

# **Standard Wedding Rite (Sample Draft)**

## **PROCESSIONAL**

## **INVOCATION**

*Matt. 28:19-20*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ☐ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

*The congregation may be seated.*

## **ADDRESS TO CONGREGATION**

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and before His Church to witness the union of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. This is an honorable estate instituted and blessed by God in paradise, before humanity's fall into sin.

In marriage we see a picture of the communion between Christ and His Bride, the Church. Our Lord blessed and honored marriage with His presence and first miracle at Cana in Galilee. This estate is also commended to us by Saint Paul as good and honorable. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into inadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for the mutual companionship, help, and support that each person ought to receive from the other, both in prosperity and adversity. Marriage was also ordained so that man and woman may find delight in one another and thus avoid sexual immorality. Therefore all persons who marry shall take a spouse in holiness and honor, not in the passion of lust, for God has not called us to impurity but in holiness. God also established marriage for the procreation of children to be brought up in the fear and instruction of the Lord and to offer Him their praise.

So has God established the holy estate that        and        wish to enter. They desire our prayers as they begin their marriage in the Lord's name and with His blessing.

## **PARENTAL ADDRESS**

**P** Who gives this woman to be married to this man?

**R** We do.

**P** Do you give your consent and blessing to this couple? Then say: We do.

**R** We do.

**P** Will you pray for and encourage and in their marriage, remembering at all times that God wills them to live within their vows until they are parted by death? Then say: We will.

**R** We will.

## **FIRST LESSON**

Possible lessons:

Genesis 2:(15–17) 18–24

Song 8:6–7

Isa. 61:10–11

Hos. 2:18–23

## **SECOND LESSON**

Possible lessons:

Ephesians 5:1–2, 22–33

Col. 3:12–17

1 Thes. 4:1–8

Heb. 13:1–8

1 Cor. 13

## **HOLY GOSPEL**

Possible lessons:

Matthew 19:3–6 (7–15)

John 2:1–11

## Homily

### Marital Vows

**P** , will you have this woman to be your wedded wife, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you nourish and cherish her as Christ loved His body the Church, giving Himself up for her? Will you love, honor, and keep her in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others remain united to her alone, as long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

**R** I will.

**P** , will you have this man to be your wedded husband, to live together in the holy estate of matrimony as God ordained it? Will you submit to him as the Church submits to Christ? Will you love, honor, and keep him in sickness and in health, and forsaking all others remain united to him alone, as long as you both shall live? Then say: I will.

**R** I will.

### Exchange of Vows

I, , | take you, , | to be my wedded 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, | till death us do part, | according to God's holy will; | and I pledge you my faithfulness.

I, , | take you, , | to be my wedded husband, | to have and to hold from this day forward, | for better, for worse, | for richer, for poorer, | in sickness and in health, | to love and to cherish, | till death us do part, | according to God's holy will; | and I pledge you my faithfulness.

### Blessing of Rings

**P** Almighty Father, You have generously created all things to serve us for our good. Send Your blessing upon this couple who shall wear these □ rings as a constant reminder of their marital fidelity. Grant that by Your mercy they may live gladly and faithfully in this holy estate; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Exchange of Rings

**P** Receive this ring | as a pledge and token | of wedded love and faithfulness. | In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

### Declaration of Marriage

**P** Now that have committed themselves to each other in Holy Matrimony, have given themselves to each other by their solemn pledges, and have declared the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce them to be husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the □ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** What God has joined together, let no one put asunder.

**C** Amen.

### Blessing of Marriage

**P** The almighty and gracious God abundantly grant you His favor and sanctify and bless you with the blessing given to Adam and Eve in paradise, that you may please Him in both body and soul and live together in holy love until your life's end.

**C** Amen.

### Lighting of Unity Candle (Optional)

## Prayers

**P** Almighty, everlasting God, our heavenly Father, grant that by Your blessing \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ may live together according to Your Word and promise. Strengthen them in faithfulness and love toward each other. Sustain and defend them in all trial and temptation. Help them to live in faith toward You, in the communion of Your holy Church, and in loving service to each other that they may ever enjoy Your heavenly blessing; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** O God, our dwelling place in all generations, look with favor upon the homes of our land. Embrace husbands and wives, parents and children, in the arms of Your love. Bless our homes that they may ever be a shelter for the defenseless, a fortress for the tempted, a resting place for the weary, and a foretaste of our eternal home with You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## Benediction

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☐ give you peace.

**C** Amen.

## Presentation of Couple

## Recessional