*Celebrating the Marriage*



*of*

*Bride’s Name & Groom Name*

**[CHURCH NAME]**

**[DATE]**

# THE BRIDAL PARTY

# THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

## Reception of the Couple

## Greeting

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

**Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.

**And with your spirit.**

## Welcome

We have come rejoicing into the house of the Lord

for this celebration, dear brothers and sisters,

and now we stand with {{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}

on the day they intend to form a home of their own.

For them this is a moment of unique importance.

So let us support them

with our affection,

with our friendship,

and with our prayer as their brothers and sisters.

Let us listen attentively with them

to the word that God speaks to us today.

Then, with holy Church,

let us humbly pray to God the Father,

through Christ our Lord,

for this couple, his servants,

that he lovingly accept them,

bless them,

and make them always one.

## Collect

Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord,

and in your kindness

pour out your grace on these your servants ({{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}),

that, coming together before your altar,

they may be confirmed in love for one another.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

It is the wise woman whom the Lord will praise.

A perfect wife - who can find her?

She is far beyond the price of pearls.

Her husband's heart has confidence in her,

from her he will derive no little profit.

Advantage and not hurt she brings him

all the days of her life.

She is always busy with wool and with flax,

she does her work with eager hands.

She sets her hands to the distaff,

her fingers grasp the spindle.

She holds out her hand to the poor,

she opens her arms to the needy.

Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty;

the woman who is wise is the one to praise.

Give her a share in what her hands have worked for,

and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

Ps 127,1-2, 3, 4-5ac and 6a

R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.

or

R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear him.

O blessed are those who fear the Lord

and walk in his ways!

By the labour of your hands you shall eat.

You will be happy and prosper. R.

Your wife will be like a fruitful vine

in the heart of your house;

your children like shoots of the olive,

around your table. R.

Indeed thus shall be blessed

the man who fears the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from Zion

all the days of your life!

May you see your children's children. R.

## Gospel Acclamation

1 John 4:8b and 11

Alleluia, alleluia!

God is love;

let us love one another as he has loved us.

Alleluia!

## Gospel

Matthew 19:3-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

So then, what God has united, no one must divide.

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and to test him they said, 'Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever?' He answered, 'Have you not read that the creator from the beginning made them male and female and that he said: This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body? They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

# THE CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY

## Introduction

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.

## Questions Before The Consent

{{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}}, have you come here to enter into Marriage

without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I have.

The Priest continues:

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage,

to love and honour each other

for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God

and to bring them up

according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say:

I am.

## 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.

The bridegroom says:

I, {{GROOM}}, take you, {{BRIDE}}, 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 to honour you

all the days of my life.

The bride says:

I, {{BRIDE}}, take you, {{GROOM}}, 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 to honour you

all the days of my life.

## Reception of Consent

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Blessing of Rings

Bless + and sanctify your servants

in their love, O Lord,

and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness,

remind them of their love for one another.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Giving of Rings

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

{{BRIDE}}, receive 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:

{{GROOM}}, receive 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.

## Universal Prayer

Dear brothers and sisters,

let us accompany this new family with our prayers,

that the mutual love of this couple may grow daily

and that God in his kindness

will sustain all families throughout the world.

For this bride and groom,

and for their well-being as a family,

let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.

For their relatives and friends,

and for all who have assisted this couple,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

For young people preparing to enter Marriage,

and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

For all families throughout the world

and for lasting peace among all people,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

For all members of our families

who have passed from this world,

and for all the departed,

let us pray to the Lord. R.

Lord Jesus, who are present in our midst,

as {{BRIDE}} and {{GROOM}} seal their union

accept our prayer

and fill us with your Spirit.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

## Invitation to Nuptial Blessing

Let us pray to the Lord for this bride and groom,

who come to the altar as they begin their married life,

that they may always be bound together by love for one another.

## Nuptial Blessing

Holy Father, maker of the whole world,

who created man and woman in your own image

and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing,

we humbly beseech you for these your servants,

who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord,

come down upon this bride, {{BRIDE}},

and upon {{GROOM}}, her companion for life,

and may the power of your Holy Spirit

set their hearts aflame from on high,

so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony,

they may adorn their family with children

and enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord,

in sorrow may they seek you out;

may they have the joy of your presence

to assist them in their toil,

and know that you are near

to comfort them in their need;

let them pray to you in the holy assembly

and bear witness to you in the world,

and after a happy old age,

together with the circle of friends that surrounds them,

may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

# THE CONCLUSION OF THE CELEBRATION

## Greeting

The Lord be with you.

**And with your spirit.**

## Blessing

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

## Dismissal

Go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Signing of the Register and Leaving the Church