

## **Wedding Liturgy Preparation at St. Paul and St. Joseph Parishes**

*“The love of a man and a woman  
is made holy in the sacrament of marriage  
and becomes the mirror of God’s everlasting love.”*

-Rite of Marriage

Congratulations on your engagement! May this be a season of grace and heavenly blessing.

You are coming to the Catholic Church to be married. A Catholic wedding is so much more than a social event. It is a sacrament in which a man and woman become husband and wife in the presence of God, the wedding officiant (priest or deacon), and your family and friends.

Our parish staff here at St. Paul and St. Joseph will assist you as you plan for this momentous and sacred day.

This document will help you plan your wedding liturgy at St. Paul or St. Joseph.

Don’t delay making plans. While it seems as though your wedding day is a long way off, this time will pass way too quickly. Please call upon us with specific questions not covered herein.

St. Paul Parish  
111 N. Howell St  
Owosso, MI 48867  
989-723-4277

St. Joseph  
915 E. Oliver St.  
Owosso, MI 48867  
989-725-5215

[www.stpaulowosso.org](http://www.stpaulowosso.org) [www.stjosephowosso.org](http://www.stjosephowosso.org)  
email: [secretary@stpaulowosso.org](mailto:secretary@stpaulowosso.org) or [nancyann@sjowosso.com](mailto:nancyann@sjowosso.com)  
Music Minister: Russell Beaudoin 989-723-4277 or [rbeaudoin@stpaulowosso.org](mailto:rbeaudoin@stpaulowosso.org)

### **Eligible Wedding Couples:**

To be married at St. Paul or St. Joseph, one or both persons of the engaged couple must be a practicing Catholic, and be registered, or from a family registered, at this parish. Both parties must be free to marry in the Catholic Church.

### **Scheduling a Wedding**

To inquire about scheduling a wedding at either of our churches, one person of the engaged couple can contact the parish where the wedding will take place. Please note: the pastor must speak with the couple directly. Weddings cannot be scheduled with families of the couple, or with a wedding consultant.

### **Wedding Times**

Wedding celebrations are scheduled as follows:

- ◇ Friday arrange with the Pastor
- ◇ 11:00AM Saturday at St. Paul
- ◇ 11:00 AM Saturday at St. Joseph
- ◇ 1:00 PM Saturday at St. Paul
- ◇ 1:00 PM Saturday at St. Joseph

### **Required Documents**

Both parties (if baptized) are to obtain a copy of their baptismal certificate **from their church of baptism** and have it mailed to the priest at the parish (St. Paul Parish; 111 N Howell St, Owosso, MI 48867 or St. Joseph Parish; 915 E Oliver St., Owosso, MI 48867) as soon as possible. **This must be a recent copy**, obtained by calling the church of baptism.

### **Civil Marriage License**

A Michigan civil marriage license must be delivered to the Mass coordinator/presider at the rehearsal. In Michigan, it takes three days to process the civil wedding license application. A marriage license is obtained from the County Clerk where you reside (if in Michigan) or where the wedding takes place. For Shiawassee County the County Clerk is located in Corunna, MI.

### **Church Fees and Gift for Presider**

There is a \$100 fee for use of our parish facilities, as well as the preparation of materials for the wedding. Mail/deliver your payment as soon as you book your wedding date. Please make a check payable to St. Paul or St. Joseph and mail it directly to the parish.

An offering for the presiding priest or deacon (\$100-200) is appropriate. If any of these fees are problematic, please discuss this with the priest or deacon.

## **Wedding Sacristan**

Our parishes require a wedding sacristan to assist at the rehearsal and the wedding. Wedding sacristans help organize the entrance procession, set up for the liturgy, provide directions, answer questions, and assist with some clean-up. **Their fee is \$75 and is paid at the rehearsal.** Some couples choose to hire a “wedding planner” to help organize their receptions and other aspects of their wedding. To avoid confusion and miscommunication, we do not permit wedding planners to have any role in the performance of the wedding rehearsal or the celebration of the wedding liturgy. The sacristan is trained in the details of Catholic liturgy and etiquette.

## **Marriage Preparation:**

Couples, who are marrying at St. Paul or St. Joseph and live outside the area, can complete their marriage preparation at their own parish. Couples who reside here but are being married elsewhere may complete their marriage preparation here.

For St. Paul and St. Joseph engaged couples, the marriage preparation is as follows:

1. **The FOCCUS Program:** Each engaged couple will be required to take the FOCCUS compatibility inventory. This process helps couples to recognize their areas of agreement and difference and to foster healthy communication skills. In the initial meeting with the priest the couple will provide their email addresses, the couple will then receive a sign in and password to take the inventory online. (If the couple does not have access to the internet the inventory will be taken during their initial meeting.)
2. **Catholic Engaged Encounter-**a community-based Christian marriage preparation ministry based on Catholic teachings and values. It emphasizes the relationship of the couples in terms of their sacramental commitment.
3. **Priest Meeting-** usually the initial meeting with the priest to fill out paperwork, take the FOCCUS Inventory and set your wedding date. Follow up meetings to discuss the FOCCUS may happen with the priest or a FOCUSS mentor couple.

## **Your Wedding Celebration**

A couple’s wedding service celebrates the love they have for one another; the service also celebrates the love they have for God, for their families, and for the community. A Catholic worship service is communal; a couple’s choices must invite and make it possible for their families and friends to fully enter the celebration. Above all else, a Catholic wedding Mass or ceremony gives glory to God.

## **Wedding Mass or Wedding Ceremony**

When two practicing Catholics marry, they celebrate the Rite of Marriage within a Mass. When a Catholic and a person of another Faith marry, they celebrate the Rite of Marriage within a Liturgy of the Word, ensuring that their family and friends can comfortably participate.

# Planning the Wedding Celebration:

## Music and Musicians

The engaged couple is invited to contact Russell Beaudoin, (989-723-4277 or rbeaudoin@stpaulowosso.org) Director of Music Ministry, to schedule a consultation to review music selections, reading selections and to discuss the wedding. It is most helpful if this meeting takes place **at least two months prior to the wedding or as soon as you can.**

- ◇ The parish will provide a pianist or organist for your wedding liturgy.
- ◇ If a couple would like a musical piece that is not on the list, they may discuss this with the music director at the consultation.
- ◇ Please be advised that only sacred music is permitted before, during, and after the wedding celebration. Recorded music is not permitted in the Catholic liturgy.
- ◇ Arrangements for additional musicians [violin, trumpet, brass ensemble, string quartet, etc.] may be made for additional fees. Please discuss this at the consultation.

All music must enhance the beauty, uphold the dignity, and serve the purpose of the liturgy. The main function of the music is to worship God and to assist those gathered to enter more fully into the prayers and actions of the liturgy.

If you wish to have a family member or good friend sing or play an instrument (*in addition to the required pianist and/or cantor*), **please make arrangements with the Director of Music** to ensure that these individuals have music and an understanding of their responsibilities during the wedding liturgy. These additional musicians should be fully prepared to sing and/or play on the date of your wedding.

If you choose to use outside musicians to provide music for your wedding liturgy, a bench fee will be assessed according to the amount of time you wish someone to be present after initial set up of accompanying instruments and microphones. The music selected should still follow the guidelines for appropriate music as outlined in this document. Communication must occur at least two weeks prior to your wedding date about how many musicians there will be, what instrument they will use to accompany (piano or organ), and if additional microphones are needed in addition to the one cantor microphone. The Bench Fee structure is listed below, and should be paid directly to the Director of Music prior to your wedding date.

**Note:** Musicians are to be paid prior to the beginning of your wedding liturgy. Checks payable directly to each musician are to be brought to your rehearsal.

The fees currently in effect are as follows:

<b>Musician</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Pianist/Organist	Wedding Ceremony- \$125 Wedding Mass- \$150
Instrumentalists	\$100 or more—please ask about specific instruments
Level 1 Bench Fee	\$100 for Instrument and microphone set up and take-down: Initial sound check
Level 2 Bench Fee	\$150 includes above as well as presence during prelude music and wedding liturgy to run sound board.

Rehearsals above and beyond the day of the wedding liturgy are billed at a rate of \$25 per/hour. Typically, the musicians do not attend the wedding rehearsal.

### **Photographs and Videography**

Photographers must be mindful that a wedding is a sacred and sacramental celebration and thus they are not to be a distraction to the ceremony. A professional photographer may take photos throughout the liturgy, as long as it is done in good taste and does not interfere with the liturgy. Photography in the sanctuary before and after the liturgy is limited to 30 minutes. No church furniture may be moved when taking pictures.

Videotaping is permitted. The video camera is to remain stationary and may not block the aisle. The presider or Wedding coordinator will advise photographers or videographers about the appropriate areas of the church in which to take pictures and set up equipment.

### **Flowers and Decorations**

Please schedule someone to receive delivery of your flowers. Once the flowers are distributed, the florist or wedding party must clear away the floral boxes, paper, and debris.

Floral arrangements may be placed in the sanctuary in front of or around the altar. It is not appropriate to place flowers on the altar itself. The wedding coordinator will help you to arrange flowers in an appropriate manner. No church furniture may be moved when arranging flowers.

We welcome you to leave the flowers in the church as a donation for the weekend Masses. Please tell the Wedding Coordinator

If you will be using pew decorations, use rubber bands or special holders. No tape of any kind is permitted on the pews. The decorations must be removed immediately after the celebration. Decorations must not hinder the ability of guests to enter and exit their pews. An aisle runner is not permitted.

For planning purposes, please keep in mind the colors of the liturgical seasons of the Church.

### **No Bubbles, Rice, Birdseed, Confetti, etc.**

Throwing rice, birdseed, "environmentally friendly" confetti, bubbles, bird release, or any other after ceremony "extras" is not in keeping with the sacred liturgical activity, therefore, they are not allowed. A special concern is with a wedding guest slipping and being injured.

### **Guest Book and Receiving Lines**

Because of the tight time constraints please plan on setting up your guest book and receiving line at your reception site in lieu of at the church. They shorten the time you have available for pictures.

### **Wedding Program**

Many couples choose to prepare a booklet or program that outlines the order of the wedding liturgy and that lists participants (parents, wedding party, officiant, musicians, readers, etc.). Programs are very helpful to non-Catholic guests, but one is not required. Programs often include scripture citations and the titles of hymns.

## **Wedding Consultants and Personal Attendants**

If you are utilizing the services of a wedding consultant, please advise him or her that the wedding rehearsal and wedding ceremony are the responsibility of St Paul or St Joseph staff. Wedding consultants and personal attendants are expected to follow the directives of the parish staff.

## **Wedding Rehearsal**

The Wedding Coordinator or the Presider of your wedding will schedule the wedding rehearsal. Usually this will be scheduled at 5:30pm the day before your wedding. If you wish another time, within reason you should arrange this with the priest.

The priest allows 1 hour for rehearsal, it should start and end on time, so please plan accordingly.

If the wedding programs are available at the time of the Rehearsal, it is helpful to bring a few copies to the Rehearsal.

Only those participating in the wedding party or liturgy should attend the wedding rehearsal, others can cause distractions. There is no food, drink, gum chewing or cell phone use during the rehearsal, the church is a sacred space and should be treated as such. The bride and groom are responsible for the behavior of your wedding participants, if there are any issues with their behavior you will be asked to speak to that person.

## **Bride's & Groom's Rooms**

Rooms are provided for the bridesmaids and groomsmen to get ready for the wedding. Please remember, these are parish rooms used for a variety of purposes. We ask that you treat them with respect. Please clean the rooms before you leave. Food and drink is allowed in moderation in the designated rooms only. **Smoking and alcohol consumption is prohibited** in all parts of our buildings at all times.

## **Best Man and Maid of Honor as Witnesses**

Under Michigan law, the Best Man and Maid of Honor have to be 18 years of age, as they need to be able to understand what they are witnessing, and be able to sign their legal signature.

## **Ushers**

It is helpful to have ushers in addition to groomsmen. Groomsmen are often busy with photographs as the guests are arriving and are therefore unable to seat them. Ushers are also able assist at the beginning and end of the ceremony.

## **Children in the Wedding Party – Ring Bearers and Flower Girls**

The parish recommends that children in the wedding party be at least six years of age. Experience has shown that younger children find it difficult to walk down the aisle. Often their parents are in the wedding party and are not available to assist their children, or to calm them if they are nervous or frightened. If children are included in the wedding party, please be mindful of their unique needs and plan accordingly.

Flower Girl [one only, please]: Please note that flower petals may not be dropped.

Ring Bearer [one only, please]: Do not put the wedding rings on the pillow carried by the ring bearer. The best man and/or maid of honor should be responsible for the rings.

### **Choosing Readers**

The wedding celebration can include up to three readers at the liturgy. The couple has the following options for readers:

- one person for the first reading, one for the second reading, and one for the Prayers of the Faithful
- one person reads the first and second readings and the Prayers of the Faithful
- one person reads the first reading, one person reads the second reading, and the Presider reads the Prayers of the Faithful.

If the couple is celebrating the Rite of Marriage with a wedding Mass, the readers must be Catholic. If the couple is celebrating a Rite of Marriage with a Liturgy of the Word, the readers may be Catholic, or another Christian faith.

When choosing readers, please, choose people who have had experience with reading in their own parish or church and can confidently proclaim the Word of God. Readers should plan on attending the wedding rehearsal. Engaged couples are asked to provide readers with a copy of “their” reading.

### **Choosing People to Present the Offertory Gifts**

If a couple is celebrating with a wedding Mass, there is opportunity to include two people to bring up the gifts [bread and wine] at the Preparation of the Altar.

### **Seating Pattern Options**

Generally, there are two options for seating. In both options, the immediate family of the bride sits on the left side facing the altar and the immediate family of the groom on the right side. In the first option, there is no distinction in seating for other guests. In the second option, those greeting at the doors will ask guests whether they wish to be seated on the “bride’s side” or the “groom’s side.”

### **Church Facility Restrictions**

**Food and Drink:** Do not bring food or drink into the worship space. Please do not chew gum in the church.

**No Cell Phones:** Use of cellular telephones in the worship space is not appropriate.

**No Smoking:** Smoking is prohibited everywhere on our parish properties.

**No Alcohol on the premises:** Alcoholic beverages and drugs are prohibited before, during or after the rehearsal or wedding. This includes the parking area. Should alcohol be discovered, or if any member of the wedding party is under the influence, the wedding will be cancelled.

During the summer months the air cooling system will be on in the worship space on Saturdays and Sundays. In order for the system to work efficiently, the entrance doors to the church space must be kept closed. We ask your assistance in this so that the system will effectively cool the space for your wedding.

Please assign a friend or family member to ensure that the church facility is left in good order:

- Bride's and Groom's rooms cleaned and returned to their original condition
- Wedding programs collected
- Floral boxes, floral paper, and debris removed
- Decorations removed
- Floral arrangements removed – If not being left for the weekend masses
- Unity Candle picked up

## **THE WEDDING LITURGY**

### **Introductory Rites**

#### **Processional**

Following the pattern familiar in most recent weddings in the US, in the procession at your wedding the priest or deacon goes first, with the groom, then the bridesmaids and groomsmen, and finally the bride. The bride and/or the groom may be accompanied by either or both parents, if desired.

You will need to choose instrumental music during the opening procession of your wedding liturgy. Some couples choose a single piece of music for this procession; others choose two pieces, with the second piece beginning as the bride enters.

#### **Greeting**

Said by Priest

#### **Gloria**

#### **Opening Prayer**

Following the procession, the opening prayer is led by the priest or deacon; all give their assent by saying "Amen."

### **Liturgy of the Word**

#### **Old Testament Reading**

The first reading is from the Old Testament.

#### **Responsorial Psalm**

This piece is called "Responsorial" not so much because it is a "response" to the first reading, but rather because it is sung in a back-and-forth manner, with the cantor singing the verses and all joining on the refrain.

#### **New Testament Reading**

The second reading is from the New Testament.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

The Celtic Alleluia is sung prior to the reading of the Gospel.

## **Gospel Reading (Read by Priest or deacon)**

### **The Rite of Marriage**

#### **Questions**

The priest or deacon asks the couple questions about your freedom of choice, faithfulness to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of any children you may have. Both the groom and the bride answer “We have,” “we will,” “we will.”

#### **Consent (Vows)**

The priest or deacon invites you to join hands and declare your consent to enter into marriage before God and the Church. Three options are given in the rite for which form the consent may take.

- **[Vows1]** I, N., take you, N., to be my wife/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.
- **[Vows2]** 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, until death do us part.

You may choose to memorize these vows or repeat them after the priest or deacon. Memorizing these words is not difficult, and allows you to look at each other as you say your vows. (If you are nervous about forgetting the words, the presider will prompt you.) or through question.

After you have declared your consent, the presider says, “You have declared your consent before the Church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, human beings must not divide.”

#### **Blessing of Rings**

The priest or deacon asks God to bless the wedding rings.

As you put the rings on each other’s fingers, you repeat after the priest or deacon, “N., take this ring as a sign of my love and my fidelity, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

#### **Unity Candle**

The lighting of a unity candle is not officially part of the Catholic wedding liturgy. As such, there is no official spoken text as part of the ritual. Lighting a candle is a very brief ritual action (taking perhaps thirty seconds at the most) and musical accompaniment is by no means necessary or even recommended. If you are lighting a unity candle and wish to accompany this action musically, your accompanist will play a brief selection.

#### **Universal Prayer**

The marriage rite continues with the Universal Prayer, or petitions. This is a set of prayers specifically directed to the larger needs of the world, the church, and our communities.

## **Liturgy of the Eucharist (omitted if wedding is outside of Mass)**

### **Preparation of the Gifts**

The gifts (the bread and wine that are to become the Body and Blood of Christ) are brought up accompanied by brief instrumental music; your accompanist will choose this. You will want to select at least two people to bring up the gifts.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

The priest receives the bread and wine and says a silent prayer of blessing.

### **Eucharistic Prayer Preface**

After the Prayer over the Gifts, all stand and the priest begins the Eucharistic Prayer, or prayer of thanksgiving.

### **Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations**

These songs are the assembly's role in the Eucharistic Prayer. They include a Sanctus ("Holy, holy, holy Lord..."), a Memorial Acclamation ("Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again!"), and an Amen.

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

The Lord's Prayer, or "Our Father," is a prayer held in common by all Christians. For this reason, it is important that everyone be able to participate in praying it actively. It is inappropriate to have this prayer sung as a solo, and indeed, singing it at all can make it difficult for people to participate unless you are absolutely certain everyone present will know the musical setting you are using. Having everyone recite it together is the strongest choice.



### **Nuptial Blessing**

(This blessing is included in all wedding liturgies—within or outside of Mass.) At the end of the Lord's Prayer, the priest faces the couple and prays.

### **Exchange of Peace**

### **Lamb of God**

This song accompanies the breaking of the bread that has become Christ's Body. We ask the Lord to have mercy on us and grant us peace.

### **Communion Processional**

This song accompanies the procession as the assembly comes forward to receive communion. To enable their participation, it is best to choose songs with a refrain everyone can sing (those most familiar with the song may even do so without the aid of written music).

as they process). Non-Catholics are invited to come forward for a blessing the distribution of Communion

### **Prayer after Communion**

After communion and a brief period of silent prayer, all stand. The priest says the words of the prayer and all give their assent by saying "Amen."

## **CONCLUDING RITES**

### **Final Blessing**

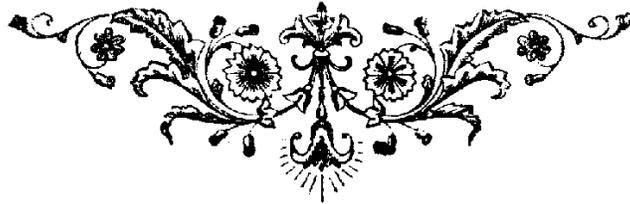
The liturgy concludes with a final blessing prayer prayed by the priest and the dismissal.

### **Presentation of the Couple**

At this point in the ceremony, the presider will introduce you as a married couple for the first time. Consider how you want this phrased: possible models include "Mr. & Mrs. John Smith," "John and Jane Smith," "Jane and John Smith," "Jane and John Smith-Jones," "John and Jane Jones-Smith," and "for the first time as a married couple, Jane Jones and John Smith."

### **Recessional or Song of Sending Forth**

An instrumental selection is the strongest choice here.



## Old Testament Readings

Below are some options you can use for your first reading. If you have an Old Testament reading you like which is not listed here, please feel free to discuss that with your wedding officiant.

### **[B-1] Genesis 1:26-28, 31a**

Then God said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals, and all the creatures that crawl on the ground." God created man in his image; In the image of God he created him; Male and female he created them. God blessed them, saying: "Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth." God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

### **[B-2] Genesis 2:18-24**

The Lord God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man. So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; This one shall be called 'woman,' for out of 'her man' this one has been taken." That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

**[B-3] Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67** In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother.

**[B-4] Tobit 7:6-14** May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.

### **[B-5] Tobit 8:4b-8**

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.' Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age." They said together, "Amen, amen."

**[B-6] Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31** The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. When one finds a worthy wife....

### **[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. Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the

windows, peering through the lattices. My lover speaks; he says to me, "Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come! O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely." My lover belongs to me and I to him. He says to me: "Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; for stern as death is love, relentless as the nether-world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away."

**[B-8] Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16** Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home. Blessed the husband of a good wife....

**[B-9] Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a**

The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers: the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt. But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

## Responsorial Psalms

**[C-1] Psalm 33: The Earth Is Full of the Goodness of God**

The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.

Your words, O God, are truth indeed, and all your works are ever faithful;  
You love justice and right, your compassion fills all creation.

See how the eye of God is watching, ever guarding all who wait in hope,  
To deliver them from death and sustain them in time of famine.

Exult, you just, in the Lord, for praise is the song of the righteous!  
How happy the people of God, the ones whom God has chosen!

Our soul is waiting for God, for God is our help and our shield.  
May your kindness, O God, be upon us who place our hope in you.

**[C-2] Psalm 34: Taste and See**

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

I will bless the Lord at all times, God's praise ever in my mouth.  
Glory in the Lord for ever, and the lowly will hear and be glad.

Glory in the Lord with me, let us together extol God's name.  
I sought the Lord, who answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God that you might be radiant with joy,  
and your faces free from all shame.  
The Lord hears the suffering souls, and saves them from all distress.

**[C-3] Psalm 103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful**

The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all my being bless God's name;  
bless the Lord, and forget not God's benefits.

God pardons all your iniquities, and comforts your sorrows,  
redeems your life from destruction and crowns you with kindness.

Merciful, merciful, and gracious is our God;  
slow to anger, abounding in kindness.

**Psalm 118**

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad.

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good; God's mercy endures for ever;  
Let the house of Israel say: "God's mercy endures for ever."

The hand of the Lord has struck with power, God's right hand is exalted,  
I shall not die, but live anew, declaring the works of the Lord.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,  
the Lord of love and mercy has brought wonder to our eyes!

**Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You**

Blest are those who love you, happy those who follow you, blest are those who seek you O' God.

Happy all those who fear the Lord, and walk in God's pathway;  
You will find what you long for; the riches of our God.

Your spouse shall be like a fruitful vine in the midst of your home,  
Your children flourish like olive plants rejoicing at your table.

May the blessings of God be yours all the days of your life,  
May the peace and the love of God live always in your heart.

**[C-6] Psalm 145**

Our God is compassion to all creation.

The Lord is grace and mercy, slow to anger, full of love.  
God is good to all creation; full of compassion.

Let all your works give thanks, O God. Let the faithful bless you.  
The eyes of all are filled with hope; you give them all they need.

The Lord is just in ev'ry way, full of love for all.  
God is near to those in need, who call out from their hearts.

## New Testament Readings

Below are some options you can use for your second reading. If you have a New Testament reading you like which is not listed here, please feel free to discuss that with your wedding officiant.

### **[D-1] Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39**

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

### **[D-2] Romans 12:1-2, 9-18**

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

### **[D-3] Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13**

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **[D-4] 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20** Your body is a temple of the Spirit.

### **[D-5] 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a**

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have

love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interest, 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, 21, 25, 28-32**

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us. Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her. 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, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

**[D-8] Colossians 3:12-17**

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgive 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] 1 Peter 3:1-9** Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another. Wives be subordinate to your husbands, husbands honor your wives.

**[D-11] 1 John 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 commandment 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] 1 John 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-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

**[D-13] Revelation 19:1, 5-9a**

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."

## **Gospel Readings**

**[F-1] Matthew 5:1-12a**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

**[F-2] Matthew 5:13-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

**[F-3] Matthew 7:21, 24-29**

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined." When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

**[F-4] Matthew 19:3-6**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?" He said in reply, "Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate."

**[F-5] Matthew 22:35-40**

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

**[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] John 2:1-11**

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled

them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

**[F-8] John 15:9-12**

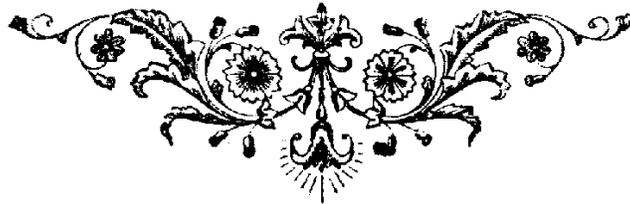
Jesus said to his disciples: "As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. 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."

**[F-10] John 17:20-26**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: "I pray not only for my disciples, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them."



## **Checklist**

- \_\_\_ Contact Church of Baptism and have them sent to the parish.
- \_\_\_ Register for Engaged Encounter Weekend.
- \_\_\_ Contact Russell Beaudoin to schedule meeting about musical arrangements.
- \_\_\_ Choose readers for wedding liturgy.
- \_\_\_ If a wedding Mass, choose gift bearers for offertory
- \_\_\_ Complete *Together for Life* and submit to priest
- \_\_\_ Obtain a marriage license no earlier than 30 days before the wedding.
- \_\_\_ Pair bridesmaids and groomsmen together before the rehearsal.
- \_\_\_ Inform your wedding party of church decorum and remind them to be on time for the rehearsal and wedding.
- \_\_\_ Bring your marriage license to the church NO LATER than rehearsal
- \_\_\_ Pay all fees to the wedding sacristan at the rehearsal
- \_\_\_ Have your photographer/videographer speak to the wedding sacristan.