

# *Church of Saint Mel*

## Parish Guide to Wedding Planning



Cover image, Paolo Veronese. The Wedding at Cana. 1562. Oil on canvas. Louvre Museum, France.

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# INTRODUCTION

The day of your wedding is a pinnacle moment in your life, and at the foundation of it all is your wedding liturgy, when you will gather with family, friends, and the Church community to speak your vows to one another. We hope that planning this liturgy will be exciting as you envision that holy day and carefully prepare your wedding. Your presider or a preparing minister will assist you in planning the liturgy, explain the various options and choices you need to make, and answer specific questions that you have. Additionally, you will have a separate meeting with our music director for your wedding to plan musical selection. Please take the time to review this document prior to the liturgy planning meetings, as it gives you an overview of what things to consider in advance and what the formal policies are of our specific parish.

## PRE-LITURGY PREPARATIONS

### **Civil License**

A civil marriage license must be obtained no more than sixty days prior to the wedding, from the Ohio county of residence of either party. If neither party is a resident of Ohio, then the license must be obtained from Cuyahoga County, which is the county of the parish. Most counties charge a fee for obtaining the license and some counties require proof of residence, such as a driver's license. If either party has been previously married, most counties expect a certified copy of the divorce degree or a death certificate. We recommend that you call the county or check their website in advance, so that you know precisely what their requirements are:

- Cuyahoga: <http://probate.cuyahogacounty.us/marriage.aspx>
- Lorain: [https://www.loraincounty.com/probate/marriage\\_licenses.shtml](https://www.loraincounty.com/probate/marriage_licenses.shtml)
- Medina: <https://medinaprobate.org/marriage-1>
- Summit: <https://summitohioprobate.com/2014/12/03/im-getting-married-post/>

Bring the license with you to the wedding rehearsal. After the wedding, the presider will sign the civil documents, and one copy will be given to you for your records. The presider will mail back to the county a second copy, and a third copy will be retained by the parish.

### **Minister's License**

If the presider of your wedding is a visiting priest or deacon from out-of-state, they must be licensed in the State of Ohio in order to witness your marriage. Information to obtain a minister's license in Ohio may be found at <https://www.sos.state.oh.us/records/minister-licenses/>.

### **Flowers and Decorations**

Flowers should be in good taste and should not detract from the altar as the focal point of the sanctuary. Our sanctuary is usually decorated throughout the year, so supplying additional flowers is up to your discretion but rarely needed. Pedestals are available, if needed. A visit to the statue of Mary may include a small bouquet or a single rose.

Dropping flower petals by the flower girl as she processes down the aisle is prohibited. Likewise, the use of an aisle runner is prohibited. Because our floor is a hard surface, both of these make it easy to slip and fall, and thus present a safety hazard. Please refrain from including anything else in your ceremony that would be a similar hazard.

Anything attached to the end of the pews, such as flowers or ribbons, must be either tied or clipped. No tape may be used, as it might damage the wood finish on removal.

### **Florists**

If you are hiring a florist for your wedding, please make sure that they understand that they should not block view of the altar, nor should they remove or rearrange the flowers and decorations already in our sanctuary. They should also be aware that they may not set up for the wedding until 60 minutes prior if there are other church events that day. If they have any questions they are welcome to call the parish office.

### **Photographers and Videographers**

If you are hiring a photographer or videographer for your wedding, please make sure that they understand that the focus of the wedding is the prayer we are all engaged in, and they should not become a distraction. They should not enter the sanctuary, or block the assembly's view of the altar, bride and groom, or presider. Flash photography should not be used during the liturgy, but may be setup afterwards for formal photos.

### **Mementos**

Throwing of rice, birdseed, confetti, rose petals, or anything else that needs to be cleaned up afterwards is not permitted. If you wish to provide something for your guests, alternatives could be bubbles, balloons, or bells. If you do choose to give any mementos to your guests, please inform the presider when planning the liturgy.

### **Programs**

Wedding programs or worship aids are not required but may be helpful in encouraging the assembly to sing and to take part in the liturgy. They are especially helpful if, beyond just listing names and the order of the celebration, they include music or explanation of what is taking place. If you are duplicating music, even just the words without musical notation, you must obtain copyright permission to do so. You must also give proper credit to the composer under the published music and/or words. The music director or presider must approve the wedding program before it goes to the printer. If you would like help creating a program, the presider can certainly assist you.

### **Rehearsal**

Arrangements for the rehearsal are made with the presider. If a visiting priest or deacon is presiding, then arrangements must be made through the parish office.

Those taking part in the rehearsal should arrive at least fifteen minutes before the scheduled rehearsal time. The entire wedding party, lectors, parents, and any others taking a special role in the liturgy should be present for rehearsal. Please advise everyone to be on time.

The remaining balance of the church fee is due at the time of rehearsal.

### **Arrival and hospitality**

The wedding party should arrive one hour before the wedding.

The bride's room will be available for the bride and bridesmaids; the sacristy will be available for the groom and groomsmen. We request that the wedding party be fully dressed before arrival. Items may be left in these areas during the liturgy, but please make arrangements to have someone remove all personal items before leaving.

It is traditional to have at least the groomsmen greet the guests and help them be seated. It would also be very appropriate for the bride and groom to welcome their guests together.

No consumption of alcohol is permitted before the wedding and no alcohol is to be brought on the property. From the perspective of both civil and ecclesial law, the bride and groom must be sober in order to give their consent by the exchange of vows.

# ORDER OF THE WEDDING LITURGY

## Wedding Within Mass

Prelude

### **Introductory Rites**

Entrance Procession

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Gloria

Opening Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Homily

### **Celebration of Matrimony**

Questions Before the Consent

Consent (Vows)

Reception of the Consent

Blessing and Giving of Rings

Universal Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Eucharist**

Preparation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

The Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

Rite of Peace

Fraction of the Bread

Communion

Prayer after Communion

### **Conclusion of the Celebration**

Solemn Blessing

Recessional

## Wedding Without Mass

Prelude

### **Introductory Rites**

Entrance Procession

Sign of the Cross

Greeting

Opening Prayer

### **Liturgy of the Word**

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Second Reading

Gospel

Homily

### **Celebration of Matrimony**

Questions Before the Consent

Consent (Vows)

Reception of the Consent

Blessing and Giving of Rings

Universal Prayer

The Our Father

Nuptial Blessing

### **Conclusion of the Celebration**

Solemn Blessing

Recessional

# THE WEDDING LITURGY

Your wedding liturgy is more than a private celebration; it is the public prayer of the Church that celebrates God's covenant of love made present by your lives. With this in mind, liturgy planning should strive for the full, active, and conscious participation of everyone present in this prayer of the Church.

When the bridegroom and bride are both Catholic, the rite of marriage takes place within mass; if one party is not Catholic, then the rite of marriage takes place outside of mass. In both cases the rite of marriage begins with readings from Scripture followed by the exchange of vows and rings. A wedding within mass will continue with the celebration of the Eucharist.

Your presider or preparing minister will work with you directly to fully explain the structure of your wedding liturgy and what options you have as you plan the celebration.

## **Wedding Coordinators**

At the rehearsal and the wedding itself, the parish will provide one or two wedding coordinators to assist you. They will help to make sure everything is setup up properly, get people where they need to be, organize everyone for the procession in and when to go, and all the many little details which help everything to move smoothly. Please see them for all last minute details on the day of the wedding.

## **Liturgical Ministers**

You are encouraged to invite some of your family and friends to take liturgical roles during the wedding. You will need one or two people to minister as lectors and proclaim the Scripture readings. They must be Catholic themselves if the wedding is taking place within mass, and preferably they should be comfortable with public speaking or ideally lectors in their home parish. You may also have one or two people read the universal prayer after the exchange of rings, and can have someone read a welcoming before the opening procession begins.

If your wedding is taking place within mass, you may also invite two or more people to be gift bearers. Often this is an opportunity to include younger family members. Finally, if you know people who are Catholic and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion in their own parish, you may discuss with the presider the possibility of having them help with the distribution of communion.

## **Music**

All music played during the liturgy must be liturgical music. Our music director is available to assist you in making appropriate selections, and can also help you select additional instrumentalists or cantors if desired. Please arrange a meeting with the music director several weeks prior to your wedding date.

Pre-recorded music is not permitted. Also, as noted above, copyright permission must be obtained from the publisher for any music printed in a program. Final decisions regarding the appropriateness of music selections are left up to the music director.

## Devotional Practices

In all cases the presider must be informed and give approval for anything being added to the wedding liturgy.

There are some devotional practices that have become traditional in certain families or nationalities. For example, the bride and groom walking to a statue of the Holy Family or of Mary and taking a moment to pray has become somewhat common in our culture. Generally speaking these practices are permissible, but if there is anything you plan on doing that you do not see at a usual Sunday mass, discuss it with the presider.

In addition to devotional practices, there are also non-religious customs that are sometimes seen at civil marriage ceremonies, such as unity candles, sand ceremonies, or poetry readings. These practices will not be included as part of the wedding liturgy; as an alternative, you may wish to include them at your wedding reception.

## Scripture Readings

The listing below is meant to give you a quick sense of the passage. Please read the full text of the readings, found as an appendix to this document, before making a selection. At least one reading which explicitly speaks of marriage must always be chosen, designated by an asterisk.

### First Reading

- F1\* Genesis 1:26-28, 31a  
“Male and female he created them.”  
God creates humanity, gives them the command to multiply and have dominion over the earth, and sees His creation as good.
- F2\* Genesis 2:18-24  
“The two of them become one body.”  
When Adam finds no suitable companion among the animals, God creates Eve from his rib.
- F3\* Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67  
“In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother.”  
Rebekah leaves her family and marries Isaac.
- F4\* Tobit 7:6-14  
“May the Lord of heaven prosper you both. May he grant you mercy and peace.”  
Tobiah refuses to eat and drink in celebration until Sarah is betrothed to him.
- F5\* Tobit 8:4b-7  
“Allow us to live together to a happy old age.”  
Tobiah and Sarah pray on their wedding night that the Lord will bless them.
- F6\* Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31  
“The woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.”



A proverb praising the value of a holy wife.

F7 Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a, 8:6-7a

“My beloved is mine and I am his.”

A love poem from a bride to her bridegroom, or the soul to God.

F8\* Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

“Like the sun rising in the LORD’s heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.”

Reflections on the blessings a good wife brings to her husband.

F9 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

“I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.”

The law of God shall be written in the hearts of his people.

## Second Reading

S1 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

“What will separate us from the love of Christ?”

We conquer because of the one who loves us.

S2 Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

“Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”

Follow the will of God by loving with sincerity.

S3 Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

“Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.”

We deny ourselves and help our neighbors, in imitation of Christ.

S4 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

“Your body is a temple of the Spirit.”

You are a member of Christ and one spirit with him.

S5 1 Corinthians 12:31- 13:8a

“If I do not have love, I gain nothing”

No gifts or virtues are worth anything without love.

S6 Ephesians 4:1-6

“One Body and one Spirit.”

Live with gentleness and patience as you have been called.

S7\* Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

“This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.”

Love each other as Christ loves the Church.

S8 Philippians 4:4-9

“The God of peace will be with you.”

Rejoice, be kind, have no anxiety, and know the peace of God.

- S9 Colossians 3:12-17  
 “And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection.”  
 God has chosen us, and so we must be clothed in virtue and wisdom.
- S10 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b  
 “Let marriage be held in honor by all.”  
 Live in mutual love, for the Lord will never abandon us.
- S11\* 1 Peter 3:1-9  
 “Be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another.”  
 Bless each other as joint heirs of the gift of life.
- S12 1 John 3:18-24  
 “Love in deed and in truth.”  
 Believe in Christ and love one another as he has commanded.
- S13 1 John 4:7-12  
 “God is love.”  
 Because God has loved us by giving us His Son, we must love all others.
- S14 Revelations 19:1, 5-9  
 “Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.”  
 Heaven gives praise to God, as the wedding feast of the Lamb begins.

## Gospel

- G1 Matthew 5:1-12a  
 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”  
 Jesus teaches the beatitudes to his disciples.
- G2 Matthew 5:13-16  
 “You are the light of the world.”  
 Jesus tells his disciples that they must live holy lives, that others may see their example.
- G3 Matthew 7:21, 24-29  
 “A wise man built his house on rock.”  
 Hearing and acting on the words of Jesus gives us a sure foundation.
- G4\* Matthew 19:3-6  
 “What God has united, man must not separate.”  
 Jesus rejects the lawfulness of divorce.
- G5 Matthew 22:35-40  
 “This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it.”  
 Jesus gives the two great commandments, love God and our neighbor.

- G6 Mark 10:6-9  
 “They are no longer two, but one flesh.”  
 Jesus repeats the words of Genesis, naming the basis of marriage.
- G7\* John 2:1-11  
 “Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee.”  
 Jesus performs his first miracle at the wedding in Cana.
- G8 John 15:9-12  
 “Remain in my love.”  
 Jesus calls us his friends, and tells us to remain in his love.
- G9 John 15:12-16  
 “This is my commandment: love one another.”  
 Jesus calls us his friends, and tells us to remain in his love.
- G10 John 17:20-26  
 “That they may be brought to perfection as one.”  
 Jesus prays that his disciples might remain together and unified.

## Vows

The exchange of consent (vows) is the moment that you will become a married couple. There are two forms of the vows that can be used. You absolutely should memorize your vows, and spend time in prayer reflecting over what they mean. At the wedding itself, you can speak them from memory, repeat them after the presider quietly says each phrase, or read them from the text held by an altar server.

- A I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my wife/husband. I promise to be faithful to you, in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and to honor you all the days of my life.
- B 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, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

## Rings

The exchange of rings takes place shortly after the vows. This is the second and last text that you will need to have memorized, or repeat, or read.

**N.**, 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

The intercessions below are examples. You are free to modify or to write your own intercessions, subject to the presider's approval.

A That these faithful Christians, **N.** and **N.**, newly joined in Holy Matrimony, may always enjoy health and well-being.

That he will bless their covenant as he chose to sanctify marriage at Cana in Galilee.

That they be granted perfect and fruitful love, peace, and strength, and that they bear faithful witness to the name of Christian.

That the Christian people may grow in virtue day by day and that all who are burdened by any need may receive the help of grace from above.

That the grace of the Sacrament will be renewed by the Holy Spirit in all married persons here present.

B For this bride and groom, and for their well-being as a family.

For their relatives and friends, and for all who have assisted this couple.

For young people preparing to enter Marriage, and for all whom the Lord is calling to another state in life.

For all families throughout the world and for lasting peace among all people.

For all members of our families who have passed from this world, and for all the departed.

For the Church, the holy People of God, and for unity among all Christians.

## FULL SCRIPTURE READINGS

F1\* Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

Then God said: "Let us make man 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 man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he 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 he had made, and he found it very good.

F2\* Genesis 2:18-24

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 he brought them to the man to see what he 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, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said: "This one, at last, is bone of my 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.

F3\* Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67

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!" 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 from Beer-lahai-roi 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.

F4\* Tobit 7:6-14

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him. Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy. But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight, he was grieved and

wept aloud. He said to Tobiah: "My child, God bless you! You are the son of a noble and good father. But what a terrible misfortune that such a righteous and charitable man should be afflicted with blindness!" He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah. His wife Edna also wept for Tobit; and even their daughter Sarah began to weep. Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock and gave them a cordial reception. When they had bathed and reclined to eat, Tobiah said to Raphael, "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. I have given her in marriage to seven men, all of whom were kinsmen of ours, and all died on the very night they approached her. But now, son, eat and drink. I am sure the Lord will look after you both." Tobiah answered, "I will eat or drink nothing until you set aside what belongs to me." Raguel said to him: "I will do it. 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 seal. Afterward they began to eat and drink.

F5\* Tobit 8:4b-7

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance." Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They 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." They said together, "Amen, Amen."

F6\* Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

F7 Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a, 8:6-7a

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 dove, 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 says 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."

F8\* Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16

Blessed 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 in 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 soul. A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul. Like the sun rising in the LORD's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

F9 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

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 relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD.

## Second Reading

S1 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

S2 Romans 12:1-2, 9-18

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect. Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve

the Lord. Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Have the same regard for one another; do not be haughty but associate with the lowly; do not be wise in your own estimation. Do not repay anyone evil for evil; be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all. If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.

S3 Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

S4 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

S5 1 Corinthians 12:31- 13:8a

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way. If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

S6 Ephesians 4:1-6

Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.



S7\* Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33

Brothers and sisters: Live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us. Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the Church, he himself the savior of the body. As the Church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her, cleansing her by the bath of water with the word, that he might present to himself the Church in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the Church, because we are members of his Body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church. In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself, and the wife should respect her husband.

S8 Philippians 4:4-9

Brothers and sisters: Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again: rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you.

S9 Colossians 3:12-17

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

S10 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

Brothers and sisters: Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body. Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled. Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, I will never forsake you or abandon you. Thus we may say with confidence: The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.

S11\* 1 Peter 3:1-9

Beloved: You wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that, even if some disobey the word, they may be won over without a word by their wives' conduct when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior. Your adornment should not be an external one: braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry, or dressing in fine clothes, but rather the hidden character of the heart, expressed in the imperishable beauty of a gentle and calm disposition, which is precious in the sight of God. For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God once used to adorn themselves and were subordinate to their husbands; thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord." You are her children when you do what is good and fear no intimidation. Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding, showing honor to the weaker female sex, since we are joint heirs of the gift of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another, compassionate, humble. Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

S12 1 John 3:18-24

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows every thing. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have confidence in God and receive from him whatever we ask, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. And his commandment is this: we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded us. Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

S13 1 John 4:7-12

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only-begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

S14 Revelations 19:1, 5-9

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying: "Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God." A voice coming from the throne said: "Praise our God, all you his servants, and you who revere him, small and great." Then I heard something like the sound of a great multitude or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said: "Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign, our God, the almighty. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory. For the wedding day of the Lamb has come, his bride has made herself ready. She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment." (The linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.) Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

## Gospel

### G1 Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

### G2 Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: “You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned? It is no longer good for anything but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, here it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”

### G3 Matthew 7:21, 24-29

Jesus said to his disciples: “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 in heaven. Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock. And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined.” When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

### G4\* Matthew 19:3-6

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?” He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning the Creator made them male and female and said, For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

### G5 Matthew 22:35-40

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking, “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like

it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

G6 Mark 10:6-9

Jesus said: “From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

G7\* John 2:1-11

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, “They have no wine.” And Jesus said to her, “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” His mother said to the servers, “Do whatever he tells you.” Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, “Fill the jars with water.” So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, “Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now.” Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

G8 John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.”

G9 John 15:12-16

Jesus said to his disciples: “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has 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 call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”

G10 John 17:20-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: “I pray not only for my disciples, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, so that they may all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me. Father, they are your gift to me. I wish that where I am they also may be with me, that

they may see my glory that you gave me, because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world also does not know you, but I know you, and they know that you sent me. I made known to them your name and I will make it known, that the love with which you loved me may be in them and I in them.”