

LITURGICAL PLANNING FOR WEDDINGS



AT ST. PATRICK'S PARISH

*"Be devoted to one another in love.
Honor one another above yourselves." Romans 12:10:*



**"THE TWO WILL
BECOME
one flesh."**
MARK 10:8, NIV

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First Readings from the Old Testament

(Please choose one of the following readings)

Old Testament

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then the LORD God said,
"It is not good that the man should be alone;
I will make him a helper as his partner."

So out of the ground
the LORD God formed every animal of the field
and every bird of the air,
and brought them to the man to see what he would call them;
and whatever the man called every living creature,
that was its name.

The man gave names to all cattle,
and to the birds of the air,
and to every animal of the field;
but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner.

So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man,
and he slept;
then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man
he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

Then the man said,
"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken."

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother
and clings to his wife,
and they become one flesh.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Abrahams' servant said to Laban,
"I bowed my head and worshipped the LORD,
and blessed the LORD, the God of my master Abraham,
who had led me by the right way
to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master,
tell me; and if not, tell me,
so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left."

Then Laban and Bethuel answered,
"The thing comes from the LORD;
we cannot speak to you anything bad or good.

Look, Rebekah is before you,
take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son,
as the LORD has spoken."

Rebekah's mother and brother called her, and asked her,
"Will you go with this man?" She said, "I will."

So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse
along with Abraham's servant and his men.

And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,
"May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads;
may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes."

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up,
mounted the camels, and followed the man;
thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi,
and was settled in the Negev.

Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field;
and looking up, he saw camels coming.

And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac,
she slipped quickly from the camel,

and said to the servant,

“Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?”

The servant said, “It is my master.”

So Rebekah took her veil and covered herself.

And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent.

He took Rebekah, and she became his wife;

and he loved her.

So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

A reading from the book of Tobit.

Raguel jumped up and kissed Tobias and wept.

He also spoke to him as follows,
"Blessings on you, my child,
son of a good and noble father!
O most miserable of calamities
that such an upright and beneficent man has become blind!"
He then embraced his kinsman Tobias and wept.

His wife Edna also wept for him,
and their daughter Sarah likewise wept.

Then Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock
and received them very warmly.
When they had bathed and washed themselves
and had reclined to dine, Tobias said to Raphael,
"Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to give me my kinswoman Sarah."

But Raguel overheard it and said to the lad,
"Eat and drink, and be merry tonight.
For no one except you, brother,
has the right to marry my daughter Sarah.
Likewise I am not at liberty to give her
to any other man than yourself
because you are my nearest relative.
But let me explain to you the true situation more fully, my child.

I have given her to seven men of our kinsmen,
and all died on the night when they went in to her.
But now, my child, eat and drink,
and the Lord will act on behalf of you both."
But Tobias said,

"I will neither eat nor drink anything
until you settle the things that pertain to me."
So Raguel said, "I will do so.

She is given to you in accordance with the decree in the book of Moses,
and it has been decreed from heaven that she be given to you.
Take your kinswoman;

from now on you are her brother and she is your sister.
She is given to you from today and forever.
May the Lord of heaven, my child,
Guide and prosper you both this night
And grant you mercy and peace.”

Then Raguel summoned his daughter Sarah.
When she came to him
he took her by the hand and gave her to Tobias, saying,
“Take her to be your wife
in accordance with the law and decree written in the book of Moses.
Take her and bring her safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven prosper your journey with his peace.”

Then Raguel called her mother
and told her to bring writing material;
and he wrote out a copy of a marriage contract,
to the effect that he gave Sarah to Tobias as wife
according to the decree of the law of Moses.

Then they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

A reading from the book of Tobit.

On their wedding night,
Tobias got out of bed and said to Sarah,
"Sister, get up, and let us pray and implore our Lord
that he may grant us mercy and safety."

So she got up,
and they began to implore that they might be kept safe.
Tobias began by saying,
"Blessed are you, O God of our fathers,
and blessed is your name in all generations forever.
Let the heavens and the whole creation bless you forever.

You made Adam,
and for him you made his wife Eve as a helper and support.
From the two of them the human race has sprung.
You said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone;
let us make a helper for him like himself.'

I now am taking this kinswoman of mine,
not because of lust, but with sincerity.
Grant that she and I may find mercy
and that we may grow old together."

And they both said, "Amen, Amen."

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

A reading from the Song of Songs.

The voice of my beloved!
Look, he comes,
leaping upon the mountains,
bounding over the hills.

My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag.
Look, there he stands behind our wall,
gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice.

My beloved speaks and says to me:
"Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away;

O my dove, in the clefts of the rock,
in the covert of the cliff,
let me see your face, let me hear your voice;
for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely."

My beloved is mine and I am his.

"Set me as a seal upon your heart,
as a seal upon your arm;
for love is strong as death,
passion fierce as the grave.
Love's flashes are flashes of fire, a raging flame.

Many waters cannot quench love,
neither can floods drown it."

The word of the Lord.

Old Testament

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Blessed is the husband of a good wife;
the number of his days will be doubled.

A loyal wife brings joy to 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 content,
and at all times his face is cheerful.

A wife's charm delights her husband,
and her skill puts flesh on his bones.

A silent wife is a gift from the Lord,
and nothing is so precious as her self-discipline.

A modest wife adds charm to charm,
and no scales can weigh the value of her chastity.

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.

Old Testament

A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely 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 that I made with their fathers
when I took them by the hand
to bring them out of the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant
that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,
says the LORD:
I will put my law within them,
and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other,
"Know the LORD,"
for they shall all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Second Readings from the New Testament

(Please choose one of the following readings)

New Testament

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
If God is for us, who is against us?

He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?

Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.

Who is to condemn?
It is Christ Jesus, who died,
yes, who was raised,
who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.

Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,
by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice,
holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern what is the will of God-
what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Let love be genuine;
hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good;

love one another with mutual affection;
outdo one another in showing honour.

Do not lag in zeal,
be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty,
but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,
but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord,
and the Lord for the body.

And God raised the Lord
and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know
that your bodies are members of Christ?

But anyone united to the Lord
becomes one spirit with him.

Shun fornication!
Every sin that a person commits is outside the body;
but the fornicator sins against the body itself.

Or do you not know
that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you,
which you have from God,
and that you are not your own?

For you were bought with a price;
therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters,
strive for the greater gifts.
And I will show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in the tongues of human beings and of Angels,
but do not have love,
I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have prophetic powers,
and understand all mysteries and all knowledge,
and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains,
but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away all my possessions,
and if I hand over my body so that I may boast,
but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind;
love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way;
it is not irritable or resentful;

it does not rejoice in wrongdoing,
but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians.

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us.

Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord.

For the husband is the head of the wife
just as Christ is the head of the Church,
the body of which he is the Savior.

Just as the Church is subject to Christ,
so also wives ought to be, in everything, to their husbands.

Husbands, love your wives,
just as Christ loved the Church
and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy
by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word,
so as to present the Church to himself in splendour,
without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—
yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish.

In the same way, husbands should love their wives
as they do their own bodies.
He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one ever hates his own body,
but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it,
just as Christ does for the Church,
because we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

This is a great mystery,
and I am applying it to Christ and the Church.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters:

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
clothe yourselves with compassion,
kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and,
if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other;
just as the Lord has forgiven you,
so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love,
which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.
And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly;
teach and admonish one another in all wisdom;
and with gratitude in your hearts
sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

And whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter.

Beloved:

Wives, accept the authority of your husbands,
so that, even if some of them do not obey the word,
they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct,
when they see the purity and reverence of your lives.

Do not adorn yourselves outwardly by braiding your hair,
and by wearing gold ornaments or fine clothing;
rather, let your adornment be the inner self
with the lasting beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit,
which is very precious in God's sight.

It was in this way long ago
that the holy women who hoped in God
used to adorn themselves
by accepting the authority of their husbands.

Thus Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord.
You have become her daughters as long as you do what is good
and never let fears alarm you.

Husbands, in the same way,
show consideration for your wives in your life together,
paying honor to the woman as the weaker sex,
since they too are also heirs of the gracious gift of life—
so that nothing may hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another,
a tender heart, and a humble mind.

Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse;
but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing.
It is for this that you were called—
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John.

Little children, let us love,
not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

And by this we will know that we are from the truth
and will reassure our hearts before him

whenever our hearts condemn us;
for God is greater than our hearts,
and God knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have boldness before God;

and we receive from him whatever we ask,
because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment,
that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ
and love one another, just as he has commanded us.

Whoever obeys his commandments abides in him,
and he abides in them.
And by this we know that he abides in us,
by the Spirit that he has given us.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament

A reading from the first Letter of Saint 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.

New Testament

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I, John, heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying,
"Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power to our God."

And from the throne came a voice saying,
"Praise our God, all you his servants,
and all who fear him, small and great."

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude,
like the sound of many waters
and like the sound of mighty thunderpeals, crying out,
"Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.

Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready;
to her it has been granted to be clothed
with fine linen, bright and pure"—
for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

And the Angel said to me,
"Write this:
Blessed are those
who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb."

The word of the Lord.

Prayers of the Faithful

Note: These are standard prayers of the faithful

That God will make **N.** and **N.** rejoice in mutual love that is faithful to the end: let us pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For **N.** and **N.**'s families, as they rejoice in this newly-married couple's happiness, and welcome new family members: let us pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For the members of **N.** and **N.**'s families who have died, and for those who feel their absence most keenly at this time of joy: let us pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For God's holy people, that through this celebration we all may grow in our desire to serve and love the world: let us pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

That the world we live in and are called to serve may be enlivened by the presence of God shown forth in the love of men and women: let us pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

For our community, for ourselves, and for each other, that we may accept the challenge placed before us today, and make love our way of life: let us pray.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.