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Outline of Wedding Ceremonies

Catholic Mass

Greeting

Penitential Rite

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament Reading

Gospel Reading

Homily*

Unity Candle (Mothers)*

Exchange of Vows

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle (Bride & Groom)*

Intercessions

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace

Communion

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Catholic Non-Mass Ceremony

Greeting

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading*

Responsorial Psalm*

Poem*

New Testament Reading

Gospel Reading

Homily*

Unity Candle (Mothers)*

Exchange of Vows

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle (Bride & Groom)*

Intercessions

The Lord's Prayer

Sign of Peace*

Communion*

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Dismissal

Christian Non-Denominational Ceremony

Greeting

Opening Prayer

Old Testament Reading*

New Testament Reading*

Poem*

Gospel Reading

Homily*

Unity Candle (Mothers)*

Exchange of Vows

Blessing & Exchange of Rings

Unity Candle (Bride & Groom)*

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Final Blessing

Dismissal

*** - Optional**

OPENING PRAYERS

Opening Prayer #1

God our Father,
Love has been Your richest and greatest gift to the world.
Love between a man and a woman, which matures into marriage,
is one of Your most beautiful types of love.
Today, we celebrate that love.
May Your blessings be on this wedding service.
Protect, guide, and bless N. and N. in their marriage.
Surround them, and us, with Your love, now and always.
Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer #2

Heavenly Father,
N. and N. are now about to vow their unending loyalty to each other.
We ask you to accept the shared treasure of their life together,
which they now create and offer to You.
Grant them everything they need, that they may increase their knowledge of You
throughout their life together.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Prayer #3

Father,
For the joy of this occasion, we thank You.
For the significance of this wedding day, we thank You.
For this important moment in an ever growing relationship, we thank You.
We thank You, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

Old Testament #1

A Reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament #2

A Reading from the Book of Songs of Songs

Listen! My beloved! Behold, he is coming, climbing on the mountains, leaping on the hills! My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Behold, he is standing behind our wall, He is looking through the windows, He is peering through the lattice. My beloved responded and said to me, 'Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along!'" "O my dove, in the clefts of the rock, in the secret place of the steep pathway, let me see your form, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your form is lovely... "My beloved is mine, and I am his... Put me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is as strong as death, Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the LORD. "Many waters cannot quench love, nor will rivers overflow it; if a man were to give all the riches of his house for love, it would be utterly despised."

The Word of the Lord

Old Testament #3

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

Happy is the husband of a good wife; the number of his days will be doubled. A loyal wife rejoices her husband, and he will complete his years in peace. A good wife is a great blessing; she will be granted among the blessings of the man who fears the Lord. Whether rich or poor, his heart is glad, and at all times his face is cheerful. A wife's charm delights her husband, and her skill puts fat on his bones. A silent wife is a gift of the Lord, and there is nothing so precious as a disciplined soul. A modest wife adds charm to charm, and no balance can weigh the value of a chaste soul. Like the sun rising in the heights of the Lord, so is the beauty of a good wife in her well-ordered home.

The Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALMS

Psalm 34 - I will bless the Lord at all times

I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall be always in my mouth.
My soul will glory in the Lord
that the poor may hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.
I sought the Lord, who answered me,
delivered me from all my fears.

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy
and your faces may not blush for shame.
In my misfortune I called,
the Lord heard and saved me from all distress.

The angel of the Lord, encamps around those who fear him,
and delivers all who fear God.
Learn to savor how good the Lord is;
happy are those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 103 - The Lord is kind and merciful

Bless the Lord, my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, my soul;
and do not forget all the gifts of God,

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

The kindness of the Lord is forever,
toward the faithful from age to age.
He favors the children's children
of those who keep his covenant.

Psalm 128 - Happy are those who fear the Lord

Happy indeed are all who fear the Lord
who walk in the ways of God.
What your hands provide you will enjoy;
you will be happy and prosper

Like a fruitful vine your wife within your home,
Like olive plants your children around your table.
May the Lord bless you all the days of your life
That you may live to see your children's children

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

New Testament #1

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #2

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Colossians

As those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.

The Word of the Lord

New Testament #3

A Reading from the First Letter of John

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

The Word of the Lord

GOSPEL READINGS

Gospel #1

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to his disciples: 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, let no one separate.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel #2

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

On the third day there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus also was invited to the wedding with his disciples. When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And he said to them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the feast." So they took it. When the master of the feast tasted the water now become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and when people have drunk freely, then the poor wine. But you have kept the good wine until now." This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee, and manifested his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Gospel #3

A Reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples: As the Father loved me, I also have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

WEDDING VOWS

Vows #1

Groom:

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

Bride:

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

Vows #2

Groom:

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, until death do us part.

Bride:

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

BLESSINGS & EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Blessings of Rings #1

Lord, bless these rings which we bless in your name.
Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other.
May they do your will and always live together.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings of Rings #2

Let us pray:
Lord bless these rings which we bless in your name
And grant that those who wear them (*N.* and *N.*)
May always have strong faith in You
Deep trust in each other
And always live together happy.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings of Rings #3

Lord, bless and consecrate *N.* and *N.* in their love for each other.
May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other,
and always remind them of their love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Exchange of Rings

N., take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity, in the name of the Father,
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Px. My dear friends, with confidence in God's love and mercy, let us together now offer our needs and petitions. Please respond: Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. For N. and N., that the vows that they have taken today, guide them throughout their lives together. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. For N. and N., that in their times of need, as well as happiness, that they always allow Christ to be present in their lives. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. For the parents of N. and N., who raised them in the Faith, and guided them in their journey to this day. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. For all the family and friends who are here assembled today, that they may bear witness to the love shared by N. and N., and also be an inspiration to them. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. For the family members and friends N. and N., who have touched their lives, and have been called home by God, that they may find eternal rest. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. For all those intentions that we keep in the silence of our hearts. We pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Px. God our Father, hear our prayers, answer our needs, be merciful and compassionate toward us, and send your Holy Spirit to guide us all the days of our lives. We ask this through Your Son, our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

R. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYERS

Closing Prayer #1

Father, you have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery,
a symbol of Christ's love for his Church.

Hear our prayers for N., and N.

With faith in you and in each other they pledge their love today.

May their lives always bear witness to the reality of that love.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer #2

Father, hear our prayers for N., and N.,

who today are united in marriage in your presence.

Give them your blessings, and strengthen their love for each other.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FINAL BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Final Blessing #1

Holy Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for married life, we humbly pray to you for *N.* and *N.* who today are united in this sacrament of marriage. May your fullest blessing come upon them so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love.

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

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing #2

Father, to reveal the plan of your love, you made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between you and your people.

In the fulfillment of this sacrament, the marriage of Christian man and woman is a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church.

Father, stretch out your hand, and bless *N.* and *N.*

Lord, grant that as they begin to live this sacrament they may share with each other the gifts of your love and become one in heart and mind as witnesses to your presence in their marriage.

Help them to create a home together.

Give your blessing to *N.*, your daughter, so that she may be a good wife and mother, caring for the home, faithful in love for her husband, generous and kind. Give your blessing to *N.*, your son, so that he may be a faithful husband and a good father.

Father, grant as they come together to your table on earth, so they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Dismissal #1

N. and *N.*, your wedding ceremony has come to an end, but your life together has just begun. Go in Peace!

Dismissal #2

N. and *N.*, having exchanged your vows with one another, in the site of God, and those here assembled, I now pronounce you husband and wife!