

Wedding Planning Guide



*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.*

St. Mary Church

2700 Horton Road

Waverly, IA 50677

319-352-2493

www.StMarysFamily.com

Preparation of the Gifts

- If celebrating a full Mass
- This music accompanies the bringing of the bread and wine to the altar.
- It can be a song sung by the entire assembly, an instrumental piece, or a vocal solo.

Only a Shadow #615
Prayer of St. Francis #679
We Have Been Told #564
When Love is Found #447
Wherever You Go #452

Communion

- If celebrating a full Mass
- A hymn sung by the assembly.
- This should reflect our faith in the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ, as well as the unity of those present.

Gift of Finest Wheat #487
One Bread, One Body #498
One Love Released #508
Taste and See (Moore) #511
The Supper of the Lord #513

Recessional

- A joyful hymn sung by the assembly (Like we do for a Sunday Mass), or an instrumental tune.

Canticle of the Sun
Hornpipe/Watermusic/Allegro Maestoso (G.F. Handel)
Trumpet Voluntary/Prince of Denmark's March (J. Clarke)
Rondeau from "Sinfone de Fanfares" (J.J. Mouret)
Trumpet Tune (Purcell)

Music for Your Wedding

Prelude & Seating of Parents/Grandparents

- This is a great opportunity to highlight soloists and special music before the service/Mass.
- Some couples choose a special song to be played or sung while their parents and grandparents are being seated.
- Music for the prelude should also be sacred in nature. Secular songs are best saved for your reception.

Ave Maria (Franz Schubert)
Find Your Wings (Mark Harris & Tony Wood)
How Beautiful (Twila Paris)
In This Very Room (Ron & Carol Harris)
Prelude in C (Ave Maria) (J.S. Bach/Gounod)

Procession & Gathering

- Option 1 - Choose one gathering song that would also serve as the procession song (like we do at Sunday Mass).
- Option 2 - Choose one instrumental piece for the procession, then sing a separate gathering song after all have arrived at the altar area.

Canon in D (Johann Pachelbel)
Hymne (Vangelis)
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (J.S. Bach)
Trumpet Voluntary (J. Clarke)
All Are Welcome #570
Gather Us In #471
Here Us Now, Our God and Father #448
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #726
Table of Plenty #463

Responsorial Psalm

- This is sung by a cantor and the assembly after the first reading.

Ps. 33: The Lord Fills the Earth with His Love (Inwood) #142
Ps. 34: I Will Always Thank the Lord (Soper) #146
Ps.103: The Lord is Kind and Merciful (Haugen)
Ps. 128: O Blessed Are Those (Inwood) #195
Ps. 145: I Will Praise Your Name (Smith) #200

Hymn of Praise

- Optional, but strongly encouraged!
- This is a song to be sung by everyone after the exchange of rings, so all gathered can express the joy of the moment and their support of your marriage.

All Creatures of Our God and King #714
Glory and Praise to Our God #723
He is the Lord #727
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee #726
This is the Day (Soper) #191

Introduction

Marriage in the Catholic Church celebrates the Christian faith of the couple. It is nourished by the Word of God proclaimed in the Scriptures. The sacrament of marriage celebrates God's grace at work in the life of the couple, uniting them in the self-giving love that Christ has called us all to have for one another.

Our celebrations of the sacraments, marriage included, are always rooted in listening to the scriptures so that we can be nourished and strengthened by God's word. We always celebrate the sacraments as a community, gathering with our brothers and sisters in faith, and asking for their prayerful support.

These celebrations are incomplete unless they are filled with song, prayerful gestures and the silence in which we hear the voice of God in our lives. In this context, we begin with this important principle: the celebration of a wedding is an expression of the faith of the Christian community and, as such, must express the best act of worship the community can provide. Therefore, the parish Sunday liturgy is the model to follow in planning a wedding.

At St. Mary we invite you to share that grace-filled moment with us when you are joined together in a sacramental covenant of love with sacred music, nourishment from the Word of God, and the sharing of your promises to love and honor one another all the days of your lives.

Requirements

Who May Marry In Our Parish Church

The Code of Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church governs the answer to this question, in part. Generally speaking, regularly attending members of our parish and their children may celebrate their weddings at St. Mary Church.

Roman Catholics who live within the bounds of the parish but who have no formal relationship with the St. Mary parish community may speak to the pastor about establishing a relationship with the parish, with an eye towards celebrating a wedding in the future.

Former members of the parish need to speak both to their present priest and to the pastor at St. Mary if they wish to solemnize their marriage in this church. A written letter of delegation from the pastor of their current parish is required. Weddings must always take place in the parish church.

The offering to the church for the use of the sanctuary is \$250 for parish members and \$500 for non-parish members. This offering goes to the upkeep of the church. If you wish to make an additional gift to the presider you may do so.

Dates and Times

Setting the date of the wedding: Couples are expected to contact the parish at least eight months in advance of the date on which they hope to celebrate their wedding. Their wedding date will be finalized on the church calendar after they have had an initial meeting with the pastor or deacon. It is highly advisable that couples contact the church prior to confirming any other arrangements. (*See the timeline checklist.*)

Scheduling the date and time of the celebration: Weddings are scheduled with respect to the couple's wishes and to the availability of the church building and presiders. To allow sufficient time to prepare for the Saturday evening Mass and the Sacrament of Reconciliation, weddings are usually scheduled on Saturday, from 10:00 am through 2:00 pm. The wedding party is expected to have the church cleaned up and to be out of the church by 4:00 pm. Weddings may be celebrated on a Friday evening or another night of the week. They may also be celebrated at the Saturday evening or Sunday morning parish liturgies. If you choose this option, the rental fee will be waived.

Preparation

At St. Mary we believe that it is extremely important that a couple take the time to adequately prepare themselves for marriage. By doing this they will reach their wedding day prepared to fully offer themselves to one another. Marriage preparation consists of three parts:

1. **FOCCUS:** At St. Mary each couple must complete the FOCCUS marriage readiness instrument. This is a facilitated dialogue about key issues in a couple's life that are vital to a successful marriage. The instrument can be completed online or at the parish office and will be discussed with your sponsor couple. There is a \$40 fee to covers the cost of materials.
2. **Mentor Couple:** A parish mentor couple meets with an engaged couple for a series of six meetings. This is a couple-to-couple program and meetings take place in the home of the mentor couple or another place that is convenient and comfortable for open dialogue. In addition to covering items from the FOCCUS instrument, the mentor couple and the engaged couple will use a program titled Formed By Grace. There is no fee for this program, materials are provided as a gift from the parish.
3. In addition, the couple is highly encouraged to attend **Pre Cana**. Dates, locations, and helpful information are available from the parish office. Fees should be paid directly to this programs. It is the couple's responsibility to register and attend.
 - **Pre Cana:** a one day program for engaged couples. Through group discussions, exercises, and presentations, engaged couples are stimulated to concentrate more intensely on the many facets of married life.

Required Documents

The following documents will need to be on file prior to the celebration of your wedding. Some of these documents take considerable time to obtain, so you should start the process well in advance of the wedding date. The pastor or your presider will assist you in this process, but it is the responsibility of the couple to ensure that all documents are presented to the church prior to the wedding.

Document Checklist

- Completion of FOCCUS Marriage Readiness Instrument
- Certificate of completion for Pre Cana
- Prenuptial Questionnaire
 - Bride
 - Groom
- Affidavit concerning freedom to marry
 - Bride
 - Groom
- Required Dispensations and Delegations
 - For ecumenical marriages
 - If one of the people to be married is not baptized
 - A presider other than those assigned to St. Mary is asked to witness the ceremony
- Baptism certificates (issued within the last 6 months if Catholic)
 - Bride
 - Groom
- Letter of Delegation from your pastor if you are not a member of the St. Mary faith community
- Marriage license - **to be brought to the parish office at least a week before the wedding**

Option 2

Reader: Your response will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For leaders of Church and state, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households, that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life, in the search for peace and joy, in the search for love among us, let us pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple ____ and ____, married today, and for those who will marry tomorrow, that they may savor the joy of being together, warm love and children, a long life, wine, friends, and a new day, every day, let us pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love, let us pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor, for the sick in body, mind, and spirit, for the weakness in all of us, let us pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For the fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires, let us pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Prayers of the Faithful

Option 1

Reader: Your response will be, "Lord, hear our prayer."

For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops, clergy, and lay ministers everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For our president and all leaders of government, that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For married persons, that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For _____ and _____, now beginning their live together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until a ripe old age, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For those who have died, especially for _____ and _____'s family and all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Reader: For these personal needs which we mention now in silence, we pray to the Lord...*Lord, hear our prayer.*

Church Policies

Rehearsal

A wedding brings together a number of people who need to work in harmony. This happens best when all those participating have the opportunity to practice their roles, and are familiar with where and when in the ceremony they will be called upon. This includes the bride and groom, the bridal party, the parents, lectors and musicians. Rehearsals normally are held the evening prior to, or the morning of the wedding, prior to the time for photographs. If everyone is on time this normally requires not more than 30-45 minutes.

Photography

A wedding is first and foremost a sacred ritual. Photographing or recording the wedding should not interfere with or detract from the worship experience. Flash photography should never be used during the ceremony. (You may want to make note of this in your wedding program.) There should be no movement in the sanctuary area during the service. All video recorders should be in a stationary position in the rear or side of the church. **The official photographer should contact the pastor before the wedding for other details.**

Pictures to be taken in the church should be taken before the wedding. An hour is quite sufficient for a professional photographer to do a fine job of photographing your wedding party. Pictures should be completed no later than 45 minutes before the start of the wedding.

Alcohol and Tobacco

The St. Mary campus is an alcohol and tobacco free environment. Consumption of either is strictly prohibited on the premises. Please make the members of your wedding party aware of this policy.

Environment

The wedding rental agreement includes use of Classroom A and the tables in the fellowship hall. Classroom A can be locked overnight after the rehearsal if needed; you will need to contact the Building and Grounds manager to check out a key. The kitchen can be rented for an additional fee.

Couples will be asked to respect existing church decorations as well as appropriate placement as found in the liturgical documents. If church decorations are moved, return them to how they were following the wedding. Please be aware the church will be decorated for the season of the year (fall, spring, etc.) as well as for liturgical events (All Souls Day, Christmas, Easter, etc.)

If extra decorations are brought in for the wedding liturgy, please keep in mind that the normal weekend liturgy will also be taking place, and arrangements to return the church to its typical setting must be made.

The parish church is truly a sacred space for the members of the congregation, and should be respected by everything the wedding party says and does in its worship environment.

The Wedding Ceremony

Readings

The scripture readings used in a wedding should convey the spirituality of the couple, and have meaning to them in terms of their life and their marriage. Reading options are included in this planning guide. At least one of the readings needs to speak specifically about marriage. These readings are marked with an *. An appointment with the pastor or deacon can be made if you would like guidance selecting the readings.

Music

While there are many beautiful songs that you might feel express your love for one another, it is important to remember that the music used for the liturgy reflect the sacred and sacramental nature of the liturgy. To assist you, in addition to the group music workshop, plan to consult with the music coordinator to make your music selections.

Ceremony Procession options:

1. Presider, wedding party, parents, bride and groom together
2. Presider, wedding party, groom with parents, bride with parents

Options for greeting guests after the ceremony:

1. The bride and groom come back into the church and greet guests pew by pew.
2. Ushers stand by the pews and dismiss guests, the bride and groom have a receiving line in the church hall.
3. The bride and groom have a receiving line at the reception.

Popular Trends

The lighting of a unity candle is no longer permitted as a part of the wedding rite. One reason the Church's rite does not include a unity candle may be that its popular meaning - two lives becoming one - is already profoundly signified through the couple's exchange of vows and rings and in the nuptial blessing. Other popular trends such as combining sand or water are not liturgically appropriate and would be more appropriately celebrated at your reception.

Liturgical Ministers

Lectors

Honoring a family member or close friend with the privilege of proclaiming the readings at your wedding can help make your ceremony a special time in both your lives and theirs. When selecting your lectors, they should be capable of proclaiming the scriptures in public. It is also best to choose readers who believe the scripture they are proclaiming. You may want to also choose a separate reader to proclaim the General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful). For the readings to be proclaimed well, please provide a copy of the readings to your lectors a week or two ahead of time so they can practice.

Eucharistic Ministers

If the wedding is celebrated during Mass, there will be need for Communion ministers for the Body and for the Blood. If friends or family members of the bride and groom are Communion ministers in their home parishes, they may be invited to serve at weddings celebrated here.

Ushers

Ushers are ministers of hospitality. Their job is to facilitate the movement of the guests to and from their seats, help guests with special needs, **and assist in preparing and cleaning up the church before and after the ceremony.**

5. Matthew 22:35-40 *This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it.*

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He 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."

6. * John 2:1-11 *Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee.*

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." And Jesus said 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 servants 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.

7. John 15:9-12 *Remain in my love.*

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."

8. John 15:12-16 *This is my commandment: love one another.*

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."

Gospel

1. Matthew 5:1-12a *Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

When Jesus 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 peace-makers, 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."

2. Matthew 5:13-16 *You are the light of the world.*

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."

3. Matthew 7:21, 24-29 *A wise man built his house on rock.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. "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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

4. * Matthew 19:3-6 *What God has united, man must not separate.*

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?" He 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, man must not separate."

Music Ministers

Music ministers lead and engage the assembly in full participation during your wedding liturgy. They lead God's people in songs of faith-filled praise and thanksgiving. St. Mary will provide liturgical music ministers (accompanist and a cantor/song leader) for your wedding service. If you have friends or family you wish to involve with the music, please work with the music coordinator.

It is important to remember that the music ministers support your wedding and do much more than show up the day of the ceremony to provide music. They have spent hours practicing so that on your wedding day the music is beautiful and enhances the ceremony. The fees for accompanist is \$125, and for Cantors it is \$75, to be given directly to them at the rehearsal.

Altar Servers

If the celebration of your wedding will be in the form of a Mass, it is appropriate to have two altar servers to assist the presider. The church will be happy to assist you in finding trained servers to assist. Altar servers should receive \$20 each.

Summary of costs

Below is a summary of the expenses you should expect to incur for your wedding at St Mary. This summary is for costs associated with the church, and does not include decorations, flowers, or other expenses associated with your wedding.

Foccus/marriage prep:	\$40 - due prior to beginning preparation.
Church use parish member:	\$250 - due two weeks prior to the wedding
Church use non members:	\$500 - due two weeks prior to the wedding
Accompanist:	\$125 - given to accompanist at the rehearsal
Cantor:	\$75 - given to accompanist at the rehearsal
Altar servers for a mass	\$20 - each
Church hall for rehearsal dinner or reception:	\$125 - \$150 - depending on equipment
Presider:	While there is no set fee for the presider it is appropriate to recognize the time and effort they put into your ceremony.

Timeline - Planning your Catholic wedding

At least eight months before your wedding date

- Schedule an appointment with the pastor. Your wedding and rehearsal dates can be scheduled at the time of your meeting. This should be done before any other reservations are made.
- Register for marriage preparation programs

Six to ten months

- Begin meeting with your mentor couple
- Attend Pre Cana or Engaged Encounter
- Contact the parish where the bride and groom were baptized to request baptismal certificates. Have the certificates sent to the parish office.
- Choose Scripture readings
- Discuss ceremony ideas with the presider

Four to six months

- Contact the parish music coordinator to discuss appropriate music selections
- Ask friends or relatives to serve as readers, Eucharistic Ministers, ushers, gift bearers

Two to four months

- Finalize ceremony plans with the pastor/presider, including Scripture readings and music selections.
- Sit down together and write the General Intercessions if you have not chosen them from this Planning Guide

One to two months

- Register for your marriage license and take the license to the parish office
- Complete Affidavit concerning freedom to marry

Two to four weeks

Design your wedding program once all the ceremony details are in place. Your program should include listing the people involved and any personal messages to your guests. A worship aide with the song numbers, sung responses, and spoken responses will be provided by the church to help your guests fully participate in the celebration.

- Let the St. Mary music coordinator know how many copies of the worship aide need to be made.

One to two weeks

- If you have not done so, take your marriage license to the parish office
- Pay wedding fees to the church office
- Create and hand out a schedule or checklist for the wedding day that lets all attendants, relatives, and designated drivers know when they need to be where, and what they need to do.
- Arrange for someone to provide snacks or a light lunch at the church before the ceremony, if necessary
- Send copies of the readings and intercessions (prayers) to your lectors and reader

6. Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 *This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.*

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.

7. Colossians 3:12-17 *And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.*

Brothers and sisters: Put on, 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 or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

8. Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39 *What will separate us from the love of Christ?*

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He 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.

9. Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 *Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.*

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves 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 own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

Second Reading

1. 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 *Your body is a temple of the Spirit.*

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, And the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

2. 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8a *If I do not have love, I gain nothing.*

Brothers and sisters: 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, 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.

3. Philippians 4:4-9 *The God of peace will be with you.*

Brothers and sisters: 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 and sisters, 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.

4. * 1 John 3:18-24 *Love in deed and in truth.*

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

5. 1 John 4:7-12 *God is love.*

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-begotten 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.

The day before

- Have the rehearsal for the ceremony
- Give gifts to your attendants and family members to thank them for their support.
- At the rehearsal - assign family members or friends to walk through the church and dressing areas after the wedding to be sure no wedding items are forgotten, and to pick up any trash left behind by the guests or the wedding party. (See Clean-up checklist)**
- Give a list of payment envelopes to whoever is responsible for paying vendors. Don't forget to tip if applicable.

The wedding day

- Take some time to be alone, relax and pray.
- Try to eat breakfast and drink plenty of water.
- Let go of all the planning details. Let your trusted attendants worry about them instead.
- Take deep breaths all day, and try to remain in the present moment as you float through the day. It will help you remember details of your wedding later.

Clean Up Checklist

For Saturday weddings, please have Church, Hall and Classroom A cleaned up by 4:00 pm so we can be ready for 5:15 pm Mass. As a courtesy:

- Do not slide items across the floors of the hall or altar, they may damage the floor
- Limit black shoe marks on floors
- No glitter is allowed

A broom, dustpan, bucket and towels will be provided.

- Sanctuary
 - Double check for any personal items that may have been left behind
 - Pick up any decorations you have brought in
 - If parish plants or décor have been moved, return them how they were
 - Sweep up flower petals, etc. if needed
- Restrooms
 - Be sure toilets are flushed
 - Toilet paper is restocked
 - Sink faucets are completely turned off
- Fellowship Hall
 - Trash and personal items are picked up
 - Tables are wiped off if needed
 - Floors are swept/mopped up if needed
- Classroom
 - Tidy up tables, chairs, wipe if needed
 - Pick up personal items
 - Sweep if needed

First Reading

1. * Genesis 1:26-28, 31a *Male and female he created them.*

Then 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 image of God 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 looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

2. * Genesis 2:18-24 *The two of them become one body.*

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 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.

3. * Tobit 8:4b-8 *Allow us to live together to a happy old age.*

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They 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."

4. * Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 *The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.*

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.

5. Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a *Stern as death is love.*

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!" "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." My lover belongs to me and I to him. He says to me: "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 floods sweep it away."

6. * Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16 *Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.*

Blessed 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 soul. A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

7. Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a *I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.*

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 relatives how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.