

*Order of Celebrating Matrimony
Wedding Liturgy Planning Guide*



Jesus at the Wedding Feast in Cana

*On behalf of St. Denis Parish,
We congratulate you on your engagement.
May God bless you as you prepare for your wedding day and always.*

*The Church of Saint Denis
90 Union Avenue
Manasquan, NJ 08736*

*Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
554 East Main Street
Manasquan, NJ 08736*

*Rectory Phone Number - 732.223.0287
Email Address - st.denis@verizon.net*

Selection Sheet

Please list your choices for the following and give this completed sheet to the Priest or Deacon preparing you and ask them any questions you may have.

Celebrating Matrimony: within mass _____ without mass _____

First Reading (Old Testament): _____ read by: _____

Psalm: chosen at your meeting with the organist and sung by the cantor.

Second Reading (New Testament): _____ read by: _____

Gospel: _____ read by: The Priest or Deacon Officiating

Vows: _____ Blessing of the Rings: _____

Universal Prayer: _____ Read by: _____

Bread and Wine will be brought up by (2 to 4 people) within mass only:

Nuptial Blessing: _____

Please list any other special requests you may like to discuss:

Liturgy of the Word - Please select one Old Testament reading, one New Testament Reading and one Gospel reading and then write your choices on the selection sheet. You must choose at least one reading that explicitly speaks of Marriage: designated by “”*

Old Testament Readings – Choose one

*OT 1. Genesis 1: 26-31

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 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 also said: "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food." And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

*OT 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 the 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.

*OT 3. Tobit: 8: 5-7

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "My love, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." She got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. He began with these words: "Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever.

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.

*OT 4. Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

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

OT 5. Song of Songs: 2:8-14; 8:6-7

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! For see, the winter is past, the rains are over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of pruning the vines has come, and the song of the dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance. 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. 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 do floods sweep it away."

*OT 6. Sirach: 26: 1-4, 13-16

Happy the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days. A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life. A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord; be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face. A gracious wife delights her husband; her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones; A gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth. Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste person. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

OT 7. Jeremiah: 31:31-34

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 least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD.

New Testament Readings – Choose one

NT 1. Romans 8:31-35, 37-39

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.

NT 2. Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18

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 yourself 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 estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

NT 3. Romans 15: 1-3, 5-7, 13

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not please ourselves; let us 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 the joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the

power of the Holy Spirit.

NT 4. 1 Corinthians: 12: 31-13: 1, 8

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.

NT 5. Ephesians 4: 1-6

Brothers and sisters: I urge you to live a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

*NT 6. Ephesians 5: 2, 21-33

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. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body. As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. 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. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

NT 7. Phillipians 4: 4-9

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, 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.

NT 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 and in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

NT 9. Hebrews: 13: 1-4, 5-6

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, for God will judge the immoral and adulterers. 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.

NT. 10 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 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.

NT 11. Revelation 19:5-9

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.”

This 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." And he said to me, "These words are true; they come from God."

Gospel Readings – Choose One

G 1. Matthew 5: 1-12

When he 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.

G 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.

G 3. Matthew 7: 21, 24-28

Jesus said to his disciples: "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.

*G 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?" Jesus 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, no human being must separate."

G 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?" Jesus 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."

*G 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.

*G 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." Jesus replied 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 servers 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.

G8. 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.

G 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. This I command you: love one another.”

G 10. John 17: 20-23

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: “Holy Father, I pray not only for them, 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.

The Celebration of Matrimony

The Questions before the Consent

The Priest or Deacon first asks every couple about their freedom of choice, fidelity to each other and the acceptance and upbringing of children:

Priest: N and N, have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

Bridegroom and Bride each say: I Have.

Priest: Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor Each other for as long as you both shall live?

Bridegroom and Bride each say: I am.

Priest: Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up According to the law of Christ and his Church?

Bridegroom and Bride each say: I am.

The Consent

Priest: Since it is your intention to enter the covenant of Holy Matrimony, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his Church.

Exchange of Vows and Rings - Please select one vow formula and one blessing for your wedding rings and then write your choices on the selection sheet.

Vows – V1

Bridegroom: I, N., take you, N., to be my wife. 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.

Bride: I, N., take you, N., to be my 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.

Vows – V2

Bridegroom: I, N., take you, N. 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, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

Bride: I, N., take you, N. 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, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

The Blessing and the Giving of Rings:

R1 May the Lord bless these rings, which you will give to each other as a sign of love and fidelity. Amen.

R2 Bless, O Lord, these rings, which we bless in your name, so that those who wear them may remain entirely faithful to each other, abide in peace and in your will, and live always in mutual charity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

R3. Bless and sanctify you servants in their love, O Lord, and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness, remind them of their love for one another. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger. He then says:

N., receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger. She then says:

N., receive this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Universal Prayer Form 1:

There are spaces provided for you to add your own personal petitions if you choose. The priest/deacon introduces and concludes the Universal Prayer.

Reader: The response to the prayers will be: *Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.*

That these faithful Christians, N. and N. newly joined in Holy Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being, let us pray to the Lord.

That he will bless their covenant as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee, let us pray to the Lord.

That they be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace and strength, and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian, let us pray to the Lord.

That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help of grace from above, let us pray to the Lord.

That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in all married persons here present, let us pray to the Lord.

That those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of _____ and _____, may enjoy perfect happiness in heaven, let us pray to the Lord.

And for those personal needs which we mention now in the silence of our hearts (pause for a moment), let us pray to the Lord.

The Universal Prayer Form 2:

There are spaces provided for you to add your own personal petitions if you choose. The priest/deacon introduces and concludes the Universal Prayer.

Reader: The response to the prayers will be: *Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.*

For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family, let us pray to the Lord.

For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this couple, let us pray to the Lord.

(in particular) _____

For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life, let us pray to the Lord.

For all families throughout the world, and for lasting peace among all people, let us pray to the Lord.

For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

(in particular) _____

For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

And for those personal needs which we mention now in the silence of our hearts (pause for a moment), let us pray to the Lord.

Nuptial Blessings - After the Our Father, you will be blessed as husband and wife. Please select one blessing and then write your choices on the selection sheet.

Nuptial Blessing - A

Dear brothers and sisters,

Let us humbly pray to the Lord that on these his servants, now married in Christ, he may mercifully pour out the blessing of his grace and make of one heart in love (by the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood) those he has joined by a holy covenant.

O God, who by your mighty power created all things out of nothing, and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe, formed man and woman in your own image, making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man, that they might no longer be two, but one flesh, and taught that what you were pleased to make one must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church;

O God, by whom woman is joined to man and the companionship they had in the beginning is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favor on these your servants, joined together in Marriage, who ask to be strengthened by your blessing. Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter **N.**, and let her always follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures. May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that, acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace, he may show her due honor and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church. And now, Lord, we implore you: may these your servants hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments; made one in the flesh, may they be blameless in all they do; and with the strength that comes from the Gospel, may they bear true witness to Christ before all; (may they be blessed with children, and prove themselves virtuous parents, who live to see their children's children).

And grant that, reaching at last together the fullness of years for which they hope, they may come to the life of the blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Nuptial Blessing - B

Holy Father, who formed man in your own image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfill their calling in the world;

O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;

Graciously stretch out your right hand over these your servants (N. and N.) we pray, and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O Lord, that, as they enter upon this sacramental union, they may share with one another the gifts of your love and, by being for each other a sign of your presence, become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds the home they are forming (and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel).

Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter N., so that, by being a good wife (and mother), she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on N., your servant, that he may be a worthy, good and faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence, they may one day have the joy of taking part in your great banquet in heaven.
Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Nuptial Blessing - C

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

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

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

R. Amen.

Please Bring the Following Items to the Rehearsal

1. The Marriage License Application

A valid New Jersey marriage license. It may be issued no sooner than 72 hours after the application has been made and it is only valid for 30 days. (Obtain within one month of wedding, not before.) The license should be brought to the wedding rehearsal and given to the Priest or Deacon who will be officiating.

2. Selection Sheet and List of Wedding Party

The selection sheet from this preparation guide is necessary for the Priest or Deacon to prepare for your wedding liturgy. Also, a list of the wedding party, in order of appearance, even including the “last to be seated” family members, allows the rehearsal to run smoothly, since all your choices are already made and ready to be implemented.

3. Church Donation and Musician Fees

Your donation to the Parish and the fee for the musicians are expected a week before the actual wedding. If it is easier, bring your check to your last meeting before the rehearsal. The donation is not meant to be a burden at all, it helps the parish to cover the costs and help the parish function. You can explain any special circumstances to the priest/deacon.

4. Any Wedding Hand Outs, Etc.

Some find it easier to bring things they intend to hand out on the Wedding Day to the rehearsal. Some examples are programs, bubbles, bows, etc.

Suggested Guide for Rehearsal Night

The more you plan prior to your ceremony, the more orderly and beautiful your wedding ceremony will be.

Last to be seated –who will proceed the wedding party and who will escort them?

Order of Bridal Party – in order of appearance, list the people and who they will partner with. Will they process *together* or bride’s maids walk *separate*? (circle) List who will escort the bride, if anyone

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____

Please consider, for any children in your party, where and with whom the children will be most comfortable to be seated during the wedding ceremony.