

# WEDDING GUIDELINES



St. Mark Catholic Church  
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[www.stmarkcleveland.com](http://www.stmarkcleveland.com)

(revised 2/2017)

## **Date for Weddings**

The Diocese of Cleveland has established a policy that an engaged couple must contact the parish at least 6 months before the proposed date of the wedding, although nine to

twelve months is recommended. No date can be confirmed until the couple has first met with the parish priest or deacon. No date is final until all requirements have been met. In the case of a previous marriage, no date may be given until the annulment process is completed, a decree of nullity has been granted, and no restrictions apply.

### **Times for Weddings**

Saturday weddings are scheduled at 11:30am or 1:30pm. The possibility exists for Friday evening weddings depending on the availability of the priest or deacon and the church.

### **Required Documents**

It is the responsibility of the couple to obtain the following documentation as needed:

- ◆ **Sacramental Records**: Catholic parties are to obtain a baptismal certificate. These certificates may be obtained from the church of baptism and dated within the last six months. Non-Catholic parties are to obtain a baptismal certificate from the Christian denomination and/or church where they were baptized.
- ◆ **Previous Marriages**: If a person has been married before it is necessary to provide the following:

Death certificate of former spouse or  
Declaration of Nullity

- ◆ **Civil Marriage License**: It is necessary to obtain a civil license. This license is to be obtained within sixty (60) days of the celebration of the wedding. In Cuyahoga County, a license may be obtained at:

Cuyahoga County Probate Court  
Marriage License Department  
1 Lakeside Ave., Room 146  
Cleveland, OH  
M-F 8:30am-4:30pm  
\$50-cash only  
216-443-8920

Pre-register at: [probate.cuyahogacounty.us/marriage](http://probate.cuyahogacounty.us/marriage)

Both parties must be present to apply for the license with proof of age and social security number as well as a cash fee of \$50. The license must be brought to rehearsal. The marriage cannot take place without a civil marriage license.

## Preparation Process for Marriage

- ◆ Evaluative Tool: An evaluative tool such as FOCCUS is administered to assess the couple's readiness for marriage and to help encourage communication on topics related to marriage.
- ◆ Pre-Marital Program: Each couple is required to participate in one of the following premarital programs.  
[www.ccdocle.org/marriage-and-family-ministry](http://www.ccdocle.org/marriage-and-family-ministry)

Pre-Cana Day: These one day sessions are held at many parishes in the diocese. You may attend at any parish or at the Jesuit Retreat House.

Cana II: Cana II is a marriage preparation program which is designed for relationships in which one or both parties have been previously married. Specific areas of concern such as parenting issues and previous marriages are addressed.

- ◆ Music Planning: A meeting with the Parish Musician is also a part of the liturgy planning process.

## Wedding Fee

**The wedding fee for St. Mark Church is \$600.00.** This includes the Church, Wedding Coordinators, Musician and Altar Server fees. Fees for additional musicians or cantors are at the discretion of the musicians themselves. Please bring the fee to the Wedding Rehearsal.

## Rehearsal

A rehearsal is usually scheduled for the evening before the wedding. The times for rehearsals are between 4pm and 6pm. *Please be in Church at the appointed time*, as another rehearsal or service may follow your rehearsal. All members of the wedding party should be at rehearsal including readers and gift bearers. While in Church, the wedding party is asked to conduct itself in a manner appropriate to the sacred task and place. Wedding rehearsals may be conducted by the wedding coordinators. Couples must also bring the Marriage License and wedding fee to the wedding rehearsal. **No alcoholic beverages are permitted on Church premises.**

## Wedding Coordinators

The parish uses wedding coordinators to help assist the clergy in the liturgical preparation of the wedding. They will conduct the rehearsal, arrive before you on the wedding day to set up, organize the bridal party and the seating of guests, and clean up after the wedding. The coordinators can be contacted for any questions regarding the rehearsal and wedding day. The selection of readings, intercessions and particulars of the wedding including the names of the wedding party, readers, and gift bearers can be given to them.

## **Environment**

### **Church**

**No alcoholic beverages are permitted on Church premises before or after the ceremony.**

**Aisle Runner** - Aisle runners are NOT permitted because of liability issues.

### **Flowers**

Flowers may be placed in the sanctuary but should never obstruct or detract from the primary symbols of the altar, couple and presider. Flowers are never to be placed on the altar itself or on sanctuary furniture and seasonal decorations are not to be rearranged. Please remember to advise florists that they may not set up for the wedding until 30 minutes prior to the service if there is another wedding on that day.

### **Dropping of Flower Petals Not Permitted**

The dropping of flower petals by a flower girl is NOT permitted. We suggest the flower girl carry a small basket of flowers to pass out to guests at the ends of the pews.

### **Bows**

Bows or small flower arrangements may be placed on the pews with clips or string but should not be taped to the pew. There are 25 rows of pews. Bows or arrangements should be removed after the wedding. St. Mark has pew bows and scarves available. Any other decorations need to be discussed with the Wedding Coordinator prior to ceremony.

### **The Throwing of Rice, Birdseed, Flower Petals or Anything Else is Not Permitted**

Bells or bubbles are a pleasant alternative.

## **Music Guidelines**

The music and songs help people enter into a prayerful atmosphere to celebrate a sacrament of the Church. Remember that your wedding is a service of worship and prayer. Your music selections should be of a religious nature and help all join with you in giving praise to God for the sacred gift of married life. Therefore, secular music is not permitted during the Wedding Ceremony.

## **Programs**

Wedding programs or worship aids are not required but may be helpful in encouraging the assembly to participate and sing. An outline of the wedding liturgy with or without Eucharist (Holy Communion) follows on the next page. **You must send your draft to the Director of Music for approval before it goes to print.**

# Order of Wedding Liturgy

## Marriage at Mass (with Eucharist)

Prelude

### **Introductory Rites**

Greeting of Couple  
Entrance Procession  
Greeting  
Gloria  
Opening Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm (sung)  
Second Reading  
Gospel  
Homily

### **Celebration of Matrimony**

Questions of Consent and Vows  
Assembly Acclamation  
Blessing of Rings  
Universal Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Preparation of the Gifts  
Eucharistic Prayer  
Lord's Prayer  
Nuptial Blessing  
Rite of Peace  
Fraction of the Bread  
Communion  
Prayer after Communion

### **Concluding Rites**

Final Blessing  
Recessional

## Marriage outside of Mass

Prelude

### **Introductory Rites**

Greeting of Couple  
Entrance Procession  
Greeting  
Opening Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm (sung)  
Second Reading  
Gospel  
Homily

### **Celebration of Matrimony**

Questions of Consent and Vows  
Assembly Acclamation  
Blessing of Rings  
Universal Prayer  
Lord's Prayer  
Nuptial Blessing

### **Concluding Rites**

Final Blessing  
Recessional

## St. Mark Staff Contact Information

### CLERGY

**Fr. John Miceli, Pastor**

216-226-7577, [jmiceli@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:jmiceli@stmarkcleveland.com)

**Rev. Mr. Howard Masony, Deacon**

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**Rev. Mr. Dave Lundeen, Deacon**

216-226-7577, [dlundeen@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:dlundeen@stmarkcleveland.com)

### MUSIC DIRECTOR

**Mrs. Terri Prokop**

216-226-7577, [musicministry@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:musicministry@stmarkcleveland.com)

### WEDDING COORDINATORS

**Mrs. Debbie Broughton, [dbroughton@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:dbroughton@stmarkcleveland.com)**

216-314-8638

**Mrs. Dianne Gorsek, [dgorsek@stmarkcleveland.com](mailto:dgorsek@stmarkcleveland.com)**

216-410-1425

**Mrs. Denise McNea, [denisemcnea@att.net](mailto:denisemcnea@att.net)**

216-671-8811

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

Family members or friends are encouraged to proclaim the readings. It is helpful to choose people who can read well to proclaim the word. Give your readers a copy of the scripture so that they can practice. **At least one reading with an asterisk (\*) must be included.**

### First Readings – Old Testament Readings

#### #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 22:48-51, 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 look around, he noticed that camels were approaching. Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, "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 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.

### **#5 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.

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

A reading from the Song of Songs

Hark! My lover—here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle 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 lover belongs to me and I to him. He says to me: “Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; for stern as death is love, relentless as the nether-world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.”

The Word of the Lord.

### **#7 Sirach 26:104,16-21**

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.

### **#8 Prophet 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 fathers: the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

## **Second Readings – New Testament Readings**

### **#1 Saint Paul to the Romans 8:31b-35,37-39**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

### **#2 Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2,9-18**

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 your selves

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.

### **#3 Saint Paul to the Romans 12:1-2, 9-13**

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

### **#4 Saint Paul to the 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.

### **#5 Saint Paul to the 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.

### **#6 Saint Paul to the 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.

### **#7 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.

## **#8 Ephesians 5:2a-25-32 - \***

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.

## **#9 Saint Paul to the 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.

## **#10 Saint Paul to the 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.

### **#11 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b - \***

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

### **#12 Letter of Saint 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 Letter of Saint 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.

#### **#14 Revelation 19:1, 5-9a**

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.

#### **Gospel Readings**

##### **#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 lampstand, 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, 24-25**

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 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.

## **#5 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.

## **#6 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.

## **#7 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.

## **#8 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.

### **#9 John 17:20-26**

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**

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."

## Universal Prayer

These prayers may be offered by a family member or friend. The response is, “Lord, hear our prayer.” The priest or deacon will introduce and conclude the intercessions with a prayer.

1. That God will bless this covenant of marriage as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.
2. That this newly married couple be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength, and that they bear witness to the name of Christian, let us pray to the Lord.
3. That all 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.
4. 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.
5. For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians, let us pray to the Lord.