

CELEBRATING MATRIMONY OUTSIDE OF MASS

ENGLISH TRANSLATION, 2016

*(THE RITE PRINTED HERE IS WITHOUT THE FULL MASS.
THE RITE WITH THE FULL MASS IS VERY SIMILAR TO THIS UNTIL THE UNIVERSAL PRAYERS, THEN THE
OFFERTORY COMES IN ITS USUAL PLACE, AND THE NUPTIAL BLESSING OF THE BRIDE AND THE
GROOM IS GIVEN RIGHT AFTER THE LORD'S PRAYER AND BEFORE HOLY COMMUNION. THE FINAL
BLESSING AND THE END OF THE LITURGY IS THE SAME IN BOTH FORMS.)*

(MUSIC AT THE ENTRANCE)

INTRODUCTORY RITES

Priest: In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

(The priest welcome everyone)

COLLECT / OPENING PRAYER (one of several options)

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery
that in the wedding covenant you foreshadow the Sacrament of Christ and his Church,
grant, we pray, to these your servants,
that what they receive in faith they may live out in deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you i
n the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

READINGS

First reading

Responsorial psalm

Second reading (optional)

The Gospel

HOMILY

CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

All stand, including the bride and bridegroom, and the Priest addresses them in these or similar words:

Dearly beloved,
you have come together into the house of the Church, so that in the presence of the Church's
minister and the community your intention to enter into Marriage may be strengthened by the
Lord with a sacred seal.

Christ abundantly blesses the love that binds you. Through a special Sacrament, he enriches and strengthens those he has already consecrated by Holy Baptism, that they may be faithful to each other for ever and assume all the responsibilities of married life.

And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

THE QUESTIONS BEFORE THE CONSENT

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

(Each answers the questions separately)

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

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

THE CONSENT

The priest invites them to declare their consent:

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.

They join their right hands

The bridegroom says:

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 honor you all the days of my life.

The bride says:

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 honor you all the days of my life.

OR: First the priest asks the bridegroom:

N., do you take **N.** to be your wife? Do you promise to be faithful to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life?

The bridegroom replies: I do.

Then he asks the bride:

N., do you take **N.** to be your husband? Do you promise to be faithful to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life?

The bride replies: I do.

Receiving their consent, the priest says to the bride and the bridegroom:

May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfilment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.

The Priest invites those present to praise God:

Let us bless the Lord.

All reply:

Thanks be to God

THE BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS

The priest says:

May the Lord bless + these rings which you will give to each other as the sign of your love and fidelity.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit.

R. Amen.

The bridegroom places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., take 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.

Likewise, the bride places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest:

N., take 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

(Several alternative prayers may be used.)

THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

(In a nuptial mass, this blessing is given right after the Lord's prayer.)

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.

All pray in silence for a while. Then the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, continues:

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.

The Lord's prayer

THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

At the end of the celebration, the Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:
May God the eternal Father keep you of one heart in love for one another,
that the peace of Christ may dwell in you and abide always in your home.
R. Amen.

May you be blessed in your children, have solace in your friends
and enjoy true peace with everyone.
R. Amen.

May you be witnesses in the world to God's charity,
so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness
may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.
R. Amen.

And he blesses all present, adding:
And may almighty God bless you all, the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.

(Music at the end of the service.)