

Wedding Ceremony Planner

This planner will help you determine and organize your wedding details. While it assumes a celebration within a Mass, it can be adapted to your circumstances. Full listings and other resources can be obtained from your presider or parish.



Date, Time, Location

Wedding Day _____

Mass/Ceremony Time _____

Parish/Chapel _____

Address _____

Reception Time(s) _____

Reception Location _____

Address _____

Meal Served At _____

The Wedding Party

Often, the wedding party comprises close relatives and friends with places of honor and may include children to carry the rings, flowers, and other special items. Besides the bride, groom, presider, and two witnesses, these roles are not liturgically necessary.

Groom _____ Bride _____

Groom's Parent(s) _____ Bride's Parent(s) _____

Presider _____

Witness / Best Man _____

Witness / Maid of Honor _____

Wedding Party, *continued*

Wedding Ministers

These people serve liturgical functions and may be selected, appointed, or perhaps consolidated to the presider and/or wedding party. Your wedding location and the size of your guest list determine your needs, so speak with your presider or parish about your options.

Usher(s) / Greeter(s) (also consider guest book attendance and program or favor distribution)

Altar Server(s)

Cantor / Musician(s) (in a Mass setting, trained liturgical musicians are recommended over secular performers and recordings)

Lector(s) (one to three are needed for the First Reading, Second Reading, and Universal Prayer)

Eucharistic Minister(s) (also consider a couple or family to bring up the Offertory gifts)

The Rite

Entrance Rite / Procession

Choose one option:

1. Presider meets bride and groom at the door(s) of the church
2. Presider meets bride and groom at the altar
(The presider is not in the procession.)
3. Bride and groom process together, followed by:
 - ∞ Servers and ministers
 - ∞ Presider
 - ∞ Wedding party
 - ∞ Witnesses and/or parents
 - ∞ Bride and groom
4. Bride and groom process escorted (normal order follows):
 - ∞ Servers and ministers
 - ∞ Presider
 - ∞ Wedding party
 - ∞ Groom, escorted by [parent(s) / witness]
 - ∞ Bride, escorted by [parent(s) / witness]



Liturgy of the Word

First Reading, Old Testament

∞ Genesis 1:26–28, 31: “God created man in his image; ...male and female he created them.”

∞ Genesis 2:18–24: “It is not good for the man to be alone....That is why...the two of them become one body.”

∞ Genesis 24:48–51, 58–67: “Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her, and thus she became his wife.”

∞ Tobit 7:9–15: “Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven! ...from now on you are her love, and she is your beloved.”

∞ Tobit 8:5–7: “Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy...and allow us to live together to a happy old age.”

∞ Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31: “When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.”

∞ Song of Songs 2:8–10, 14, 16; 8:6–7: “Set me as a seal on your heart....”

∞ Sirach 26:1–4, 13–16: “Blessed the husband of a good wife....”

∞ Jeremiah 31:31–34: “I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts.”

Responsorial Psalm

These hymns of ancient Israel are full of nuptial imagery.

∞ Psalm 33

∞ Psalm 34

∞ Psalm 103

∞ Psalm 112

∞ Psalm 128

∞ Psalm 145

∞ Psalm 148

Second Reading, New Testament

∞ Romans 8:31–35, 37–39: “What will separate us from the love of Christ?”

∞ Romans 12:1–2, 9–18: “Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship...Let love be sincere....”

∞ Romans 15:1–3, 5–7, 13: “May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another.”

∞ 1 Corinthians 6:13–15, 17–20: “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit...?”

∞ 1 Corinthians 12:31–13:8: “Love is patient, love is kind.”

∞ Ephesians 5:2, 21–33: “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church....”

∞ Philippians 4:4–9: “Rejoice in the Lord always... if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

∞ Colossians 3:12–17: “Over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”

∞ Hebrews 13:1–6: “Let mutual love continue... Let marriage be honored among all....”

∞ 1 Peter 3:1–9: “All of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another....”

∞ 1 John 3:18–24: “His commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another....”

∞ 1 John 4:7–12: “Let us love one another, because love is of God....If we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.”

∞ Revelation 19:1, 5–9: “The wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready.”

Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia Verse)

(all from 1 John 4)

∞ “Everyone who loves is begotten of God...”

∞ “God is love...”

∞ “If we love one another, God remains in us...”

∞ “Whoever remains in love, remains in God...”

Gospel

∞ Matthew 5:1–12: The Beatitudes

∞ Matthew 5:13–16: “You are the light of the world.”

∞ Matthew 7:21, 24–29: “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...”

∞ Matthew 19:3–6: “What God has joined together, man must not separate.”

∞ Matthew 22:35–40: “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart....”

∞ Mark 10:6–9: “They are no longer two but one flesh.”

∞ John 2:1–11: The Wedding at Cana

∞ John 15:9–12: “Love one another as I love you.”

∞ John 15:12–16: “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

∞ John 17:20–26: “I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one... that the love with which you loved me may be in them....”

Consent / Vows

∞ I, N., take you, N., to be my [wife/husband].
I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

∞ I, N., take you, N., for my lawful [wife/husband], to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.

∞ Answering “I do” to the presider’s questions.
(The questions asked differ if one of the persons is not baptized.)

Blessing of Rings

∞ “May the Lord bless these rings...as the sign of your love and fidelity.”

∞ “Lord, bless these rings....Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith....”

∞ “Lord, bless and consecrate N. and N. in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other....”

Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful)

These petitions should ask for blessing on the Church, peace in the world, the new couple, the sick, and the dead. There are sample sets from which to choose, or a couple may compose them in discussion with the presider, or he can prepare them himself.

Take this opportunity to invoke Mary and the saints. Some couples incorporate a “litany of the saints” hand-picked from among personal, family, and community favorites and patrons. This may be spoken, sung, or chanted.
See activity on page 46



Wedding Music

Consult with your parish and/or presider at least one month prior to the wedding. This often requires meeting separately with the music director or musicians about arrangements. There are a number of styles to choose from, including traditional, contemporary, classical, and more.

Processional _____

Gloria _____

Responsorial Psalm _____

Mass setting _____

∞ Alleluia _____

∞ Holy, Holy _____

∞ Memorial acclamation _____

∞ Great Amen _____

∞ Lamb of God _____

Offertory _____

Communion _____

Recessional _____

Other Song(s) (indicate title/composer and position within the ceremony)

Wedding Vendors

The sacred nature of a church building and the wedding liturgy call for certain guidelines on the use of decorations, printed programs, and recording devices. Check with your presider or parish about regulations specific to your ceremony and location.

Planner / Coordinator _____

Photographer / Videographer _____

Florist _____

Program printer (stationery, calligraphy, etc.) _____

Guest Accommodations _____

Baker / Caterer _____

DJ / Reception Music _____

