Order of Celebrating Matrimony

Introduction to Liturgy 2026

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Evangelization, celebration

Wedding opportunities

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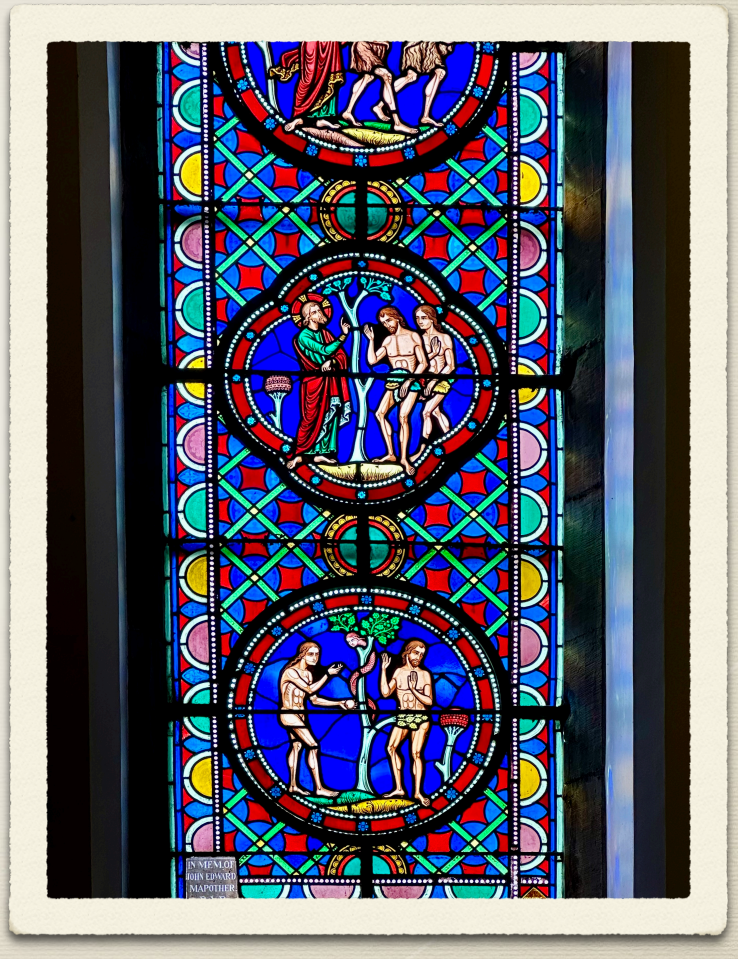
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Introduction I: Importance and Dignity

1 a covenant deriving force from creation, raised to the dignity of a sacrament

2 an irrevocable consent given freely, lived in fidelity for the good of children



3 children are the supreme gift

4 community of life and love not forfeited by original sin

5 a sacrament of Christ's covenant with the Church



6 the joy of Cana foreshadowed the new covenant

7 a valid marriage between the baptized is always a sacrament

8 Christian spouses participate in the unity and fruitful love of Christ and the Church



9 the Holy Spirit helps Christian spouses

10 Family life cooperates with the Creator's love

11 God continues to call the couple to marriage



Confirmation

Confirmation should precede marriage if it can be done without grave inconvenience, penance and the eucharist recommended (18)



Other duties

23 it is appropriate for the same priest who prepares the couple to give the homily, receive the consent, and celebrate the Mass

24 Deacons may preside and give nuptial blessing



Preparation - 29

Normally marriage is celebrated within Mass, but the pastor may propose based on the couple and those present to have marriage without Mass

the couple may assist in choosing the readings, the form of consent, formularies for the rings, nuptial blessing, universal prayer, chants



Preparation - 29

"Moreover, attention should also be given to the appropriate use of options provided in the rite as well as to local customs, which may be observed if appropriate."



30 chants should express the faith of the church, especially the Responsorial Psalm - "What is said concerning the chants applies also to the selection of other musical works."

32 no weddings on Good Friday or Holy Saturday



The Rite to be Used

34 the ritual Mass and white or festive vestments

- **but on 1-4 of the Table of Liturgical days, use that Mass with nuptial blessing and if appropriate the final blessing**
- **at parish Sunday Masses during Christmas and Ordinary Time, use the Sunday Mass texts, but one reading may be taken from the wedding lectionary (cf. 56)**

1 The Paschal Triduum of the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord.

2 The Nativity of the Lord, the Epiphany, the Ascension, and Pentecost. Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter. Ash Wednesday. Weekdays of Holy Week from Monday up to and including Thursday. Days within the Octave of Easter.

3 Solemnities inscribed in the General Calendar, whether of the Lord, of the Blessed Virgin Mary or of Saints. The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed.

4 Proper Solemnities, namely: a) The Solemnity of the principal Patron of the place, city or state. b) The Solemnity of the dedication and of the anniversary of the dedication of one's own church. c) The Solemnity of the Title of one's own church. d) The Solemnity either of the Title or of the Founder or of the principal Patron of an Order or Congregation.

The Rite to be Used

36 for a marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic, the rite without Mass should be used

- **within Mass with the consent of the local Ordinary**
- **for eucharistic communion, follow the norms**
- **for marriage between a Catholic and a catechumen or non-Christian, use the special rite**

I. The Order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass

Liturgy of the Word

55 There may be three readings

- **The first is from the Old Testament**
  - **except during Easter when Revelation is used**
- **At least one reading must explicitly speak of marriage**



65 “Let us bless the Lord.” / “Thanks be to God.” - or some other acclamation

66 The priest blesses the rings, sprinkling optional

67a The couple give the rings

67b The blessing and giving of the *arras*

[kiss?]

68 A hymn or canticle of praise may be sung by all

[unity candle?]

69 The universal prayer (prayer of the faithful) as usual

The creed when called for

70 Bride and Groom may bring bread and wine to the altar



Eucharistic Prayer III:

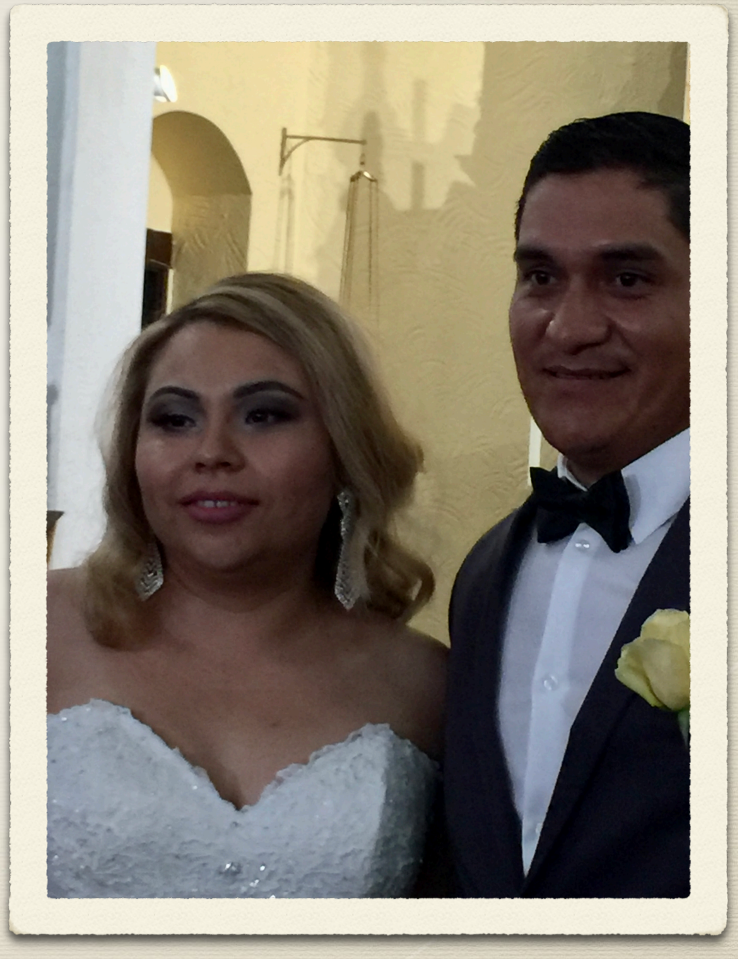
Strengthen, we pray, in the grace of Marriage N. and N.,

whom you have brought happily to their wedding day,

that under your protection

they may always be faithful in their lives

to the covenant they have sealed in your presence.



71b The Blessing and Placing of the *Lazo* or Veil

72 After the Our Father, omitting "Deliver us," the priest faces the bride and groom and invokes the blessing. This is never omitted. He may omit the words about having children if the couple are advanced in years.

73 Couple approach the altar or remain at their place and kneel. The priest invites all to pray in silence.

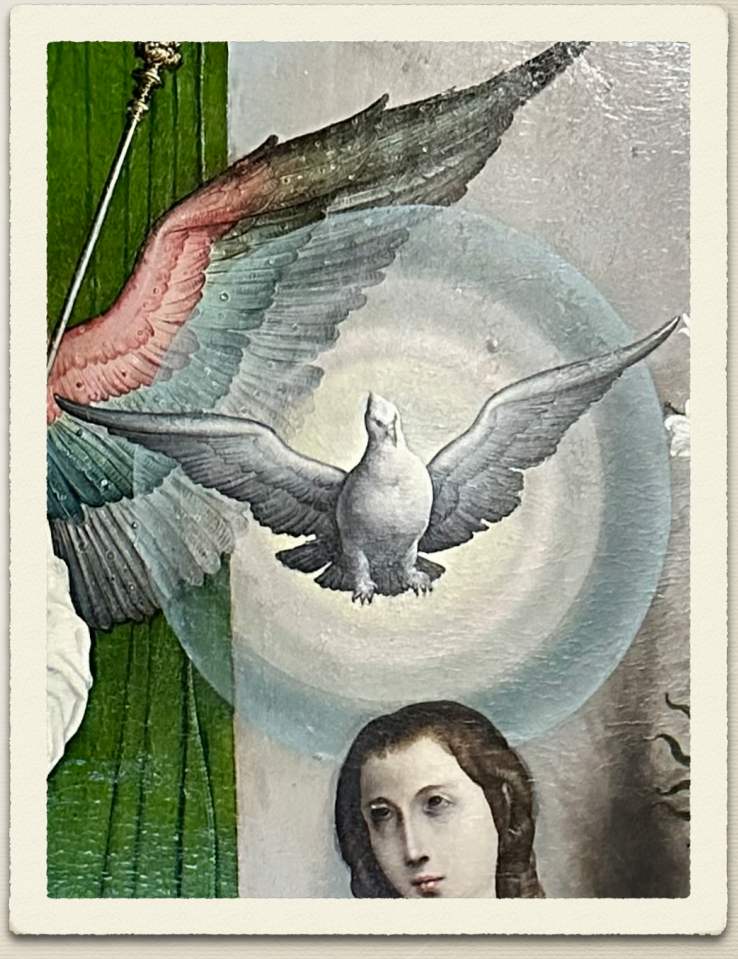
74 The nuptial blessing

From Nuptial Blessing A

Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit

and pour your love into their hearts,

that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.



75 “Lord Jesus Christ” is omitted, and the priest says, “The peace of the Lord…” then all “offer one another a sign that expresses peace and charity.”



The Conclusion of the Celebration

- **[flowers to an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary]**
- **77 Solemn blessing**
- **78 "When the Mass is concluded, the witnesses and the Priest sign the Marriage record. The signing may take place either in the vesting room or in the presence of the people; however, it is not to be done on the altar."**



