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READINGS

MUSIC



Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
& St. Mary of the Woods Chapel  
Muskegon, Michigan

# Menu for a Successful Marriage



APPETIZERS

**Don't Marry Too Young**  
More than two thirds of teenage marriages end in divorce. It's much better to wait until you are in your twenties.

**Finish School**  
Couples who finish high school are more likely to have fulfilling, long-term marriages.



SOUPS

**Choose a Mate With Similar Values**  
Couples who share similar values, religious backgrounds, and goals have greater chances of success. Marriage is a team effort. You both need to be headed in the same direction.

**Take Your Time**  
Couples who date at least a year before marriage are more likely to have successful marriages.



SALADS

**Take a Marriage Course**  
Couples who complete a premarital course learn skills that will help them communicate better, resolve conflict more effectively, and improve marital satisfaction. Five years later they are more likely to be happy and together.

**Don't Live Together**  
Contrary to popular opinion, living together actually decreases your chance for a successful marriage. Couples who cohabit are often less committed to marriage, less satisfied in their relationships, and more likely to divorce if they do marry.



ENTREES

**Emphasize the Positive**  
In healthy marriages, spouses give each other four times more positive comments than negative ones.

**Share the Work**  
Couples in healthy marriages share household duties and child care. Men, this is for you.

**Worship Together**  
Couples who actively participate in a local congregation have higher rates of marital satisfaction and are less likely to divorce.



DESSERTS

**Have Fun**  
Couples in healthy marriages spend time with each other in conversation, fun, and relaxation.

**Remember the "C" Word**  
Commitment is the foundation for successful marriage. When you say "I Do," say it for life—and mean it.

# Wedding Music Examples

## Opening Song or Processional

Instrumental Selections	Vocal Selections	Congregational Selections
Canon in D Major (Pachelbel)	The Wedding Song (Stokey)	Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)	Come and Journey (Haas)	Alleluia, Alleluia
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)	Love Is The Sunlight	Blest Are They
	When Love Is Found	Lift Up Your Hearts
	Morning Has Broken	Gather Us In
		City Of God

## Responsorial Psalm

Vocal Selections	Congregational Selections
I Have Loved You	Blest Are Those Who Love You
As For Me And My House	Blest Are We Beloved Of God
Where There Is Love	God Is Love
Wherever You Go	The Lord Is Kind and Merciful

## Gospel Acclamation

Vocal Selections
Celtic Alleluia by Christopher Walker
Alleluia, Give the Glory by Canedo
Word of Truth and Life by Haugen
Alleluia by Schutte

## Unity Candle (Optional)

Vocal Selections	Congregational Selections
Surely The Presence	I Have Loved You
Two Candles	We Praise You, O Lord
And On This Day	May You Walk With Crist

## Presentation of the Gifts

Instrumental Selections	Vocal Selections	Congregational Selections
Arioso (Bach)	Only God Could Love You More	Here I Am, Lord
Sinfonia (Bach)	Household of Faith	Remember Your Love
	Cherish The Treasure	On Eagle's Wings

## Communion Song

Vocal Selections	Congregational Selections
How Beautiful	You Are Mine
Ubi Caritas	One Bread, One Body
Ave Maria	The Supper of the Lord
Panis Angelicus	Gift of Finest Wheat

## Closing Song or Recessional

Instrumental Selections	Vocal Selections	Congregational Selections
Canon in D Major (Pachelbel)	The Wedding Song (Stokey)	Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
Trumpet Voluntary (Clarke)	Come and Journey (Haas)	Alleluia, Alleluia
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (Bach)	Love Is The Sunlight	Blest Are They
	When Love Is Found	Lift Up Your Hearts
	Morning Has Broken	Gather Us In
		City Of God

## PREPARATION:

1. Diocesan Law requires a minimum preparation time of 6 months. During this time, the couple is encouraged to register and become active members to be qualified for **active-member** church fee.
2. The couple **MUST** meet with the priest before a wedding date can be reserved. If either person has had a previous marriage, **NO DATE** will be set until the Tribunal process has been completed.
3. Preparation will take the couple at least two sessions with the priest for a Pre-Marital Inventory (PMI) exam and other marriage paperwork.
4. The couple is **REQUIRED** to take a Marriage Preparation Program (e.g. Pre-Cana, Engaged Encounter, Sponsor Couple, or Cana II). Inter-faith couple is encouraged to take an ecumenical marriage seminar whenever possible.
5. The couple is to provide recent baptismal certificates (issued within 6 months) at least 30 days prior to wedding and marriage license (acquired at County Clerk Office a month prior to the wedding) to the priest **at least a week before the wedding**.
6. The wedding ceremony may be planned for any day except Sunday, Holy Days, and the days of Holy Week. Weddings are discouraged during Lent. Saturday weddings are no later than 1:00 pm.
7. All parish forms must be turned in no later than one month prior to wedding. The wedding license (with the envelope) must be turned in to the office 10 days prior to the wedding.

## FACILITIES:

1. The bride and bridesmaids may use the "Community Room (106)" to dress while the groom and groomsmen may go to the "Youth Room (415)". Please restore those rooms to their original condition after usage.
2. Unity Candles are ok, however, the couple needs to provide their own candles. **NO** candles in the aisles.
3. **No** aisle runners may be used. Pew bows or any pew decorations are not to be attached by tape or wire (fishing line or pipe cleaners are ok). **No** candles on the pews. Pew decorations may not block access to any pew.
4. The placement and arrangement of flowers must not interfere with the movements of the ceremony. **NO** flowers are to be placed right on the altar. **NO** moving of the existing signs and objects of the church is permitted.
5. Photos during the ceremony should not disturb the reverence of the service. **NO** videotaping or photographing from the sanctuary area is permitted beyond the first pew.
6. **NO** throwing of rice, birdseed, etc. is permitted inside or outside of church. Smoking, drinking and eating are **NOT** allowed in the church due to the sacredness of the setting. However, the brides may have snacks outside the door of the Community Room toward the parish hall. Grooms and men may have snacks and beverage in the Youth Room (This room must be clean when you leave!).
7. The rehearsal is usually 5:30 or 6:00pm on the evening before the wedding. The Church will be opened 3 hours prior to the wedding (10 AM on Saturday). Call the parish office at **(231) 744-3321** if there are other questions.

**CEREMONY:**

A booklet of Scripture readings and prayers of the faithful is provided to the couple. The couple must choose a gospel, but has the option of picking one or two Scripture readings for the ceremony. Readings/ poetry may NOT replace the Scripture readings. Families and friends are encouraged to take part in reading and serving at the ceremony.

Two witnesses, a man and a woman, who are at least 14 years of age are required.

Marriage between 2 Catholics usually takes place within the context of the Mass. A marriage between a Catholic and a Christian/ non-Christian is often celebrated outside of the Mass for the comfort of the non-Catholic party.

Holy Communion is open ONLY to Catholics.

**MUSIC:**

All music selected shall be of a sacred nature befitting the church ceremony and must be approved by the parish. Please call music director regarding questions:

Music Director: Chris Rademacher (231) 903-7580 or email cradmusic@aol.com.

**FEES:**

Church: \$150 (active member for at least 6 months); \$390(inactive/ non-member)  
Organist: \$150 Vocalist: Call the Music Director.

**Church fee and music fee should be turned in to the parish office with the marriage license at least one week before the wedding.** Any question, please call the priest at (231) 744-3321 ext. 125. Fax: (231) 744-4859.

**Wedding Contacts**

Fr. Peter Vu..... 231 744-3321 ext 125  
Barb Perri (Marriage Coordinator)..... 231 744-3321 ext 122  
Deacon Jim Schiltz ..... 231 744-4120  
Chris Rademacher (Music Director) ..... 231 903-7580

Wedding Coordinators:  
Pam Waybill.....(231) 719-1370  
Laura Bos .....(231) 744-2110  
Rea Maskell .....(231) 744-7213

*Wedding Music*

**MUSIC IN CATHOLIC WORSHIP**

You may be asking yourself: Why do we need music for our wedding? Well, in the catholic church, all liturgical celebrations include music as an active and vital part of the celebration. More importantly, your wedding ceremony should reflect a message of love, not only human love, but the love shared between you and God. What better way to help achieve this than through the gift of music? What lies ahead are guidelines and suggestions to help you through the selection process. Please read carefully, ask any questions you may have and enjoy as you prepare for your special celebration.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

First and foremost, take some time to pray and reflect as you prepare for this great sacrament of marriage. Think about what you want to “say” through the music you select. It is strongly recommended that you avoid music selection that would imply a concert or performance atmosphere during your celebration. Good and sound Catholic Liturgy involves the congregation; help make your guests a part of what’s happening in the sacrament

**Secular music is strictly prohibited within Catholic Liturgy.** What does that mean? Well, simply put, music that lacks liturgical or religious substance would not be allowed. For example, think of your favorite “love song” that you have heard on the radio. Even though that some may be special to you and speaks of the human love you share with each other, chances are it would not hold any liturgical or religious substance and therefore it would not be appropriate during your celebration. Those special songs are best included during the reception or party after the church ceremony. The Director of Music Ministries will preview any music or songs that you have in mind and evaluate them for liturgical appropriateness.

Special guest musicians, family and friends are always welcomed and encouraged to help with your music. Again, the Director of Music Ministries will help you facilitate anyone outside of Prince of Peace Catholic Church to help provide music.

**STIPENDS FOR MUSICIANS**

A stipend is a monetary amount given to a musician to compensate them for their time, talent and professional service. The Director of Music Ministries monitors all stipends for musicians provided by Prince of Peace Catholic Church. If you have musicians outside of the church provide your music (whether they are family or close friends) a stipend is generally expected from you. The following suggestions are for your consideration and information regarding musicians brought in by us to service your wedding.

Organist/Pianist ..... \$150.00  
Cantor/Soloist..... \$100.00  
Instrumentalist ... see music director

It is the policy of Prince of Peace Catholic Church that all stipends for musicians be paid to the parish office one week prior to the wedding taking place. Checks can be post-dated for the wedding day, but the parish secretary should receive all stipends prior to the wedding. Checks should be made out to the individual musician unless otherwise noted.

*Prayer of the Faithful (cont)*

3

- 1. For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord.
- 2. For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord.
- 3. For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord.
- 4. For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord.
- 5. For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord.
- 6. For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, we pray to the Lord.
- 7. For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, we pray to the Lord.

For this couple, to keep the promise of marriage, we pray to the Lord.

*Wedding Mass*

Introductory Rite

- Prelude ..... “From This Moment”
- Attendants Procession ..... “Canon in D”
- Bridal Procession ..... “Trumpets Voluntary”
- Lighting of Family Candles ..... “Birth Mothers”

Liturgy of the Word

- First Reading (Book, Chapter: Verses) ..... Reader 1
- Responsorial Psalm (Chapter: Verse)..... Musician
- Second Reading (Book, Chapter: Verse) ..... Reader 2
- Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) ..... Musician
- Gospel Reading (Book, Chapter: Verses) ..... Father/Deacon
- Homily ..... Father/Deacon

Marriage Rite

- Declaration of Consent
- Exchange of Vows
- Blessing of Rings
- Lighting of Unity Candles ..... Groom & Bride
- Prayer of the Faithful ..... Reader 3

Liturgy of the Eucharist

- Presentation of Offertory Gifts ..... Family/Friends
- Prayer over Offertory Gifts
- Preface
- The Lord’s Prayer (Our Father...)
- Nuptial Blessing
- Sign of Peace
- Communion..... “Here I Am Lord”
- Dedication to the Blessed Mother (Optional)..... “Ave Maria”

Concluding rite

- Closing Prayer & Final Blessing
- Introduction of the Newly Married Couple
- Recessional..... “Wedding March”
- Postlude ..... “Wedding Song”

# Wedding Ceremony

## Introductory Rite

Prelude .....	“From This Moment”
Attendants Procession .....	“Canon in D”
Bridal Procession.....	“Trumpets Voluntary”
Lighting of Family Candles .....	“Birth Mothers”

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading (Book, Chapter: Verses) .....	Reader 1
Responsorial Psalm (Chapter: Verse).....	Musician
Second Reading (Book, Chapter: Verse) .....	Reader 2
Gospel Acclamation (Alleluia) .....	Musician
Gospel Reading (Book, Chapter: Verses) .....	Father/Deacon
Homily .....	Father/Deacon

## Marriage Rite

Declaration of Consent	
Exchange of Vows	
Blessing of Rings	
Lighting of Unity Candles .....	Groom & Bride
Prayer of the Faithful .....	Reader 3
The Lord’s Prayer (Our Father...)	
Nuptial Blessing	
Sign of Peace	
Dedication to the Blessed Mother (Optional) .....	“Ave Maria”

## Concluding rite

Final Blessing	
Introduction of the Newly Married Couple	
Recessional.....	“Wedding March”
Postlude .....	“Wedding Song”



## Prayer of the Faithful

### 1

1. For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others, let us pray to the Lord.
2. For our president and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty, let us pray to the Lord.
3. For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day, let us pray to the Lord.
4. For N. and N., now beginning their life 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, let us pray to the Lord.
5. For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God’s help and aided by their friends, let us pray to the Lord.
6. For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. and N. and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life, let us pray to the Lord.
7. For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (pause), let us pray to the Lord.

### 2

1. 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 search for God and the good life, in search for peace and joy, in search for love among us – let us pray to the Lord.
2. For all married people: for those who married yesterday, for the new couple N. and N., married today, for those who will marry tomorrow. . .that they may savor the joy of being together, warm love, and children, a long life, wine, and friends, and a new day, every day – let us pray to the Lord.
3. For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love – let us pray to the Lord.
4. 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.
5. 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.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**  
*May they be completely one.*

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

“Holy Father,  
 I do not pray for my disciples alone.  
 I pray also for those who will believe in me  
 through their word,  
 that all may be one  
 as you, Father, are in me, and I in you;  
 that they may be [one]in us,  
 that the world may believe that you sent me.  
 I have given them the glory you gave me  
 That they may be one, as we are one –  
 I living in them, you living in me –  
 That their unity may be complete.  
 So shall the world know that you sent me,  
 and that you loved me.  
 Father,  
 all those you gave me  
 I would have in my company  
 where I am,  
 to see this glory of mine  
 which is your gift to me,  
 because of the love you bore me before the  
 world began.  
 Just Father,  
 the world has not known you,  
 but I have known you;  
 and these people have known that you sent me.  
 To them I have revealed your name,  
 and I will continue to reveal it  
 so that your love for me may live in them,  
 and I may live in them.”

The gospel of the Lord.

*Marriage Readings*

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Marriage  
*Old Testament Reading*

1

Gn 1: 26-31

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

*Male and female he created them.*

God said: "Let us make human 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 human in God's image; in the divine image God created human;  
male and female God 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 God had made, and found it very good.

The Word of the Lord.

2

Gn 2: 18-24

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

*And they will be two in one flesh.*

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 God brought them to the man to see what God 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 the 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, God took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with the flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that God had taken from the man. When God brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of 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.

The Word of the Lord.

3

Gn 24: 48-67

**A reading from the book of Genesis**

*Isaac loved Rebekah, and so he was consoled for the loss of his mother.*

The servant of Abraham said to Laban: "I bowed down in worship to the Lord, blessing the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son. If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master, let me know; but if not, let me know that too. I can then proceed accordingly."

Laban and his household said in reply: "This thing comes from the Lord; we can say nothing to you either for or against it. Here is Rebekah, ready for you; take her with you, that she may become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has said."

So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Do you wish to go with this man?" She answered, "I do." At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham's servant and his men.

Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

"Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads;  
and may your descendants gain possession of the gates  
of their enemies!"

"People usually serve the choice wine first; then when the guests have been drinking a while, a lesser vintage. What you have done is keep the choice wine until now." Jesus performed this first of his signs at Cana in Galilee. Thus did he reveal his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

8

Jn 15: 9-12

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*Remain in my love.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the father has loved me,  
so I have loved you.  
Live on in my love.  
You will live in my love  
If you keep my commandments,  
even as I have kept my Father's commandments,  
and live in his love.  
All this I tell you  
that my joy may be yours  
and your joy may be complete.  
This is my commandment:  
Love one another  
as I have loved you."

The gospel of the Lord.

9

Jn 15: 12-16

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*This is my commandment: love one another.*

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment:  
love one another as I have loved you.  
There is no 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 speak of you as slaves,  
for a slave does not know what his master is about.  
Instead, I call you friends,  
since I have made known to you all that I  
heard from my Father.  
It was not you who chose me,  
it was I who chose you  
to go forth and bear fruit.  
Your fruit must endure,  
so that all you ask the Father in my name  
he will give you."

The gospel of the Lord.

ground. The rains fell, the torrents came, the winds blew and lashed against his house. It collapsed under all this and was completely ruined.”

Jesus finished this discourse and left the crowds spellbound at his teaching. The reason was that he taught with authority and not like the scribes.

The gospel of the Lord.

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4

Mt 19: 3-6

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

*So then, what God has united, human must not divide.*

Some Pharisees came up to Jesus and said, to test him, “May a man divorce his wife for any reason whatever?” He replied, “Have you not read that at the beginning the Creator made them male and female and declared, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and cling to his wife, and the two shall become as one’? Thus they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore, let no human separate what God has joined.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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5

Mt 22: 35-40

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

*This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is similar to it.*

One of the Pharisees, a lawyer, in an attempt to trip up Jesus, asked him, “Teacher, which commandment of the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him:

“ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your whole heart,  
with your whole soul, and with all your mind.’

This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it:

‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

On these two commandments the who law is based, and the prophets as well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

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6

Mk 10: 6-9

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark**

*They are no longer two, therefore, but one body.*

Jesus said: “At the beginning of creation God made them male and female; for this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and the two shall become as one. They are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore let no human separate what God has joined.”

The gospel of the Lord.

---

7

Jn 2: 1-11

**A reading from the holy gospel according to John**

*This was the first of the sign given by Jesus; it was given at Cana in Galilee.*

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had likewise been invited to the celebration. At a certain point the wine ran out, and Jesus’ mother told him, “They have no more wine.” Jesus replied, “Woman, how does this concern of yours involve me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother instructed those waiting on table, “Do whatever he tells you.” As prescribed for Jewish ceremonial washings, there were at hand six stone water jars, each one holding fifteen to twenty-five gallons. “Fill those jars with water,” Jesus ordered, at which they filled them to the brim. “Now,” he said, “draw some out and take it to the waiter in charge.” They did as he instructed them. The waiter in charge tasted the water made wine, without knowing where it had come from; only the waiters knew, since they had drawn the water. Then the waiter in charge called the groom over and remarked to him:

Then Rebekah and her maids started out; they mounted their camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile Isaac had gone for Beer-lahairoi and was living in the region of the Negeb. One day toward evening he went out . . . in the field, and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching. Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant, “Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?” “That is my master,” replied the servant. Then she covered herself with her veil.

The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done. Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent; he married her, and thus she became his wife. In his love for her Isaac found solace after the death of his mother Sarah.

The Word of the Lord.

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4

Tb 7: 9-15

**A reading from the book of Tobit**

*May God join you together and fill you with his blessings.*

Tobiah said to Raphel, “Brother Azariah, ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.” Raguel overheard the words; so he said to the boy: “Eat and drink and be merry tonight, for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah than you, brother. Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you, because you are my closest relative. But I will explain the situation to you very frankly. She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses. Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven! Take your kinswoman; from now on you are her love, and she is your beloved. She is yours today and ever after. And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.” Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah, and she came to him. He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words: “Take her according to the law. According to the decree written in the Book of Moses she is your wife. Take her and bring her back safely to your father. And may the God of heaven grant both of you peace and prosperity.” He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll, so that he might draw up a marriage contract stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife according to the decree of the Mosaic law. Her mother brought the scroll, and he drew up the contract, to which they affixed their seals.

Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The Word of the Lord.

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5

Tb 8: 5-7

**A reading from the book of Tobit**

*May God bring us to old age together.*

On the wedding night Sara got up, and she and Tobiah started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. He began that deliverance might be theirs. He 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the Song of Songs***For love is as strong as death.*

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 said 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the book of Sirach***Like the sun rising is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.*

Happy 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 person.  
 Like the sun rising in the Lord’s heavens,  
 the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance  
 of her home.

The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew**

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

When Jesus saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them:

“How blest are the poor in spirit:  
 the reign of God is theirs.  
 Blest too are the sorrowing;  
 they shall be consoled.  
 [Blest are the lowly;  
 they shall inherit the land.]  
 Blest are they who hunger and thirst for holiness;  
 they shall have their fill.  
 Blest are they who show mercy;  
 mercy shall be theirs.  
 Blest are the single-hearted for they shall  
 see God.  
 Blest are those persecuted for holiness’ sake;  
 the reign of God is theirs.  
 Blest are you when they insult you and persecute you  
 and utter every kind of slander against you because of me.  
 Be glad and rejoice,  
 for your reward in heaven is great.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew***You are the light of the world.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt goes flat? How can you restore its flavor? Then it is good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before the world so that they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly father.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew***He built his on rock.*

Jesus said to his disciples: “None of those who cry out, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

Anyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like the wise man who built his house on rock. When the rainy season set in, the torrents came and the winds blew and buffeted his house. It did not collapse; it had been solidly set on rock. Anyone who hears my words but does not put them into practice is like the foolish man who built his house on sandy

**A reading from the first letter of John***God is love.*

Beloved,  
 let us love one another because love is of God;  
 everyone who loves is begotten of God and has knowledge of God.  
 The one without love has known nothing of God,  
 for God is love.  
 God's love was revealed in our midst in this way:  
 God sent God's only Son to the world  
 that we might have life through him.  
 Love, then, consists in this:  
 not that we have loved God,  
 but that God has loved us  
 and has sent God's Son as an offering for our sins.  
 Beloved,  
 if God has loved us so,  
 we must have the same love for one another.  
 No one has ever seen God.  
 Yet if we love one another God dwells in us,  
 and God's love is brought to perfection in us.  
 The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the book of Revelation***Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.*

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud song of a great assembly in heaven. They were singing: "Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God."  
 A voice coming from the throne cried out: "Praise our God, all you God's servants, the small and the great, who revere God!" Then I heard what sounded like the shouts of a great crowd, or the roaring of the deep, or mighty peals of thunder, as they cried: "Alleluia! The Lord is king, our God, the Almighty!  
 Let us rejoice and be glad, and give God glory!  
 For this is the wedding day of the Lamb,  
 His bride has prepared herself for the wedding.  
 She has been given a dress to wear made of finest linen, brilliant white." (The linen dress is the virtuous deeds of God's saints.)  
 The angel then said to me: "Write this down: Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."  
 The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah***I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and 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 kinsmen how to know the Lord. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.  
 The Word of the Lord.

**Marriage**  
*Responsorial Psalm*

1

Ps 33: 12-22

**R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Happy the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people God has chosen for God's own inheritance.  
But see, the eyes of the Lord are upon those who fear God,  
upon those who hope for God's kindness.

**R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

Our soul waits for the Lord,  
who is our help and our shield,  
For in God our hearts rejoice;  
in God's holy name we trust.

**R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us  
who have put our hope in you.

**R. The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord.**

2

Ps 34: 2-9

**R. I will bless the Lord at all times.**

I will bless the Lord at all times:  
God's praise shall be ever in my mouth.  
Let my soul glory in the Lord;  
The lowly will hear me and be glad.

**R. I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Glorify the Lord with me,  
let us together extol God's name.  
I sought the Lord, and God answered me  
and delivered me from all my fears.

**R. I will bless the Lord at all times.**

Look to God that you may be radiant with joy,  
and your faces may not blush with shame.  
When the afflicted man called out,  
the Lord heard,  
and from all his distress God saved him.

**R. I will bless the Lord at all times.**

The angel of the Lord encamps  
around those who fear God, and delivers them.  
Taste and see how good the Lord is;  
happy the man who takes refuge in God.

**R. I will bless the Lord at all times.**

**R.** Or: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

7

1 Pt 3: 1-9

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians**

*You should agree, be sympathetic and love one another.*

You married women must obey your husbands, so that any of them who do not believe in the word of the gospel may be won over apart from preaching, through their wives' conduct. They have only to observe the reverent purity of your way of life. The affectation of an elaborate hairdress, the wearing of golden jewelry, or the donning of rich robes is not for you. Your adornment is rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the unfading beauty of the heart, expressed in the unfading beauty of a calm and gentle disposition. This is precious in God's eyes. The holy women of past ages used to adorn themselves in this way, reliant on God and obedient to their husbands – for example, Sarah, who was subject to Abraham and called him her master. You are her children when you do what is right and let no fears alarm you.

You husbands, too, must show consideration for those who share your lives. Treat women with respect as the weaker sex, heirs just as much as you to the gracious gift of life. If you do so, nothing will keep your prayers from being answered.

In summary, then, all of you should be likeminded, sympathetic, loving toward one another, kindly disposed, and humble. Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult. Return a blessing instead. This you have been called to do, that you may receive a blessing as your inheritance.

The Word of the Lord.

8

1 Jn 3: 18-24

**A reading from the first letter of John**

*Our love is to be something real and active.*

Little children,  
let us live in deed and in truth,  
and not merely talk about it.  
This is our way of knowing we are  
committed to the truth  
and are at peace before God no matter what our  
consciences may charge us with;  
for God is greater than our hearts  
and all is known to God.

Beloved,  
if our consciences have nothing to charge us with,  
we can be sure that God is with us  
and that we will receive at God's hands  
whatever we ask.

Why? Because we are keeping God's commandments  
and doing what is pleasing in his sight.

God's commandment is this:  
we are to believe in the name of God's Son,  
Jesus Christ,  
and are to love one another as God commanded us.

Those who keep God's commandments remain  
in God and God in them.

And this is how we know that God remains in us:  
from the Spirit that God gave us.

The Word of the Lord.

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians***If I am without love, it will do me not good whatever.*

Set your hearts on the greater gifts. I will show you the way which surpasses all the other. If I speak with human tongues and angelic as well, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and, with full knowledge, comprehend all mysteries, if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give everything I have to feed the poor and hand over my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, it is not snobbish. Love is never rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not prone to anger; neither does it brood over injuries. Love does not rejoice in what is wrong but rejoices with the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure. Love never fails.

*The Word of the Lord.***A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians***This mystery has many implications, and I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.*

Follow the way of love, even as Christ loved you. He gave himself for us.

Defer to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be submissive to their husbands as if to the Lord because the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of his body the church, as well as its savior. As the church submits to Christ, so wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church. He gave himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the word, to present to himself a glorious church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort. Husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Observe that no one ever hates his own flesh; no, he nourishes it and takes care of it as Christ cares for the church – for we are members of his body.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother,  
and shall cling to his wife,  
and the two shall be made into one.”

This is a great foreshadowing; I mean that it refers to Christ and the church. In any case, each one should love his wife as he loves himself, the wife for her part showing respect for her husband.

*The Word of the Lord.***A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians***Above all have love, which is the bond of perfection.*

Because you are God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with heartfelt mercy, with kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another; forgive whatever grievances you have against one another. Forgive as the Lord has forgiven you. Over all these virtues put on love, which binds the rest together and makes them perfect. Christ's peace must reign in your hearts, since as members of the one body you have been called to that peace. Dedicate yourselves to the thankfulness. Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you. In wisdom made perfect, instruct and admonish one another. Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs. Whatever you do, whether in speech or in action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him.

*The Word of the Lord.***℟. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the Lord, O my soul;  
and all my being, bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord, O My soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits.

**℟. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Merciful and gracious is the Lord,  
slow to anger and abounding in kindness.  
As a father has compassion on his children,  
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear God.

**℟. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

But the kindness of the Lord is from eternity  
to eternity toward children's children  
among those who keep God's covenant.

**℟. The Lord is kind and merciful.****℟. Or: The Lord's kindness is everlasting to those who fear God.****℟. Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.**

Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who greatly delights in God's commands.  
His posterity shall be mighty upon the earth:  
the upright generation shall be blessed.

**℟. Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.**

Wealth and riches shall be in his house;  
his generosity shall endure forever.  
He dawns through the darkness,  
a light for the upright;  
he is gracious and merciful and just.

**℟. Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.**

Well for the man who is gracious and lends,  
who conducts his affairs with justice;  
He shall never be moved;  
the just man shall be in everlasting remembrance.

**℟. Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.**

An evil report he shall not fear.  
His heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.  
His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear  
till he looks down upon his foes.

**℟. Happy are those who do what the Lord commands.****℟. Or: Alleluia.****℟. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

Happy are you who fear the Lord,  
who walk in God's ways!  
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;  
happy shall you be, and favored.

**℟. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine  
in the recesses of your home;

Your children like olive plants  
around your table.

**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

“Behold, thus is the man blessed  
who fears the Lord.

The Lord bless you from Sion:  
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem  
all the days of your life.

**R. Happy are those who fear the Lord.**

**R. See how the Lord blesses those who fear God.**

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**6**

**Ps 145: 8-18**

**R. The Lord is compassionate to all God’s creatures.**

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The Lord is good to all  
and compassionate toward all God’s works.

**R. The Lord is compassionate to all God’s creatures.**

Let all your works give you thanks, O Lord,  
and let your faithful ones bless you.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
and you give them their food in due season.

**R. The Lord is compassionate to all God’s creatures.**

The Lord is just in all God’s ways  
and holy in all God’s works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon God,  
to all who call upon God in truth.

**R. The Lord is compassionate to all God’s creatures.**

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**7**

**Ps 148: 1-12**

**R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
praise the Lord in the heights;  
Praise the Lord, all you God’s angels,  
praise the Lord, all you God’s hosts.

**R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;  
praise the Lord, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, you highest heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

**R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

You mountains and all you hills,  
you fruit trees and all you cedars;  
You wild beasts and all tame animals,  
you creeping things and you winged fowl.

**R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

Let the kings of the earth and all peoples,  
the princes and all the judges of the earth,  
Young men too, and maidens,  
old men and boys.

**R. Let all praise the name of the Lord.**

**R. Or: Alleluia.**

Marriage

## *New Testament Reading*

**1**

**Rom 8: 31-39**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

*Who will separate us from the love of Christ?*

If God is for us, who can be against us? Is it possible that God who did not spare God’s own Son but handed him over for the sake of us all will not grant us all things besides? Who shall bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? God, who justifies? Who shall condemn them? Christ Jesus, who died or rather was raised up, who is at the right hand of God and who intercedes for us?

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Trial, or distress, or persecution, or hunger, or nakedness, or danger, or the sword? Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us. Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of him who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor principalities, neither the present nor the future nor powers, neither height nor depth nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

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**2**

**Rom 12: 1-18**

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans**

*Offer to God your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, truly pleasing to God.*

Brothers and Sisters, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you may judge what is God’s will, what is good, pleasing and perfect.

Your love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; the one whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of the saints as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same attitude toward all. Put away ambitious thoughts and associate with those who are lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. Never repay injury with injury. See that your conduct is honorable in the eyes of all. If possible, live peaceably with everyone.

The Word of the Lord.

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**3**

**1 Cor 6: 13-20**

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

*Your Body is a temple of the Spirit.*

The body is not for immorality; it is for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body. God, who raised up the Lord, will raise us also by God’s power. Do you not see that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun lewd conduct. Every other sin a man commits is outside his body, but the fornicator sins against his own body. You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within – the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own. You have been purchased, and at what price! So glorify God in your body.

The Word of the Lord.