

Roman Catholic Wedding Ceremony:

History of the Sacrament of Marriage: The Roman Catholic Wedding is one of the seven sacraments. It is a very beautiful ceremony, rich in tradition and liturgy. Because Marriage is a sacrament in the Catholic Church, a Catholic Priest cannot officiate a marriage outside of the Church! If you want a Catholic Ceremony performed by a Priest it must be officiated within the walls of the Catholic Church. This is an alternative ceremony resembling the Catholic Mass as much as possible outside of the Catholic Church

Catholic Wedding Ceremony Outside of Mass

GREETING AND PRAYER

Family and Friends, we are gathered here today to witness the marriage of _____ and _____. Let us call upon God to be with us today as we celebrate this union of joining two individual lives to one. In the name of the Father & of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Peace be with you.

R: And also with you. Let us pray.

OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, hear our prayers for ____ and ____ who have come here to be united in the sacrament of marriage. Give them your blessing, 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, forever and ever.

R: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

OT: The Creation of Woman (Genesis 2:18-24)

A reading from the book of Genesis:

The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate." So from the soil the Lord God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of the heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the Lord God made the man fall into deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The Lord God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: "This at last is bone from my bones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man." This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

This is the word of God.

NT: The Greatest of These is Love (1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a)

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and know everything and if I have faith in all its fullness, to

move mountains, but am without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end.

The word of the Lord.

HOMILY (Sermon)

Becoming One (Gen 2:24)

____ and _____, I don't need to tell you that today marks a complete new beginning in the lives of both of you. Your wedding lasts only today, but your marriage is for the rest of your lives. Today you both go back to school again, the school of marriage. Today you begin to learn again, to learn to love each other in a deeper way. You are joining yourselves to each other today to become one, without, of course, losing your individuality. Becoming one doesn't happen overnight. It is something that you will learn and become better at as you share your married life together. Becoming one means loving each other, sharing your lives with each other, taking each other into consideration always. Becoming one means getting rid of all selfishness out of your lives because there is no room for selfishness in marriage. If selfishness is not rooted out or creeps in later on, it's sure to cause problems. If God blesses your marriage with children, then you will also take your children into consideration in all that you do. Marriage is a school of love.

MARRIAGE RITE

Option A:

Officiant will ask everyone to stand

Option B:

Bride & Groom to stand only (guests remain seated)

CONSENT

_____ And _____ have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as husband and wife for the rest of your lives? (I do)

Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the Law of Love and Compassion? (I do)

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, with your hands joined and declare your consent before God and his Church, and this community of your family and friends.

Please join hands

EXCHANGE OF VOWS

VOWS

G. I, GROOM, take you, BRIDE, 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, (a) until death do us part. (b) Forever. (c) All the days of my life.

B. I, BRIDE, take you, GROOM, 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, (a) until death do us part. (b) Forever. (c) All the days of my life.

VOWS Sample B

(Personal Vows) option of writing your own

CONFIRMATION OF VOWS

You have declared your consent before this community of your family and friends. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you with his blessings. What God has joined together, let no put asunder

B & G: .Amen.

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

May I have the Rings Please?

RING BLESSING

Lord, bless these rings which we bless in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always do you will and live together in peace and compassion. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

G: _____ please place this ring on _____ finger and repeat after me:

_____ 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.)

B: _____ please place this ring on _____ finger and repeat after me:

_____ take this ring as a sign of my love and fidelity. (In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.)

Pronouncement & Kiss

Bride & Groom

You are now as your hearts have always known you to be, husband and wife. You may now seal your promises with a kiss!"

Unity Candle OR God's Knot (Optional)

Guests lighting of Candles Optional

Family & Friends

You came here today as separate individual families and separate set of friends. With the uniting of our Bride and Groom through marriage we also united the families and friends into one large community of support. You have all played a very important part of their lives which is demonstrated by you taking the time to join them on their wedding

day. They would like for you to pass the flame which started from their two individual candles. This is a sign of God's light and present. Please keep the candles lit until the Bride and Groom light their unity candle. The lit candles signify a beautiful display of love faith, and support for our bride and groom. Take the candles home with you as your first gift from (Bride & Groom).

As a visual symbol to foreshadow the years ahead _____ and _____ have chosen to light a Unity Candle. Mother and Mother as a demonstration of your families love and support of this marriage, will you now step up to the "altar" and light the candles representing the separate families, family histories and blood lines that shall also today to be joined together as one?" Mother and Mother They light the tapers representing their family then return to their seats

Bride and Groom step behind the "altar" Bride and Groom take their taper in hand and light the center candle they then place the tapers back in their holders, and do not snuff their flames, and return to in front of the altar

The Unity Candle is both a symbol of the union of two separate lives into one and a sign of God's light and presence. I encourage you to light this candle on each anniversary remembering this day, of the promises made and God's promise to dispel the darkness and be present with you in your marriage always.

B: God's Knot – Cord of Three Strands

The following readings are provided as a sample of what can be read during the braiding of the Cord of Three Strands.

Reading – Option 1

Today, [name of groom] and [name of bride] have chosen to braid three strands together into a single cord. Each strand has a significant meaning.

The gold strand represents God and His majesty.

The purple strand represents the groom and his life.

The white strand represents the bride and her life.

In braiding these three strands together, [name of groom] and [name of bride] have demonstrated that their marriage is more than a joining of two lives together. It is a unity with God as well. They have chosen to allow God to be at the center of their marriage, Woven into every aspect of it.

As Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 reads, "Two are better than one, because they have a good Return for their work: If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who Falls and has no one to help him up! Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken."

Communion –Non-Denominational Not Religion Specific If You choose to include this option we will need to discuss the "the bread you will use, the plate, wine or grape juice and the cup used. Additionally these items may need to be ordered for you" (optional)

The cup and the bread wait on a small table. The officiant then passes the bread to the bride and groom, each facing the other. For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me. The groom then the serves it to the bride, the bride serves it to the groom. The Officiant then lifts the cup and passes it to the bride and groom, they hold it between them. Officiant: "In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying,:" This cup is the new and everlasting covenant of my blood; whenever you drink from it, do this in memory of

me. "For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Each in turn serves the cup to the other; the groom passes it back to the Officiant. Officiant: As you have shared this bread and cup, May you always share in the unity and peace of the Spirit.

Officiant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit Amen

(As an ecumenical community all are welcome to share with Bride and Groom in the one bread and the one cup regardless of your faith community.)

The Lord be with you. R: And also with you. Let us pray. Lord, in you love your have given us this bread & wine to unite us to one another and with you, As you have made _____ and _____ one in this marriage and in the sharing of the one bread and the one cup, so now make them one in your love for each other. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R: Amen.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, we have witnessed the exchange of promises by _____ and _____ let us ask the Lord to strengthen their love for each other. For _____ and _____ as they begin their married life together, may they always know your presence in good times and in bad, Let us pray to the Lord. R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For their families, may they be good examples of love and faithfulness as they support _____ and _____ in their marriage. Let us pray to the Lord. R: Lord, hear our prayer. For those who have fallen asleep in Christ, (especially _____), may the memory of their presence in the Kingdom of God be an inspiration to _____ and _____ Throughout their lives. Let us pray to the Lord. R: Lord, hear our prayer. (In the Catholic religion the memory is here) For this new family created here today, may they learn to love and support one another as they continue to grow through this marriage. Let us pray to the Lord. R: Lord hear our prayers.

NUPTIAL BLESSING

My dear friends let us turn to the Lord and pray that he will bless with his grace this woman _____. Now married in Christ to this man _____ and that he will unite in love the couple he has joined in this holy bond. Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood. Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scriptures. May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and there with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church. Father, keep them always true to your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian life. Give them the strength which comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others. (Bless them with children and help them be good parents. May they live to see their children's children.) And, after a happy old age, grant them fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R: Amen.

Family Blessing

Let us pray for this new family created through marriage of _____ and _____. Father, you created us in love and saved us in mercy and through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it should be a sign of your love for us. Shower your blessings on this new family created here today. Enable them, joined by one love, to create a home together and support one another. Make them responsive to the needs of others and witnesses to the faith in all they say and do. We ask this through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray together in the words Jesus gave us.

Together:

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

"May the peace of Christ be with you all." All: "And also with you."

"Let us now offer each other a sign of Christ's peace." (Guests exchange a sign of peace & Bride & Groom may kiss then proceed to kiss their parents first bride's parents then Grooms Parents together

SOLEMN BLESSING

May God, the almighty Father give you his joy and bless you (in your children).

R: Amen.

May the only Son of God have mercy on you and help you in good times and in bad.

R: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit of God always fill you hearts with his love.

R: Amen.

And may Almighty God bless each and every one of us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R: Amen.

PRESENTATION

Family and Friends, it is my pleasure to introduce you to Mr. and Mrs. _____

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, this Marriage Ceremony is complete.

R: Thanks be to God.