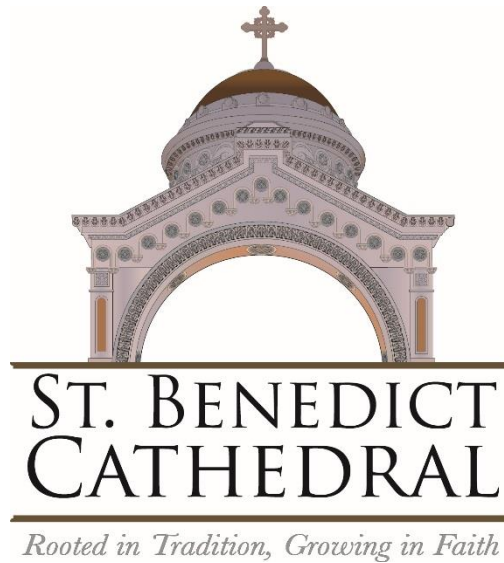


Celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage at



Father Alex Zenthoefer, Cathedral Rector
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These policies and procedures are effective May 18, 2023.



Dear Engaged Couple:

Congratulations! The time of engagement is a most exciting time as you prepare to live the rest of your lives together in marriage. St. Benedict Cathedral Parish rejoices with you. We are privileged to walk with you in the preparations toward your permanent covenant of love.

This time of preparation provides an opportunity to reflect on your sacramental marriage as a living witness of God's love for all of us. Our process of marriage preparation here in this faith community is designed to plan a prayerful celebration of your wedding and to initiate a life-long marriage covenant bonded in love.

We are here to help you plan a Liturgy. This is very different from a marriage ceremony. Our gift to you will be a memorable, prayerful, joyous celebration of your vows. This faith community is committed to assisting you prepare and celebrate a very sacred occasion.

This booklet is designed to assist you in this process of preparation and celebration. Our Director of Music and Parish Wedding Coordinators will share their time and gifts with you generously in this preparation.

Our prayer for you during these months of preparation is that you may come to an ever deeper appreciation of your marriage vocation and come to your wedding day to celebrate this call to be living sacraments of God's love. Together may you follow the way of love as Christ loves you (Ephesians 5:2).

Peace in the Living Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alex Zenthoefer".

Very Rev. Alex Zenthoefer
Rector

Rooted in Tradition,



Growing in Faith

1. Setting the Date

— **Before** scheduling the date for a wedding, the couple must first **complete the WEDDING REQUEST FORM** on the parish website:

<https://www.saintbenedictcathedral.org/weddings/>.

The completion of this form must occur **well more than six months** before the desired date of the wedding. The pastor will need to determine if the couple is free to marry (no previous marriages of any sort, appropriate age, etc.) and if the church and priest are available on the desired day. Once the pastor determines that the marriage may proceed, only then will the date for a wedding be set.

— Weddings always take place in a church according to the law of the Catholic Church. Outdoor weddings are not permitted.

— Weddings usually take place at Saint Benedict Cathedral either at 1:00PM or 1:30PM on Saturday. Confessions begin at 3:00PM, so all of the wedding festivities, including pictures, must be concluded by then. Arrangements can be made to celebrate the wedding on another day or at another time.

— When two Catholics approach the Church for marriage, the presumption is always that the nuptial Mass is celebrated. According to the *Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, the official ritual book of the Catholic Church,

If a Marriage takes place between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic, the rite for celebrating Matrimony without Mass should be used. If, however, the situation warrants it, the rite for celebrating Matrimony within Mass may be used, with the consent of the local Ordinary (bishop). ...

If a marriage takes place between a Catholic and a catechumen (unbaptized person preparing for initiation) or a non-Christian, the rite given below (not a Mass) is to be used.

2. Marriage Preparation

2A. First Meeting with the Pastor

— Once the date has been scheduled, the First Marriage Preparation Meeting with the Pastor may be scheduled by contacting the parish office. This meeting must take place **MORE THAN SIX MONTHS** before the wedding date.

— At the first meeting, the couple will complete the Pre-Nuptial Investigation required by the Diocese of Evansville (a questionnaire to establish freedom to marry) and discuss feedback from the FOCCUS inventory (Facilitating Open Couple-Communication, Understanding, and Study), receive affidavits for witnesses that they are free to marry, and determine whether they will choose to take part in the Sponsor Couple program or the Unveiled Retreat.

2B. Sponsor Couple Meetings or Unveiled Retreat Weekend

— After the first two meetings with the Pastor, couples preparing for marriage must commit to either (1) our Parish Sponsor Couple program (5 meetings with a married couple) or (2) an Unveiled Retreat Weekend. The Sponsor Couple Meetings are guided by the workbook *For Better and For Ever*. Sponsor Couples are trained and ready to facilitate necessary conversations with the couple before marriage. After the completion of the Sponsor Couple program, the Sponsor Couple notifies the pastor that the couple is ready to proceed. If attending an Unveiled Retreat Weekend, the couple should submit a copy of the completion certificate to the pastor.

2C. Natural Family Planning Workshop

— The couple is expected to take part in a one-hour Natural Family Planning introductory workshop. See the parish website (sacraments > weddings) for a list of opportunities.

2D. Second Meeting with the Pastor

— The couple meets with the pastor the second time to discuss the theological implications of the sacramental bond and to plan the ceremony.

2E. Communication with Wedding Coordinator and Music Director

— The couple may begin communicating with the assigned Parish Wedding Coordinator and the Music Director after the first marriage preparation meeting with the pastor.

3. Other Preparatory Details

— Both parties must be legally free to marry under Church and civil law.

— For Catholics, the parish must obtain a baptismal certificate issued within the last six (6) months from the original church of baptism. If you're unsure when and where it took place, ask your parents. Please make sure to have this information at the first meeting.

— A valid Marriage License from the state of Indiana must be submitted at the rehearsal. Following the liturgy, the priest will give the duplicate copy to a responsible member of the family. The original will be sent by the pastor to the local County Courthouse. A wedding cannot proceed without a marriage license on file.

— Permission from St. Benedict Cathedral must be obtained before inviting a priest or deacon from outside the parish to witness the wedding. The visiting priest or deacon may be asked to prepare the pre-nuptial forms and documents. For interfaith marriages, other Christian ministers, Jewish Rabbis, or other religious leaders are welcome to participate in the ceremony according to Church law. Coordination will be made with the pastor for these arrangements. The presiding priest will secure the necessary permissions from the Diocese of Evansville in order for the marriage to take place in such situations and a letter of suitability from the minister's legitimate superior must be sent to the Diocese of Evansville at least one month before the wedding.

4. The Liturgical Celebration

— Couples being married at St. Benedict Cathedral are required to use the services of our Parish Wedding Coordinator.

— In the Liturgy for the Rite of Marriage the bride and groom are the **primary symbols** and their most important action is the exchange of consent (the vows). Everything else is subordinate to this action.

— The Rite of Marriage asks for two primary witnesses. At St. Benedict Cathedral we suggest that the wedding party be limited to 6 couples or less.

— Readings from Sacred Scripture: All readings can be found below (#14). Couples may choose three readings:

First Reading from the Old Testament

Second Reading from the New Testament

Gospel Reading (Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John)

— Catholic friends or family members with a good speaking voice can be selected by the couple to proclaim the first and second readings. A clean copy, clearly printed, will be provided for the designated lectors at the rehearsal, and will be properly placed on the Ambo on the wedding day. Choices for the scripture readings should be given to the pastor at the second marriage preparation meeting with him. The Gospel is proclaimed by the witnessing priest or deacon.

— As we seek to maintain a spirit of prayer and propriety during the marriage, we discourage the use of flower girls and ring bearers who are too young. Under no circumstance may one of these children carry anything besides flowers or a pillow for the rings (although the rings should be kept by the Best Man).

— Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: When two Catholics marry, we always celebrate the occasion with the nuptial Mass and Liturgy of the Eucharist. Two Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will be needed to help with the distribution of Holy Communion.

— Servers are not needed, unless the witnessing priest especially asks for one. When the priest is from St. Benedict Cathedral, no servers are required, but can be utilized if they are family members or friends of the bride and groom.

5. Flowers & Decorations

Church decorations are not typically needed for weddings. Our seasonal decorations and plants are typically sufficient. Therefore, **they may not be taken down, rearranged, or moved.**

If additional decorations are desired these guidelines are to be strictly followed:

— No items in the church or in the sanctuary can be moved or removed. Wedding parties are not to move any of the flowers or plants around the altar, ambo, tabernacle, vestibules, or church doors.

— If additional flowers are desired, the parish wedding coordinator will show you where they may be placed. (No additional flowers for the sacrament of marriage will be allowed during the seasons of Advent and Lent, according to the Universal Law of the Church.)

— Real flowers are called for by Catholic Liturgical guidelines. They help us to witness God's creation and Christ's real presence among us.

— Decorations of any sort are not permitted on the top of the altar itself.

— Pew bows are discouraged but permitted. No tape, wire, tacks or staples are permitted. Bows must be fastened with ribbon or cloth.

— Garlands are prohibited down the main aisle. We cannot block access in or out of the pews.

— The church owns various decorations which may be rented for the wedding. Supplemental arches or other structures are not permitted because of our regular Mass schedule.

— Aisle runners are not permitted.

— Rice, birdseed, confetti, and balloons and the like are forbidden inside and outside the church building and not permitted anywhere on church grounds. Throwing or tossing of any similar materials is not permitted. This is a tradition that you may use at your reception.

— Only white fresh rose petals may be used by flower girls during the procession and must be cleaned up by the ushers.

— Any acceptable decorating must be set up during the two hours prior to the liturgy and removed during the 30 minutes following the liturgy. Someone must be appointed – outside the wedding party – to clean up all decorations. Remember to gather the guest book, flowers, and programs throughout the church and adjoining spaces.

6. Rehearsal & Procession

Rehearsal time is usually set at 5:00 PM the day before the wedding, or another mutually agreed upon time.

— With timely cooperation of those involved, the rehearsal need not exceed 45 minutes.

— Present for the rehearsal: Bride & Groom, witnesses & members of the bridal party, Parents, Step-parents, Lectors.

— All guests of the rehearsal dinner should meet at the restaurant, and not at the church. By keeping the rehearsal for only those who have an active role, the rehearsal is more likely to be completed on time.

The Procession may follow these options.

— Option 1:

Bridesmaids and Groomsmen enter as couples Primary witnessing couple

(Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor)

Groom's parents

Bride's parents

Priest

Bride & Groom together

— Option 2:

Bridesmaids & Groomsmen enter as couples

Primary witnessing couple

(Best Man and Maid/Matron of Honor)

Priest

Groom and his parents

Bride and her parents

— Option 3:

Groom's Parents

Bride's Mother

Bridesmaids enter from back of church

Groomsmen enter from sanctuary and meet

bridesmaids in main aisle

Bride enters with Father (or both Parents) and meets

Groom at altar

When extenuating circumstances such as disability, blended families, step-parents, etc. are involved, we are happy to make accommodations and other pastorally appropriate means can be discussed with us. We're happy to talk with you about variations on these options.

7. *Photographer/ Videographer*

**PLEASE FORWARD A COPY OF THIS PAGE TO
YOUR PHOTOGRAPHER AND VIDEOGRAPHER
LONG BEFORE THE WEDDING.**

— All photography inside the church is strongly recommended to be completed before the liturgy. Wedding party and guests must be cleared out of the church by 3:00PM on Saturdays.

— The church will be available at an agreed upon time with the Wedding Coordinator, typically no more than two hours prior to the start of the liturgy.

— Backdrops may not be set up in the sanctuary of the church.

— All photography must be handled as unobtrusively as possible during the liturgy. There should be a minimum of movement throughout the church during the wedding ceremony.

— No equipment, flashes, lights, decorations, etc. may be placed on the altar table.

— All still-photography must cease, and equipment removed 30 minutes before the start of the liturgy.

— During the liturgy, photo & video persons are asked to remain *outside the sanctuary* and remain completely unobtrusive.

— Once the entrance procession is completed, the photographer may not be in the main aisle. Standing in the main aisle at the very back is permitted.

— Video recording is permitted with stationary cameras only from behind the congregation. These areas will be shown to the videographer by the parish wedding coordinator.

— No access will be granted to the church sound system to any party whatsoever besides church employees.

8. *Music*

— Wedding Music must reflect the solemnity of the sacrament and the grace that is extended not only to the couple, but the entire believing community that is present.

— Our Director of Music, Jeremy Korba, is prepared to help you plan beautiful and prayerful music that is appropriate for a liturgical celebration. He can be reached at (812) 589-3886 or jkorba@evdio.org.

— Every couple is required to contact the Music Director for a music planning session for your wedding.

— Trained cantors, preferably from St. Benedict Cathedral, are to serve as cantors and soloists for wedding liturgies. Other arrangements can be made with permission from the Director of Music. They must be Catholic and/or have a working knowledge and experience with Catholic liturgy. Even when the musicians are not from St. Benedict Cathedral, all music will be planned with the approval of the Director of Music Ministry.

— A program may be part of the preparations. Printing of the programs is the responsibility of the couple. All programs require the approval of the Director of Music two weeks before the wedding.

— The Director of Music Ministry can provide a list of organists, vocalists, as well as other instrumentalists that can add a very lovely and celebratory nature to the wedding ritual such as Flutists, Violinists, String Quartet members, Trumpeter, Brass Ensemble, etc.

— Friends or family members who are unfamiliar with Catholic liturgy can share their gift of music as a prelude to the ritual.

— From the Entrance Procession to the Recessional, all music must be liturgical music found in our hymnal, music with sacred texts, or classical music. The Director of Music in consultation with the pastor has the authority to approve musical selections. Care should be taken to ensure selections encourage prayer and reflect the nature of the scriptures and the liturgy.

— The playing or singing of secular music of any sort is prohibited during the liturgy. Recorded music is also prohibited.

9. *Music within the Rite of Marriage*

Prelude Vocal and/or instrumental

Processional Vocal and/or instrumental

Gathering Song (Optional) – congregation

Gloria Cantor with Congregation

Responsorial Psalm Cantor with Congregation

Gospel Acclamation Cantor with Congregation

Presentation of Gifts Cantor with Congregation or Instrumental

Holy, Holy Cantor with Congregation

Memorial Acclamation Cantor with Congregation

Amen Cantor with Congregation

Lamb of God Cantor with Congregation

Communion Song Cantor with Congregation

Recessional Instrumental

10. Miscellaneous

— Groomsmen or ushers are requested to assist the parish wedding coordinator in removing programs, picking up rose petals, taking down decorations, etc. for a brief period after the ceremony.

— The use of a unity candle is permitted, however it may not be placed on the altar. “Unity sand” is not permitted.

— The tying of a lasso, included as an option in the Rite of Matrimony, may be used.

— Dressing areas should be checked for personal items and left in a tidy fashion.

— Flowers and plants are gladly accepted for church use following the wedding.

— No alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed inside the church or in the parking lot before or after the liturgy. All food must remain in the areas designated by the parish wedding coordinator.

— Smoking is not allowed in/or around any of the church or parish buildings at any time. St. Benedict Cathedral is a non-smoking facility and campus.

— Please remember there is a good chance that the day of your rehearsal and/or wedding there may be other things happening around the parish. Please be kind to others using the facility.

— Boisterous behavior such as running and yelling are not allowed in the church. Please remember to keep a sense of reverence for the worship space of the Church. Hats are not worn by men in church. Please attend to all children so that they will not be placed in harm’s way.

11. Fees

— Fees cover the use of the church and the stipend for the parish wedding coordinator.

— Fees are due to the parish office at least one month before the wedding, or a 10% surcharge will be added, unless other necessary arrangements are made with the pastor.

Active Parish Member*: \$500

**An active member of the parish – either bride, groom, or at least one of their parents – for at least six months will have been*

1) registered in the parish,

2) regularly involved in a parish ministry,

3) regularly contributing financially to the work of the parish.

Inactive or Non-Parish Member: \$1,500

These checks should be made payable to St. Benedict Cathedral.

St. Benedict Cathedral Accompanist: \$200

St. Benedict Cathedral Cantor: \$100

If additional practices are required due to the difficulty of the music, the fee may be increased.

This fee is due to the Music Director prior to the wedding date.

Other Musicians Outside of St. Benedict Cathedral

These fees are set by each musician.

Suggested Priest Stipend: \$100

This is a suggested stipend. It is not required. If your priest must travel, please cover travel expenses and consider helping him to pay a substitute for any Masses he will miss in his parish.

12. *Wedding Mass Outline* *(between two Catholics)*

The Introductory Rites

Entrance procession

Greeting

Gloria

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word*

First Reading – Old Testament

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading – New Testament

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel (proclaimed by the priest or deacon)

Homily

The Celebration of Matrimony

The Questions before the Consent

The Consent (Exchange of Vows)

The Reception of the Consent

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

The Universal Prayer (Petitions)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of the Gifts

Holy, Holy, Holy

Mystery of Faith

Amen

Our Father

The Nuptial Blessing

Exchange of Peace

Lamb of God

Holy Communion

Prayer After Communion

The Conclusion of the Celebration

Introduction of Couple

Recessional

13. *Wedding without Mass* *Outline (between a Catholic and a non-* *Catholic)*

The Introductory Rites

Entrance procession

Greeting

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word*

First Reading – Old Testament

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading – New Testament

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel (proclaimed by the priest or deacon)

Homily

The Celebration of Matrimony

The Questions before the Consent

The Consent (Exchange of Vows)

The Reception of the Consent

The Blessing and Giving of Rings

The Universal Prayer (Petitions)

Our Father

The Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Concluding Rites

Blessing

Introduction of Couple

Recessional

** The proclamation of the Word of God and the homily are integral to the celebration of marriage. The Liturgy of the Word is always a part of the Catholic wedding ceremony.*

14. Readings

At least one reading explicitly speaking of Marriage, marked with a *, must be chosen for every wedding.

FIRST READING OPTIONS (B)

*B-1 Genesis 1:26-28,31a

God said: Let us make human beings in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the tame animals, all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the earth. God created mankind in his image; in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and God said to them: Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it.

Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that crawl on the earth.

God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good.

*B-2 Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be a helper suited to 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 the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. 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 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.

*B-3 Genesis 24:48-51.58-67

*B-4 Tobit 7:6-14

*B-5 Tobit 8:4b-8

On their wedding night Tobiah rose from bed and said to his wife, "My sister, come, let us pray and beg our Lord to grant us mercy and protection." She got up, and they started to pray and beg that they might be protected. He began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our ancestors; blessed be your name forever and ever! Let the heavens and all your creation bless you forever. You made Adam, and you made his wife Eve to be his helper and support; and from these two the human race has come. You said, 'It is

not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a helper like himself.' Now, not with lust, but with fidelity I take this kinswoman as my wife. Send down your mercy on me and on her, and grant that we may grow old together. Bless us with children." They said together, "Amen, amen!"

*B-6 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20,30-31

Who can find a woman of worth? Far beyond jewels is her value. Her husband trusts her judgment; he does not lack income. She brings him profit, not loss, all the days of her life. She seeks out wool and flax and weaves 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. Acclaim her for the work of her hands, and let her deeds praise her at the city gates.

B-7 Song of Songs 2:8-10,14,16a,8:6-7a

Hark! my lover — here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. See! He is standing behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices. My lover speaks and says to me, "Arise, my friend, my beautiful one, and come! My dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, Let me see your face, let me hear your voice, For your voice is sweet, and your face is 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."

*B-8 Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Happy the husband of a good wife;
the number of his days will be doubled.

A loyal wife brings joy to her husband,
and he will finish his years in peace.

A good wife is a generous gift
bestowed upon him who fears the Lord.
Whether rich or poor, his heart is content,
a smile ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband;
her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones.

A silent wife is a gift from the Lord;
nothing is worth more than her self-discipline.

A modest wife is a supreme blessing;
no scales can weigh the worth of her chastity.

The sun rising in the Lord's heavens—
the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

**The RESPONSORIAL PSALM is always sung.
Options may be discussed with the Director of Music.**

SECOND READING OPTIONS (D)

D-1. Romans 8:31b-35.37-39

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for

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

D-2. Romans 12:1-2.9-13

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

D-3. Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7,13

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.

D-4. 1Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

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? But 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.

D-5. 1Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

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, love 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.

*D-6. Ephesians 5:2a 25-32

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.

D-7. Philippians 4:4-9

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, 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.

D-8. Colossians 3:12-17

Put on then, 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.

D-9. Hebrews 13:1-4a 5-6b

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."

*D-10. 1Peter 3:1-9

D-11. 1John 3:18-24

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.

D-12. 1John 4:7-12

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 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.

D-13. 1Corinthians 13:1-13

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, love 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. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; if tongues, they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophesy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child,

think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror, but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

GOSPEL READING OPTIONS (F)

F-1. Matthew 5:1-12a The Beatitudes

F-2. Matthew 5:13-16 You are the Light of the World.

F-3. Matthew 7:21.24-29 A wise man built his house on rock.

*F-4. What God has united, man must not separate.

F-5. 22:35-40

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."

*F-6. Mark 10:6-9

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."

*F-7. The Wedding at Cana

F-8. John 15:9-12

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 may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

F-9. John 15:12-16

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 CONSENT OPTIONS (H)

The couple chooses one or the other formula. Typically, they will repeat after the priest or deacon.

H-1.

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

H-2.

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

UNIVERSAL PRAYER OPTIONS (J)

J-1.

1. For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere, that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our president and all leaders of government, that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
3. 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.
4. For N. and N., 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.
5. 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.
6. For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
7. For those personal needs which we mention now in silence, let us pray to the Lord.

J-2.

1. 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.
2. For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple, N. and N., married today, for those who will marry tomorrow, that they may savor the joy of being

together, warm love, and children, a long life, wine, friends, and a new day, every day, let us pray to the Lord.

3. For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires, let us pray to the Lord.

J-3.

1. For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our world, to keep the promise of peace, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, let us pray to the Lord.
7. For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, let us pray to the Lord.
8. For the dead, to keep the promise of hope fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord.
9. For this couple, to keep the promise of marriage, let us pray to the Lord.

J-4.

1. For the Church to bring forth the good fruit of faith, for the sacraments to draw many to Almighty God, for holy marriages to remind us of God's love, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our nation always to dwell in peace and unity, for human dignity to be remembered in every land, for God's strong love to strengthen all married couples, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For N. & N. to grow in love each day as they dwell together in the house of the Lord, for these newlyweds to grow old together joyfully, surrounded by their children and their children's children, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For the faithful gathered today for this celebration, for faith, hope, and love to flourish among us, for our joy to be complete in the presence of the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For the eternal rest of all who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. & N., for deep faith in the power of the resurrection, let us pray to the Lord.

Please notify the priest or deacon of the following choices:

COUPLE: _____

WEDDING DATE: _____

FIRST READING: B- _____

SECOND READING: D- _____

GOSPEL: F- _____

CONSENT: H- _____

UNIVERSAL PRAYER: J- _____