

Dear Friends,

Congratulations on your engagement and your upcoming marriage!

As you may well know (or will soon find out!) there are many plans that must be made between now and the day of your Wedding. Over the next several months, you will spend a great deal of time making sure that every detail is perfect for your Wedding day. As you make those plans, please realize that every marriage consists of four parts: 1) The preparations before the Wedding day; 2) The Wedding Ceremony; 3) The Wedding reception; 4) Living the Sacrament of Marriage throughout your lives. Each of these four areas should be given the proper attentions they deserve.

The preparations for the Wedding are almost always a time of excitement and joy. Couples preparing for marriage, however, should be reminded that this time must also be a time of communication. Do not presume that your fiancé has the same ideas and thoughts concerning your Wedding day! It is a day of celebration and joy for both of you and your families; make sure each of you knows how the plans are progressing.

The Wedding Ceremony is at the center of your day. Your preparations should help to ensure that the Ceremony is a prayer-filled, reverent gathering of your family and friends. Guidelines and regulations concerning the particulars of Weddings in our church are outlined in detail in this booklet.

The Wedding Reception is a celebration of your family and friends to rejoice in the Sacrament of Marriage.

After your Wedding day is over, and all your thank-you's written, remember, you have been called to live the Sacrament of Marriage throughout your lives!

This booklet has been designed to assist you in the smooth planning of your Wedding Liturgy. If there are any concerns or questions regarding your Wedding at St. Francis of Assisi, please feel free to contact the priest who is handling your Wedding arrangements.

It is our prayer that the Lord who has called both of you to share your love in His Sacrament of Marriage will guide you with His grace all the days of your life!

**Marriage Preparation  
Guidelines and Regulations  
For  
Weddings  
At  
St. Francis of Assisi  
Church, Springfield, PA  
19064**

# Table of Contents

## Preparation and Information

Setting the Date . . . . .	page 1
Important Information . . . . .	page 1
The Wedding Party . . . . .	page 1
Pre-Cana Instructions . . . . .	page 2
Visiting Priests . . . . .	page 2
The Wedding Rehearsal Date . . . . .	page 3
Documents Needed by the Church. . . . .	page 4
The Marriage License . . . . .	page 5
A White Aisle Runner . . . . .	page 6
Rice / Birdseed / Confetti / Flower Petals / Balloons . . . . .	page 6
Church Offering . . . . .	page 6
Altar Servers . . . . .	page 6
Photography / Videography . . . . .	page 7
Regulations Regarding Flowers. . . . .	page 7

## Information Regarding the Wedding Ceremony

Music . . . . .	page 9
The Unity Candle. . . . .	page 9
Presentation of Flowers to Mary . . . . .	page 9
A Nuptial Service. . . . .	page 10
A Nuptial Mass . . . . .	page 10
Readers at the Wedding Ceremony . . . . .	page 11
Extra-Ordinary Ministers at the Wedding . . . . .	page 11
Wedding Ceremony Booklet . . . . .	page 11
Planning the Wedding Liturgy . . . . .	page 11
Letter to the Photographer . . . . .	Inside Back Pocket
Letter to the Videographer . . . . .	Inside Back Pocket
Letter to the Florist. . . . .	Inside Back Pocket
Wedding Liturgy Planning Sheet . . . . .	Inside Front Pocket
Selections for First Reading. . . . .	OT - 1 through OT 8
Selections for Responsorial Psalm . . . . .	RP - 1 through RP - 7
Selections for Second Reading. . . . .	.NT - 1 through NT -10
Gospel Reading Selections . . . . .	GOS -1 through GOS -10
Vow Selections. . . . .	.VOW 1a through 2b
Prayer of the Faithful Selections . . . . .	POF 1 through POF 3
Nuptial Blessing Selections . . . . .	. NB 1 through NB 4

# **PREPARATIONS & INFORMATION**

## **Setting the Date**

Now that you have this booklet, you have made the first necessary preparation: **reserving the Church for your Wedding**. All other preparations flow from the date of the Wedding. From here, you will now set out to rent a hall for your Wedding reception. It sometimes occurs that a hall is not available for the same date that you have chosen for your Wedding. If this happens, you should change the date with the priest before you book the hall, to make sure that the church is available for the day and time you wish. (Since you have had your first meeting with the priest to set the date, if you need to change the date, you can do this over the phone, providing you speak with the priest who is handling your marriage preparations.)

## **Important Information**

At your first meeting with the priest, he should have inquired if either of you have been married before in any way. If either of you have been married before, whether in a Religious Ceremony or a legal Ceremony, or a Ceremony in a Church other than a Catholic Church, or had a marriage union of any other type, in the state of Pennsylvania, another state or another country, **and the priest is unaware of this previous union**, please do not make any further Wedding plans until you have discussed this situation with the priest who is handling your Wedding arrangements.

To conceal this pertinent information - whether innocently or deliberately - can have unfortunate consequences. To avoid any possible problems, if you have any questions regarding a previous marriage situation, please discuss them with the priest as soon as possible.

## **The Wedding Party**

A Wedding Party has become a way for a couple preparing for marriage to offer to certain family members and friends a special participation in their Wedding day. The couple, however, should take care to make sure that their Wedding Party adds to, and does not distract from, the day. An excessively large Wedding Party often becomes a financial burden to the couple (who already have many Wedding expenses), as well runs the risk of turning the Wedding Ceremony in the Church into a circus-like atmosphere.

## **Pre-Cana Instructions**

Once you have booked your Wedding, your next priority should be registering for a Pre-Cana Session. Pre-Cana is the primary instructions regarding the Sacrament of Marriage. It is required that both of you attend these sessions. You may participate in Pre-Cana in one of these ways:

A. **Family Life Office Pre-Cana Instructions.** The Archdiocese of Philadelphia offers Pre-Cana Instructions throughout the Archdiocese, at various locations, at different times during the year. These instructions, while comparable in content to the instructions given on the Parish level, differ in the number of participants. For more information concerning Pre-Cana Sessions offered through the Archdiocese, please call the Family Life Office, (610) 660-9002.

B. **Engaged Encounter.** Engaged Encounter is Pre-Cana set in a week-end away, retreat setting. It is a somewhat more intense presentation of the information prescribed for Pre-Cana Instructions. The Engaged Encounter is more expensive, since the cost of the weekend is included in the fee. Couples who are interested in information concerning ***Engaged Encounter***, or who would like to register for a weekend, should contact the Office of Family Life, who sponsor the weekend, (610) 660-9002.

C. A Local Parish that has Pre-Cana instructions

**Pre-Cana Instructions should be completed four to six months before your Wedding date.**

## **Visiting Priests**

It sometimes occurs that a couple wishes to have the exchange of their vows witnessed by a priest who is a relative or friend of the family. This is permitted. However, the couple is reminded to observe the following guidelines:

-Contact the visiting priest **after** you have had your initial meeting with the priest at St. Francis of Assisi and ask if he is available for the date you have chosen. If he is not, and you wish to change your date to accommodate his schedule, please speak with the priest before you make any other plans.

-All plans/arrangements must be done at St. Francis Rectory with the priest from the parish who is handling your arrangements.

-2-

## **Visiting Priests** (con't)

-You are asked to have the visiting priest contact the priest who is handling your Wedding plans as soon as you ask him.

-The visiting priest should conduct the Wedding rehearsal to familiarize himself with the church layout, as well as to realize how the Ceremony will happen on the day of the Wedding.

## **The Wedding Rehearsal Date**

The Wedding rehearsal can take place any time in the week prior to the Wedding, and is usually scheduled at a time convenient to the priest and the couple. If you are planning to have a dinner, **please do not schedule any reservations or make any plans until you have confirmed a rehearsal date with the priest who is handling your Wedding plans.** Please do not presume that the rehearsal takes place the night before the Wedding; circumstances in the church or with the priest may prevent this from happening. The rehearsal may be scheduled at any time in the months before the Wedding. It is appropriate that all members of the Wedding Party be present for the rehearsal, as well as any others who have a role in the Ceremony (gift-bearers, readers, etc.).

As a general rule, the Sacrament of Confession is **not** offered at the rehearsal. The couple, as well as the members of the Wedding Party, who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confession should make plans prior to the rehearsal; that is to say, they should seek the Sacrament in the week prior to the Wedding at regularly scheduled confessions in their parish. If there are any questions regarding this matter, please discuss them with the priest handling your Wedding arrangements.

The couple should take special care to ensure that all who should be at the rehearsal are present **on time!** It is neither fashionable nor proper to be late for the rehearsal. If members of the Wedding Party are late, the rehearsal will begin on time anyway. He/she/they will have to be instructed by another member of the Wedding Party on what to do after the rehearsal.

No member of the Wedding party, or anyone else, present at the rehearsal should be under the influence of alcohol. If the situation arises that anyone present at the rehearsal is, or gives the appearance of being under the influence of alcohol, the rehearsal will be re-scheduled at the convenience of the priest. Please make sure that you discuss with your bridal party the seriousness of showing up at your rehearsal in such a condition.

## **Documents needed by the Church**

There are certain documents needed by the church before the Wedding can take place. The following is a list of documents needed:

-**A Pre-Cana Certificate**, issued where you attended Pre-Cana, stating that you completed your Pre-Cana Instructions.

-**A valid marriage** license from a county in the state of Pennsylvania.

-If either of you have been married, the proper church documentation stating you are free to marry in the church.

-**A Pre-Nuptial Investigation**. This is done in an interview form by the priest who is handling your marriage arrangements. This should be completed two to six months before your Wedding date.

### **FOR CATHOLICS:**

-**A Baptismal Certificate**, issued from the Parish where you were baptized, dated less than six months before the Wedding.

-The priest may ask you to obtain from your parish a “Letter of Freedom” to marry. If St. Francis is your parish, this document is not needed.

-If both parties are not presently registered in St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the priest might request a “Letter of Permission” from the parish in which you are currently registered which gives permission for you to marry in our church.

### **FOR NON-CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS:**

-**A Baptismal Certificate** from the church in which you were baptized. Although it does not have to be a recent copy, it must bear the raised seal of the church from where it is issued.

-The priest may ask you to obtain a “Letter of Freedom” to marry by the pastor/minister of your church stating that you are free to marry. This letter should bear the raised seal of the church. **OR**, the priest may ask you to obtain a notarized letter from a parent or family member stating that you have never been married.

### **FOR NON-CHRISTIANS:**

-The priest may ask you to obtain a letter from the Rabbi/minister of your church/synagogue stating that you are free to marry; that is to say, that to the best of their knowledge, you have never married before. This letter should bear the raised seal of your church/synagogue. **OR**, The priest may ask you to obtain a notarized letter from a parent or family member stating that you have never been married.

## **The Marriage License**

In order to be married in any church, the couple must secure a valid marriage license from the state of Pennsylvania, or the city of Philadelphia. Couples may present a license from any of the counties in Pennsylvania; marriage licenses from any other state besides Pennsylvania are not valid for marriage in the state of Pennsylvania. Please make sure your license is issued at a state-sanctioned license agency.

Couples should be careful to make arrangements so that the license is valid on the date of the Wedding.

**The marriage license must be presented to the priest one week prior to the Wedding.**

Couples are asked not to fill in any information once they have picked up their license. Present the license to the priest as you received it and he will fill in the appropriate information and mail it back to the proper authority.

**A couple cannot be married in St. Francis of Assisi Church without a valid state marriage license.**

Couples may secure their marriage license at any County Courthouse in the state of Pennsylvania. The marriage license fee, which varies from county to county, must be paid in cash only. Listed below are the locations and telephone numbers of several local Courthouses:

**Delaware County Courthouse**  
Front and Veteran Square  
Media, PA  
(610) 891-4404  
Monday through Friday  
8:30am - 4:00pm

**Bucks County Courthouse**  
Main and Court Streets  
Doylestown, PA  
(215) 348-6000  
Monday through Friday  
8:15am - 3:45pm

**Philadelphia City Hall**  
Broad and Market Streets  
Philadelphia, PA  
(215) 686-2233  
Monday through Friday  
8:30am - 4:00pm

**Montgomery County Courthouse**  
Airy and Swede Streets  
Norristown, PA  
(610) 292-4965  
Monday through Friday  
8:30am - 3:30pm

**Chester County Courthouse**  
High and Market Streets  
West Chester, PA  
(610) 344-6335  
Monday through Friday  
8:30am - 4:00pm

## **A White Aisle Runner**

A white aisle runner has been used in the past to help keep the bottom of the bridal gown clean while walking down the stone or marble church aisle. **Aisle runners are permitted in St. Francis of Assisi Church.**

## **Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, Flower Petals, Balloons**

In the past, couples were often greeted as they exited the church, after their vows, by their guests who threw rice or birdseed in their path. This, unfortunately, poses a threat to the safety of your guests, as well as for those who may be soon visiting the church. **We ask that your guests do not throw rice or birdseed.**

In recent times, couples have substituted rice and birdseed with confetti, flower petals, and/or balloons. Unfortunately, these elements often pose a hazard to the environment. **We respectfully ask that neither confetti, flower petals nor balloons be thrown or released on church property.**

## **Church Offerings**

For Weddings held at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, we ask a Church offering of \$150.00 if you are members of the parish and if you are a non-parishioner \$300.

We ask that each of the servers be given at least \$10.00 for their services during the Wedding Ceremony. There are two Servers assigned to each Wedding. The Sacristan who sets up the Church for your wedding should receive \$25.00.

The fees for the organist and cantor should be discussed when you make music arrangements with Mr. Ken Rowe.

**All of these fees should be ready for presentation on the night of the Wedding rehearsal.**

## **Altar Servers**

It sometimes happens that a Bride or Groom has nieces, nephews, cousins, etc., who are Altar Servers in their home parish and wish them to serve their Wedding at St. Francis. This is permissible. However, it is preferred that **at least one** Altar Server be from our parish. If you are bringing in Servers, we ask that you notify the priest who is handling your Wedding arrangements **no later than two months before the Wedding.** Once our schedule for Servers is announced, it must be honored. If you wish to use specific Altar Servers from our parish, please make sure you inform the priest at least two months before the Wedding date.

## **Photography/Videography**

In order to capture the memory of your Wedding Ceremony, you may wish to employ the use of a photographer and/or videographer. While pictures and videos are permitted in the church during the Ceremony, certain restrictions do apply.

The photographer/videographer should make every effort to ensure that s/he does not impede, obstruct or in any way distract or disrupt the Ceremony.

The photographer/videographer should not be walking around the church once the Ceremony has begun. (The Ceremony begins when the priest leaves the Sacristy and waits for the bridal party to enter the Church.) Video equipment should be stationary, and may not be carried or wheeled around the church at any time during the Ceremony. Flood lights, flashes, or bright lights are not permitted. The photographer/videographer must work with the natural light and the light supplied by the fixtures in the Church.

The Photographer/videographer should see the priest in the sacristy before the Ceremony with any questions regarding what they can and cannot do in the church.

**Pictures are not permitted in the church after the Ceremony.** Out of respect for other ceremonies or Sacraments which may be celebrated in the church, we ask that you please do not ask for an exception to this rule.

**Couples are asked to present the enclosed letters to their photographer and/or videographer when they meet with him/her to plan his/her services.**

### **Regulations regarding flowers**

Flowers are often used to make an occasion more special and enjoyable. Certainly this is true for Weddings. Couples are encouraged to decorate the church, either with the help of friends or through the service of a local florist. When decorating, or ordering flowers a couple should be aware of the following regulations:

**-Flowers purchased for the church should remain in the church after the Ceremony.**

-If your Wedding is to take place during the seasons of Advent or Lent, certain regulations may apply. Please speak to the priest who is handling your Wedding before ordering flowers during these liturgical seasons.

## **Regulations regarding flowers** (con't)

-If you request the florist to decorate the pews with bows, please realize that tape of any kind, or thumbtacks are not permitted to be used. Bows may **only** be secured with rubber bands or pew clips.

-The Sign of Peace during a Wedding Ceremony is meant to be an external sign of an inward disposition to reconcile ourselves with the Lord; it is not meant to be a time to greet family or friends. With this in mind however, the giving of roses/flowers to parents/grandparents/relatives is permitted during the Wedding Ceremony. Also, these flowers can very appropriately be given to your parents and families after the Ceremony or as a presentation during the reception.

**Couples are asked to present the enclosed letter to their florist when they meet with him/her to plan his/her services.**

# **INFORMATION REGARDING**

## **The Wedding Ceremony**

### **Music**

Certainly music makes a Wedding Ceremony a much more memorable event. When planning your Wedding, we ask that you speak with our parish Music Director, Mr. Ken Rowe, (610) 543-0848, before you choose any of the music for your celebration. Church regulations restrict the music which may be used at Weddings in the Church. Although it may be seemingly appropriate, secular music, or music not specifically written for Catholic worship services, is never permitted to be used at a Wedding.

### **The Unity Candle**

In recent times, a Unity Candle has become a common element in a Wedding Ceremony. Church regulations, however, do not recognize this as a part of the Wedding liturgy.

### **Presentation of flowers to Mary**

Brides often wish to present flowers to Mary as an external manifestation of their devotion to the Mother of God. If a bride wishes to do this, it takes place after the final blessing of the Mass. It is the responsibility of the bride to supply the flowers for the presentation.

**Presentation of flowers to Mary is completely optional.**

## **A Nuptial Service**

A Wedding Ceremony may take place either at a Nuptial Service or at a Nuptial Mass.

The Nuptial Service consists of opening introductions, a Liturgy of the Word, Exchange of vows, Exchange of rings, Prayer of the Faithful, Our Father, Nuptial Blessing, Closing Prayer and final blessing. The Unity Candle Ceremony or Presentations of Flowers to Mary may follow the final blessing.

A Nuptial Service is most appropriate when one of the couple is a non-Catholic Christian, or when both parties of the couple are Catholic, but do not actively practice their faith.

**The church states that only a Wedding Service be permitted when one of the couple is a non-Christian.**

Whether a Nuptial Service or Nuptial Mass is more appropriate will be discussed with, and by, the priest when you meet with him to discuss details of your Wedding.

A Candle-Light Ceremony (lining the aisle with candles) **is never permitted** in our Church due to insurance regulations and the threat that it might pose to the Church environment.

## **A Nuptial Mass**

A Nuptial Mass consists of the Mass with the elements of the Wedding Service intermingled. It is certainly appropriate to be married during a Nuptial Mass when the couple actively practices their faith.

Although it is permitted to have a Nuptial Mass when one of the couple is a non-Catholic Christian, the couple should seriously consider this option. They should take into consideration the fact that their non-Catholic guests (which usually includes most of the family of the non-Catholic) are not permitted to receive Holy Communion. The non-Catholic member of the couple is also not permitted to receive Holy Communion.

Even during a time of great joy, such as a Wedding, the church does not allow non-Catholics to receive Holy Communion. This regulation is applicable to the non-Catholic member of the couple, non-Catholic members of the bridal party, non-Catholic family members, as well as any non-Catholic friends or guests.

Whether a Nuptial Service or Nuptial Mass is more appropriate will be discussed with, and by, the priest when you meet with him to discuss details of your Wedding.

## **Readers at the Wedding Ceremony**

It is very appropriate to have family members or friends read at your Wedding. If you do select family members or friends to read at your Wedding, they must be active, practicing members of our Catholic faith. Non-Catholic Christians or non-Christians are not permitted to read at a Wedding Ceremony.

You may have up to four readers during the Wedding: The first reader will read the first reading, the second reader will read the second reading, the third reader will read the Prayer of the Faithful, and the fourth reader (if one is chosen), will read the Responsorial Psalm. (The Responsorial Psalm is usually sung by the cantor; it is only read when there is a “need” for a fourth family member or friend to read.) It is permissible for one reader to read more than one of the readings.

The reader should utilize the copies of readings found in this booklet to familiarize him/her with the reading(s).

## **Extra-Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**

It sometimes happens that members of the couple’s families are Extra-Ordinary Ministers in their home parish and wish for them to serve as an Extra-Ordinary Minister at the Wedding. Since Extra-Ordinary Ministers are commissioned for their own parish only, it is not proper or permitted for them to serve in any parish besides their own. Hence, their offering their services as an Extra-Ordinary Minister at the Wedding would not be possible.

If it happens that one of your guests is an Extra-Ordinary Minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, and there is a genuine need for their services, they would be most welcome to assist the priest. If they are a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, please ask them to speak with the priest one half hour before the Wedding in the church sacristy.

## **Wedding Ceremony Booklets**

Sometimes a couple wishes to assemble a booklet to be used in the church during the Wedding Ceremony. The booklet usually contains the different parts of the Ceremony, songs, as well as the names of the bridal party. If a couple is planning to distribute a Wedding booklet in the church **it must be submitted to the priest who is handling the Wedding arrangements one month before the Wedding, and should only be reproduced once the priest has approved its contents.** A Wedding booklet can sometimes be an unnecessary expense. **A Wedding booklet is never required; it is always optional.**

## **Planning the Wedding Liturgy**

The couple is encouraged to choose several of the parts of the Wedding. Enclosed in this booklet are the selections offered for the Wedding Ceremony. The Couple is asked to choose the following:

**-THE FIRST READING** (a reading from the Old Testament). Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "OT-" in the top, right-hand corner. If a guest is going to read this, he/she should familiarize him/herself with the reading by using the enclosed copy.

**-THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM.** (If it is to be sung, please select with the Music Director; if it is to be recited by one of your guests, please select from the enclosed selections). Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "RP-" in the top, right-hand corner. If a guest is going to read this, he/she should familiarize him/herself with the reading by using the enclosed copy.

**-THE SECOND READING** (a reading from the New Testament). Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "NT-" in the top, right-hand corner. If a guest is going to read this, he/she should familiarize him/herself with the reading by using the enclosed copy.

- **THE GOSPEL.** Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "GOS- " in the top, right-hand corner.

**-THE FORM OF EXCHANGE OF VOWS (CONSENT).** You may select whether you repeat the vows, or simply respond, "I DO". Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "VOWS-" in the top, right-hand corner.

**-THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL.** Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "POF- " in the top, right-hand corner. If a guest is to read the Prayer of the Faithful, he/she should familiarize him/herself with the copy of the Prayer found in this booklet.

**-THE NUPTIAL BLESSING.** Selections are found in this booklet, labeled "NB-" in the top, right-hand corner.

**All of the proposed selections for these choices can be found in this booklet. You are asked to make your choices, and then fill out the enclosed form. This form must be presented to the priest at the Wedding rehearsal, or earlier, if it is convenient to you.**

Dear Photographer,

The couple presenting this letter to you has chosen you to be the photographer at their Wedding to take place in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Springfield, Pennsylvania. We, the priests of St. Francis of Assisi, are anxious that the Wedding Ceremony will be carried out in a reverent, prayerful, undisturbed manner.

In order that our objective is realized, we respectfully ask that you observe the following regulations set forth for photographers in our church:

The photographer should make every effort to ensure that s/he does not impede, obstruct or in any way distract or disrupt the Ceremony at any time.

The photographer should **not** be walking around the church once the Ceremony has begun. (The Ceremony begins when the priest leaves the Sacristy and waits for the bridal party to enter the Church.)

Photography equipment may not be wheeled around the church at any time during the Ceremony.

The photographer is **not** permitted to walk in the center aisle during the procession; the photographer is not permitted to enter the Sanctuary (the Altar area) at any time during the Ceremony.

Flood lights, flashes, or bright lights are not permitted; the photographer must work with the light supplied by the fixtures of the Church and natural light.

The photographer should see the priest in the sacristy **before** the Ceremony with any questions regarding what they can and cannot do in the church.

**Pictures are not permitted in the church after the Ceremony.** Out of respect for other ceremonies or Sacraments which may be celebrated in the church, **we ask that you please not ask for an exception to this rule.** Pictures are, however, permitted to be taken on the grounds of the church property, presuming, of course, that weather is cooperative.

If you have any further questions please speak with the priest when you see him in the sacristy before the Ceremony begins. We extend our thanks to you for helping to make the Wedding ceremonies at St. Francis of Assisi Church a prayerful act of worship.

*Fr. Salvatore Riccio*  
Pastor

*Fr. Mark Kunigonis*  
Parochial Vicar

Dear Videographer,

The couple presenting this letter to you has chosen you to be the videographer at their Wedding to take place in St. Francis of Assisi Church in Springfield, Pennsylvania. We, the priests of St. Francis of Assisi, are anxious that the Wedding Ceremony will be carried out in a reverent, prayerful, undisturbed manner.

In order that our objective is realized, we respectfully ask that you observe the following regulations set forth for videographers in our church:

The videographer should make every effort to ensure that s/he does not impede, obstruct or in any way distract or disrupt the Ceremony at any time.

The videographer should **not** be walking around the church once the Ceremony has begun. (The Ceremony begins when the priest leaves the Sacristy and waits for the bridal party to enter the Church.)

Videography equipment may not be wheeled or carried around the church **at any time** during the Ceremony.

The videographer is not permitted to walk in the center aisle during the procession; the videographer is not permitted to enter the Sanctuary (the Altar area) **at any time** during the Ceremony.

Flood lights, flashes, or bright lights are not permitted; the videographer must work with the light supplied by the fixtures of the Church and natural light.

The videographer should see the priest in the sacristy **before** the Ceremony with any questions regarding what they can and cannot do in the church.

**Pictures are not permitted in the church after the Ceremony.** Out of respect for other ceremonies or Sacraments which may be celebrated in the church, **we ask that you please not ask for an exception to this rule.** Pictures are, however, permitted to be taken on the grounds of the church property, presuming, of course, that weather is cooperative.

If you have any further questions please speak with the priest when you see him in the sacristy before the Ceremony begins. We extend our thanks to you for helping to make the Wedding ceremonies at St. Francis of Assisi Church a prayerful act of worship.

Dear Florist,

The couple presenting this letter to you has chosen you to be the florist for their Wedding to take place in St. Francis of Assisi in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. We, the priests of St. Francis of Assisi, are anxious that the Wedding Ceremony will be carried out in a reverent, prayerful, undisturbed manner.

In order that our objective is realized, we respectfully ask that you observe the following regulations set forth for florists by our parish:

Flowers may be delivered at certain times. For a Friday evening Wedding, the church is usually opened until 3:00pm each day. For Saturday Weddings the church is not opened until later in the morning. We ask that you call the rectory before delivering flowers; if the church is not opened, arrangements can be made for the delivery.

If the couple has asked you to decorate the pews with bows or flowers, we ask that you **do not secure them with tape (of any kind) or tacks**. Decorations on the pews may only be secured with rubber bands, ribbon or pew clips.

**Balloons or flower petals are not permitted to be used, tossed, thrown or released at any time while the bridal party is on church property.**

Aisle runners **are permitted** in our church.

Artificial flower arrangements are not permitted to be used in the church.

Presentation of flowers to parents/grandparents/family members is permitted during the Wedding Ceremony.

If you have any further questions regarding floral regulations at St. Francis of Assisi Church, please feel free to contact one of the priests at the Rectory. We extend our thanks to you for helping to make the Wedding ceremonies at St. Francis Church a prayerful act of worship.

**Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET**

Please make sure this sheet is returned to the priest by the Wedding rehearsal.

Bride: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Wedding Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Maid/Matron of Honor: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Best Man: \_\_\_\_\_

Bride's Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Groom's Parents: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Ushers (not including Best Man): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Bridesmaids (not including Maid of Honor): \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a Ring Bearer?            YES            NO

Is there a Flower Girl?            YES            NO

Others in Bridal Party: \_\_\_\_\_

+            +            +            +            +

**Selections for the Wedding Ceremony**

I. **The First Reading:** OT - \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

It will be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ It will be read by the priest.

II. **The Responsorial Psalm:** RP - \_\_\_\_\_ / Psalm \_\_\_\_\_

It will be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ It will be read by the priest.

\_\_\_ It will be sung by the cantor.

Please complete this form on the opposite side of this paper.    >

III. **The Second Reading:** NT - \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

It will be read by: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ It will be read by the priest.

IV. The Gospel: GOS - \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

V. The Exchange of Vows:

Please indicate which form of Vows you wish to use.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1A REPEAT: "I, \_\_, take you, \_\_, to be my..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 1B REPEAT: "I, \_\_, take you, \_\_, for my lawful..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 2A "I DO": " \_\_, do you take \_\_ to be your..."

\_\_\_\_\_ 2B "I DO": " \_\_, do you take \_\_ for your lawful..."

VI. Prayer for the Blessing of Wedding Rings

\_\_\_\_\_ A – May the Lord bless + these Rings

\_\_\_\_\_ B – Lord, Bless these rings which we bless in your Name+

\_\_\_\_\_ C – Lord, Bless and consecrate N. & N in their love

VII. The Prayer of the Faithful: POF - \_\_\_\_\_.

It will be read by: \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ It will be read by the priest.

VIII. The Nuptial Blessing: NB - \_\_\_\_\_.

IX. The Final Blessing

\_\_\_A \_\_\_B \_\_\_C \_\_\_D

Will the couple light a Unity Candle? \_\_\_\_\_

Will there be a Presentation of Flowers to Mary by the Bride after the Final Blessing? \_\_\_\_\_

If it is a Nuptial Mass, there will be \_\_\_\_\_ Offertory Gifts.

Opening prayer: A B C D

Prayer over the gifts: A B C

Preface: A B C

Prayer after Communion A B C

Solemn Blessing A B C

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our own 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 divine image 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.**

## **OT READING 2- Genesis 2: 18-24**

### **A reading from the Book of Genesis**

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate.

So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him.

So the Lord God made the man fall into deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man.

The man exclaimed:

"This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the Book of Genesis**

The servant of Abraham said to Laban: "I bowed down on 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 time 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 (beer - La-hi - roy) and was living in the region of the Negeb. One day toward evening he went out...in the field, and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching. Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?" "That is my master," replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil.

The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her, and thus she became his wife. In his love for her Isaac found solace after the death of his mother Sarah.

## **The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the Book of Tobit**

Tobiah said to Raphael, "Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah."

Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy: "Eat, 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."

Tobiah answered, "I will eat or drink nothing until you set aside what belongs to me." Raguel said to him, "I will do it. She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses. Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven! Take your kinswoman; from now on you are her love, and she is your beloved. She is yours today and ever after. And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May He grant you mercy and peace." Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him. He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words: "Take her according to the law. According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife. Take her and bring her back safely to your father. And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity." He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll, so that he might draw up a marriage contract stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife according to the decree of the Mosaic law.

After this they began to eat and drink.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the Book of Tobit**

On their Wedding night Tobiah arose from the 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.” She 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!” and went to bed for the night.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**OT - 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 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.

Set me as a seal on your heart,  
as a seal on our 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**

## **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 blessing 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.**

**A reading from the Book of 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 kinsmen  
how to know the Lord.  
All, from the least to the greatest,  
shall know me,  
says the Lord.

**The Word of the Lord.**

Reader: **The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

All respond: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

**Happy the nation whose God is the Yahweh,  
the people he has chosen for His heritage.  
But see how the eye of Yahweh in on those who fear Him,  
on those who rely on His love.**

All respond: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

**Our soul awaits Yahweh,  
He is our help and shield;  
our hearts rejoice in Him,  
we trust in His Holy Name.**

All respond: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

**Yahweh, let Your love rest on us  
as our hope has rested in You.**

All respond: The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

**Reader: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**All respond: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**I will bless the Lord at all times;  
His praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord;  
the lowly will hear me and be glad.**

**All respond: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**Glorify the Lord with me,  
let us together extol His name.  
I sought the Lord, and He answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.**

**All respond: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**Look to Him that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out, the Lord heard,  
and from all His distress He saved him.**

**All respond: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear Him, and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is;  
happy the man who takes refuge in Him.**

**All respond: I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**Reader: The Lord is kind and merciful.**

All respond: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Bless the Lord, Oh my soul;  
and all my being, bless His Holy Name.  
Bless the Lord, Oh my soul,  
and forget not all His benefits.**

All respond: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.**

All respond: The Lord is kind and merciful.

**But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity  
to eternity toward those who fear Him,  
and His justice toward children's children  
among those who keep His covenant.**

All respond: The Lord is kind and merciful.

## RP - 4 / Psalm 112

**Reader: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.**

All respond: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who greatly delights in His commands.  
His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth;  
the upright generation shall be blessed.**

All respond: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**Wealth and riches shall be in his house;  
his generosity shall endure forever.  
He dawns through their darkness, a light for the upright;  
he is gracious and merciful and just.**

All respond: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**Well for the man who is gracious and lends,  
who conducts his affairs with justice;  
He shall never be moved;  
the just man shall be in everlasting remembrance.**

All respond: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**An evil report he shall not fear;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.  
His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear  
till he looks down on his foes.**

All respond: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**Lavishly he gives to the poor;  
his generosity shall endure forever;  
his horn shall be exalted in glory.**

All respond: Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.

**Reader: Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

All respond: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

**Happy are you who fear the Lord,  
who walk in His ways!  
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;  
happy shall you be, and favored.**

All respond: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

**Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the recesses of your home;  
Your children like olive plants  
around your table.**

All respond: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

**Behold, thus is the man blessed  
who fears the Lord.  
The Lord bless you from Zion:  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.**

All respond: Happy are those who fear the Lord.

**Reader: The Lord is compassionate to all His creatures.**

All respond: The Lord is compassionate to all His creatures.

**The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
The Lord is good to all  
and compassionate toward all His works.**

All respond: The Lord is compassionate to all His creatures.

**Let all Your works give You praise, Oh Lord,  
and let all Your faithful ones bless you.  
The eyes of all look hopefully to You,  
and You give them their food in due season.**

All respond: The Lord is compassionate to all His creatures.

**The Lord is just in all His ways  
and holy in all His works.  
The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,  
to all who call upon Him in truth.**

All respond: The Lord is compassionate to all His creatures.

**Reader: Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

All respond: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise Him in the heights;  
Praise Him, all you His angels,  
Praise Him, all you His hosts.**

All respond: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**Praise Him, sun and moon;  
Praise Him, all you shining stars.  
Praise Him, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

All respond: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**You mountains and all you hills,  
you fruit trees and all you cedars;  
You wild beasts and all tame animals,  
you creeping things and winged fowl.**

All respond: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**Let the king of the earth and all peoples,  
the princes and all the judges of the earth,  
Young men too, and maidens,  
old men and boys.  
Praise the name of the Lord for His name alone is exalted**

All respond: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**His majesty is above earth and heaven,  
and He has lifted his the horn above the people.**

All respond: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

If God is for us, who can be against us?  
Is it possible that He who did not spare His own Son  
but handed Him over for the sake of us all  
will not grant us all besides?  
Who shall bring a charge against God's chosen ones?  
God, who justifies?  
Who shall condemn them?  
Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up,  
who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger,  
or nakedness, or danger, or the sword?

Yet in all this we are more than conquerors  
because of Him who has loved us.  
For I am certain that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor principalities,  
neither the present nor the future, nor powers,  
neither height nor depth nor any other creature,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

And now, brothers,  
I beg you through the mercy of God  
to offer your bodies  
as a living sacrifice  
holy and acceptable to God,  
your spiritual worship.  
Do not conform yourselves to this age  
but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,  
so that you may judge what is God's will,  
what is good, pleasing and perfect.

Your love must be sincere.  
Detest what is evil,  
cling to what is good.  
Love one another with the affection of brothers.  
Anticipate each other in showing respect.  
Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit;  
He whom you serve is the Lord.  
Rejoice in hope,  
be patient under trial,  
persevere in prayer.  
Look on the needs of the saints as your own;  
be generous in offering hospitality.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

The body is not for immortality;  
it is for the Lord,  
and the Lord is for the body.  
God, who raised up the Lord,  
will raise us also by His power.

Do you not see that your bodies are members of Christ?  
But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with  
Him.

Shun lewd conduct.

Every other sin a man commits is outside the body,  
but the fornicator sins against his own body.

You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy  
Spirit,

who is within - the Spirit you have received from God.

You are not your own.

You have been purchased, and at a price.

So glorify God in your body.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **NT - 4**

### **A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing.

If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are and knowing everything and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all.

If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love never fails.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians**

Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved you.

Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be submissive to their husbands as if to the Lord because the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of His body the church, as well as its savior. As the church submits to Christ, so wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church. He gave Himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the word, to present to Himself a glorious church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort. Husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Observe that no one ever hates his own flesh; no, he nourishes it and takes care of it as Christ cares for the church - for we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cling to his wife, and the two shall be made into one.”

This is a great foreshadowing; I mean that it refers to Christ and the church.

In any case, each one should love his wife as he loves himself, the wife for her part showing respect for her husband.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians**

Because you are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,  
cloth yourself with heartfelt mercy,  
with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.  
Bear with one another;  
forgive whatever grievances you have against one  
another.

For give as the Lord has forgiven you.  
Over all these virtues put on love,  
which binds the rest together and makes them perfect.

Christ's peace must reign in your hearts,  
since as members of the one body  
you have been called to that peace.

Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness.

Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you.

In wisdom made perfect,  
instruct and admonish one another.

Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms,  
hymns, and inspired songs.

Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action,  
do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Give thanks to God the Father through Him.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the first letter of Peter**

You married women must obey your husbands, so that any of them who do not believe in the word of the gospel may be won over apart from preaching, through their wives' conduct. They have only to observe the reverent purity of your way of life. The affection of an elaborate hairdress, the wearing of golden jewelry or the donning of rich robes is not for you. Your adornment is rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the unfading beauty of a calm and gentle disposition. This is precious in God's eyes. The holy women of past ages used to adorn themselves in this way, reliant on God and obedient to their husbands - for example, Sarah, who was subject to Abraham and called him her master. You are her children when you do what is right and let no fears alarm you.

You husbands, too, must show consideration for those who share your lives. Treat women with respect as the weaker sex, heirs just as much as you to the gracious gift of life. If you do so, nothing will keep your prayers from being answered.

In summary, then all of you should be like-minded, sympathetic, loving toward one another, kindly disposed, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult. Return a blessing instead. This you have been called to so, that you may receive a blessing as your inheritance.

## **The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the first letter of John**

Little children,  
let us love in deed and in truth  
and not merely talk about it.  
This is our way of knowing we are committed to the truth  
and are at peace before Him  
no matter what our conscience may charge us with;  
for God is greater than our hearts  
and all is known to Him.

Beloved,  
if our consciences have nothing to charge us with  
we can be sure that God is with us  
and that we will receive at His hands whatever we ask.

Why?

Because we are keeping His commandments  
and doing what is pleasing in His sight.

His commandment is this:

we are to believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ,  
and we are to love one another as He commanded us.

Those who keep His commandments remain in Him  
and He in them.

And this is how we know that He remains in us:  
from the Spirit that He gave us.

**The Word of the Lord.**

**A reading from the first letter of John**

Beloved,  
let us love one another  
because love is of God;  
everyone who loves is begotten of God  
and has knowledge of God.  
The man without love has known nothing of God,  
for God is love.  
God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:  
He sent His only Son to the world  
that we might have life through Him.  
Love, then, consists in this:  
not that we have loved God  
but that He has loved us  
and has sent His Son as an offering for our sins.  
Beloved,  
if God has loved us so,  
we must have the same love for one another.  
No one has ever seen God.  
Yet if we love one another  
God dwells in us,  
and His love is brought to perfection in us.

**The Word of the Lord.**

## **A reading from the book of Revelations**

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.**

## **A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew**

When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountainside. After He had sat down His disciples gathered around Him, and He began to teach them:

“How blest are the poor in spirit: the reign of God is theirs.

Blest too are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled.

Blest are lowly; they shall inherit the land.

Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness;  
they shall have their fill.

Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs.

Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God.

Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called the sons of God.

Blest are those persecuted for holiness' sake;  
the reign of God is theirs.

Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.  
Be glad and rejoice, for your reward is great in heaven.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to His disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.  
But what if salt goes flat?  
How can you restore its flavor?  
Then it is good for nothing  
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

“You are the light of the world.  
A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.  
Men do not light a lamp  
and then put it under a bushel basket.  
They set it on a stand  
where it gives light to all in the house.  
In the same way, your light must shine before men  
so that they may see goodness in your acts  
and give praise to your heavenly Father.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the gospel according to Matthew**

Some Pharisees came up to Jesus and said,  
to test him,

“May a man divorce his wife for any reason whatever?”

He replied,

“Have you not read that at the beginning  
the Creator made them male and female and declared,  
‘For this reason  
a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to his  
wife,  
and the two shall become as one?’

Thus they are no longer two but one flesh.

Therefore, let no man separate what God has joined.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus said to His disciples:

“None of those who cry out, ‘Lord, Lord’  
will enter the kingdom of God  
but only the one who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Anyone who hears My words  
and puts them into practice  
is like the wise man who built his house on rock.  
When the rainy season set in,  
the torrents came and the winds blew and buffeted his house.  
It did not collapse; it had been solidly set on rock.

Anyone who hears My words  
but does not put them into practice  
is like the foolish man who built his house on sandy ground.  
The rains fell and lashed against his house.  
It collapsed under all this  
and was completely ruined.”

Jesus finished this discourse  
and left the crowds spellbound at His teaching.  
The reason was that He taught with authority  
and not like their scribes.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew**

One of them, a lawyer,  
in an attempt to trip Jesus up,  
asked Him,  
“Teacher, which commandment of the law is the  
greatest?”

Jesus said to him,  
“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God  
with your whole heart,  
with your whole soul,  
and with all your mind.’

“This is the greatest and first commandment.  
the second is like it:  
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

“On these two commandments the whole law is based,  
and the prophets as well.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the 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.**

## **A reading from the Gospel according to John**

There was a Wedding at Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and His disciples had likewise been invited to the celebration.

At a certain point the wine ran out and Jesus' mother told Him,  
"They have no more wine."

Jesus replied,

"Woman, how does this concern of yours involve me?  
My hour has not yet come."

His mother instructed those waiting on table,

"Do whatever He tells you."

As prescribed for Jewish ceremonial washings,  
there were at hand six stone water jars,  
each one holding fifteen to twenty-five gallons.

"Fill those jars with water," Jesus ordered,  
at which they filled them to the brim.

"Now," He said,

"draw some out and take it to the waiter in charge."

They did as He instructed them.

The waiter in charge tasted the water made wine,  
without knowing where it had come from;

only the waiters knew, since they had drawn the water.

Then the waiter in charge called the groom over  
and remarked to him:

"People usually serve the choice wine first;

then when the guests have been drinking awhile, a lesser vintage.

What you have done is keep the choice wine until now."

Jesus performed this first of His signs at Cana in Galilee.

Thus did He reveal His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the gospel according to John**

Jesus said to His Disciples:

“As the Father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.  
Live on in My love.  
You will live in My love  
if you keep My commandments,  
even as I have kept My Father’s commandments,  
and live in His love.  
All this I tell you  
that My joy may be yours  
and your joy may be complete.  
This is My commandment:  
love one another  
as I have loved you.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to His Disciples:

“This is My commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
There is no 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 speak to you as slaves,  
for a slave does not know what his master is about.  
Instead, I call you friends,  
since I have made known to you all that  
I heard from My Father.  
It was not you who chose Me,  
it was I who chose you  
to go forth and bear fruit.  
Your fruit must endure,  
so that all you ask the Father in My name  
He will give you.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**A reading from the Gospel according to John**

Jesus looked up to heaven and said:

“Father, I do not pray for them alone.

I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their word,  
that all may be one

as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You;

I pray that they may be one in Us,

that the world may believe that You sent Me.

I have given them the glory you gave Me

that they may be one, as We are one -

I living in them, You living in Me -

that their unity may be complete.

So shall the world know that you sent Me,

and that You loved them as You loved Me.

“Father, all those You gave Me

I would have in My company where I am,

to see this glory of Mine which is Your gift to Me,

because of the love You bore Me before the world began.

Just Father,

the world has not known You,

but I have known You;

and these men have known that You sent Me.

To them I have revealed Your name,

and I will continue to reveal it

so that Your love for Me may live in them,

and I may live in them.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

## VOWS - 1 A

### REPEATING THE VOWS:

#### **The Groom repeats after the priest:**

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

#### **The Bride repeats after the priest:**

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

\_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_

## VOWS - 1 B

#### **The Groom repeats after the priest:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

#### **The Bride repeats after the priest:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, take you \_\_\_\_\_ for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

## VOWS 2 A

### **RESPONDING "I DO":**

**The priest will ask the Groom:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your wife? Do you promise to be true to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life?

**The Groom will then respond, "I do".**

**The priest will then ask the Bride:**

\_\_\_\_\_, do you take \_\_\_\_\_ to be your husband? Do you promise to be true to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life?

**The Bride will then respond, "I do".**

\_\_\_\_\_ **OR** \_\_\_\_\_

## VOWS - 2 B

**The priest will ask the Groom:**

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

**The Groom will then respond: "I do".**

**The priest will ask the Bride:**

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

**The Bride will then respond: "I do".**

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Priest:** Now that we have heard God's word in the Bible and felt His presence in this exchange of vows, let us present to God our Father these petitions for people in the world today:

Reader: Our response today is, "Lord, hear us."

For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and clergy everywhere, that they may lead us to a deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear us."**

For our president and all world leaders of governments, that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear us."**

For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear us."**

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others and good health until a ripe old age, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear us."**

For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged or oppressed, that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear us."**

For those who have died, (especially \_\_\_\_\_) that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear us."**

**Priest:** Oh God our Father in heaven, Your Son taught us to ask, seek and to knock. We have just done so, confident that you will now look upon our many needs, consider our trusting faith, and in your great love, grant these requests which we present through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Priest:** We have listened to the Word of God. Let us now ask God to listen to us, to bless our words of prayer which we offer for the people of the world.

**Reader:** Our response today is "Lord, hear our prayer".

For leaders of Church and state, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households... that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us: let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: Lord hear our prayer.**

For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ who married today, for those who will marry tomorrow....that they may savor the joy of being together, warm love and children, a long life and friends, and a new day, each day: let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: Lord hear our prayer.**

For all young and single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: Lord hear our prayer.**

For the lonely old, and the lonely young, for the hungry rich man, and the hungry old man, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weak man in all of us, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: Lord hear our prayer.**

For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey, and for all those who have gone before us. For the fulfillment of all their unfilled desires, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: Lord hear our prayer.**

**Priest:** These are our words of prayer today for all human beings and ourselves. Tomorrow there will be others. Lord God, the beloved of mankind, who has first loved us, give our words by your listening the power of your word so that all things may be accomplished sweetly and gently for the happiness of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Priest: God has given us His promise in the word of Scripture. (\_\_\_\_) and (\_\_\_\_) have given their promise to each other in their Marriage. This hour of promise is also a time of prayer. We turn to God our Father and make our response by praying after each petition: "Lord hear our prayer":**

Reader:

For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the promise of marriage, let us pray to the Lord:

**All respond: "Lord, hear our prayer"**

**Priest: Father, You have chosen us and given us Your love, the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Hear our prayers today and keep us open. May our faith issue forth in action, our love show itself in deeds, and our hope give us courage. We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Nuptial Blessing, 1:**

My dear friends, let us turn to the Lord and pray that He will bless with his grace this woman (OR, Name of Bride) now married in Christ to this man (OR, Name of Groom) and that He will unite in love the couple He has joined in this Holy bond.

Father, by Your power You have made everything out of nothing. In the beginning You created the universe and made mankind in Your own likeness.

You gave man the constant help of woman so that man and woman should no longer be two, but one flesh, and You teach us that what You have united may never be divided.

Father, You have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and His church.

Father by Your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by Original Sin or washed away in the flood.

Look with love upon this woman, Your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks Your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. may she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scriptures.

May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to a life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves His bride, the Church.

Father, keep them always true to Your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian life. Give them the strength which comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others.

(Bless them with children and help them to be good parents. May they live to see their children's children.)

And, after a happy old age, grant them fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Nuptial Blessing, 2:**

Let us pray to the Lord for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ who come to God's altar at the beginning of their married life so that they may always be united in love for each other:

Holy Father, You created mankind in Your own image and made man and woman to be joined as husband and wife in union of body and heart and so fulfill their mission in this world.

Father, to reveal the plan of Your love, You made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between You and Your people. In the fulfillment of this Sacrament, the marriage of Christian man and woman is a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church. Father stretch out Your hand, and bless \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Lord , grant that as they begin to live this Sacrament they may share with each other the gifts of Your love and become one in heart and mind as witnesses to Your presence in their marriage. Help them to create a home together (and give them children to be formed by the gospel and to have a place in Your family.)

Give Your blessing to \_\_\_\_\_ , Your daughter, as that she may be a good wife (and mother), caring for the home, faithful in love for her husband, generous and kind.

Give Your blessing to \_\_\_\_\_ , Your son, so that he may be a faithful husband (and a good father).

Father, grant that as they come together at Your table on earth, so they may one day have the joy of sharing Your feast in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Nuptial Blessing, 3:**

My dear friends, let us ask God for His continued blessings upon this bridegroom and his bride (**OR \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_**).

Holy Father, creator of the universe,  
maker of man and woman in Your likeness,  
source of blessing for married life,  
we humbly pray to You for this woman  
who today is united with her husband in this Sacrament of marriage.

May your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband  
so that they may together rejoice in Your gift of married love  
(and enrich Your church with their children).

Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy  
and turn to you in their sorrows.

May they be glad that you help them in their work  
and know that You are with them in their need.

May they pray to You in the community of the Church,  
and be Your witnesses in the world.

May they reach old age in the company of their friends,  
and come at last to the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**To be used at the marriage between a Catholic and an unbaptized person.**

**Nuptial Blessing, 4:**

My brothers and sisters,  
let us ask God for His continued blessings  
upon this bridegroom and his bride.

Holy Father, creator of the universe,  
maker of man and woman in Your own likeness,  
source of blessing for the married life,  
we humbly pray to you for this bride  
who today is united with her husband in the bond of marriage.

May Your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband  
so that they may together rejoice in Your gift of married life.  
May they be noted for their good lives,  
(and be parents filled with virtue).

Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy  
and turn to You in their sorrows.  
May they be glad that You help them in their work,  
and know that you are with them in their need.  
May they reach old age in the company of their friends,  
and come at last to the kingdom of heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

# **Selections for the First Reading (Old Testament)**

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "OT - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"

# **Selections for the Responsorial Psalm**

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "RP - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"

IF THE CANTOR IS SINGING THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM,  
PLEASE DISCUSS YOUR SELECTION OF THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM  
WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR MUSIC ARRANGEMENTS.

# **Selections for the Second Reading (New Testament)**

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "NT - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"

# **Selections for the Gospel**

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "GOS - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"

# Selection of Vows

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "VOWS - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER, or  
IN THE CENTER OF THE PAGE, TO THE RIGHT.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"

Please note:

There are four different selections to choose from for the exchange of  
vows. Personally composed vows are not permitted.

# **Selections for the Prayer of the Faithful**

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "POF - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"

# **Selections for the Nuptial Blessing**

PLEASE SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING,  
MARKED "NB - "  
AT THE TOP OF THE RIGHT HAND CORNER.  
PLEASE INDICATE YOUR SELECTION ON THE  
"Wedding LITURGY PLANNING SHEET"