup> My lover speaks; he says to me,  
“Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!...”  
<sup>14</sup> “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.”...  
<sup>16</sup> My lover belongs to me and I to him;  
He says to me:  
<sup>6</sup> 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.  
<sup>7A</sup> Deep waters cannot quench love,  
nor floods sweep it away.”



toward us?” “That is my master,” replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil.<sup>66</sup> The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.<sup>67</sup> 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.

### **Tobit 7:6-14 (NAB)\***

<sup>6</sup> Raguel sprang up and kissed him, shedding tears of joy. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> His wife Edna also wept for Tobit; and even their daughter Sarah began to weep. <sup>9</sup> 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.” <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.” <sup>12</sup> 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.” <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> Afterward they began to eat and drink.

### **Tobit 8:4b-8 (NAB)\***

<sup>4b</sup> On their wedding night, Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, “My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.” <sup>5</sup> She got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. He 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. <sup>6</sup> 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.’ <sup>7</sup> 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.” <sup>8</sup> They said together, “Amen, amen,”

## **Prayers after Communion**

### **Prayers after Communion 1**

By the power of this sacrifice, O Lord  
accompany with your loving favor  
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.

### **Prayers after Communion 2**

Having been made partakers at your table,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that those who are united by the Sacrament of Marriage  
may always hold fast to you and proclaim your name to the world.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### **Prayers after Communion 3**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that the power of the Sacrament we have received  
may find growth in these your servants  
and that the effects of the sacrifice we have offered  
may be felt by us all.  
Through Christ our Lord.

## Final Blessing

### Blessing at the End of the Celebration 1

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

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

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

And may almighty God bless all of you,  
who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy † Spirit. Amen.

### Blessing at the End of the Celebration 2

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

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

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

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy † Spirit. Amen.

### Blessing at the End of the Celebration 3

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

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

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

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy † Spirit. Amen.

## Readings from the Old Testament

### Genesis 1:26-31 (NAB)\*

<sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> God created man in his image; in the divine image he created him; male and female he created them. <sup>28</sup> God blessed them, saying to them: "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." <sup>29</sup> God also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; <sup>30</sup> and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. <sup>31</sup> God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good. Evening came, and morning followed --the sixth day.

### Genesis 2:18-24 (NAB)\*

<sup>18</sup> The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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, <sup>23</sup> 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." <sup>24</sup> That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

### Genesis 24:48-67 (NAB)\*

<sup>48</sup> Then 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. <sup>49</sup> 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." <sup>50</sup> Laban and his household said in reply: "This thing comes from the LORD; we can say nothing to you either for or against it." <sup>51</sup> 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."

<sup>58</sup> So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Do you wish to go with this man?" She answered, "I do." <sup>59</sup> At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham's servant and his men. <sup>60</sup> 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!" <sup>61</sup> 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. <sup>62</sup> Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi and was living in the region of the Negeb. <sup>63</sup> One day toward evening he went out. . . in the field, and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching. <sup>64</sup> Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel <sup>65</sup> and asked the servant, "Who is the man out there, walking through the fields