



MARRIAGE AND WEDDING PREPARATION

“Marriage is an act of will that signifies and involves a mutual gift, which unites the spouses and binds them to their eventual souls, with whom they make up a sole family – a domestic church.”

-Pope John Paul II

<i>General Requirements</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Planning Your Wedding Celebration.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Wedding Party and Ceremony Participants</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>On Your Wedding Day</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Wedding Flowers Policy</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wedding Photography Policy</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Wedding Liturgy Preparation.....</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Wedding Planning Sheet.....</i>	<i>44</i>
<i>Wedding Policy Agreement Form.....</i>	<i>49</i>

General Requirements

Congratulations on your engagement! You are about to begin a very important part of your life, and the parish family of the Cathedral of St. Joseph hopes that your wedding day is only the beginning of a long and joyous vocation together lived out in the Christian Community. A Catholic wedding not merely a social event, it is a sacrament in which a man and woman become husband and wife in the presence of God, the wedding officiant, and your family and friends.

The staff at the Cathedral of St. Joseph will assist you as you plan for this momentous and sacred day. That preparation will reflect the principles that govern Catholic liturgical celebrations.

ELGIBLE WEDDING COUPLES:

To be married at St. Joseph Cathedral, one or both persons of the engaged couple must be a practicing Catholic, and registered at a parish. Both parties must be free to marry in the Catholic Church.

SCHEDULING A WEDDING:

To inquire about scheduling a wedding at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, the parish priest directing the engaged couple's marriage preparation must contact the Cathedral Rector to schedule the desired date.

Non-Cathedral parishioners may schedule a wedding one year before the desired date, but the date will not be confirmed until six months prior. *Cathedral parishioners will have priority in choosing wedding dates up to six months before the wedding date of the petitioning couple.* For this reason, the date and time of the wedding must be scheduled at the home parish of either the bride or the groom so that the wedding ceremony has a location if the Cathedral cannot be secured.

WEDDING TIMES:

- Between 4:00 and 6:00 pm Friday (with a Thursday rehearsal no later than 6:00 pm)
- 1:00 p.m. Saturday (with a Friday rehearsal at 5 p.m. or 7 p.m. depending on other weddings or rehearsals scheduled).
- The Sacrament of Marriage is not celebrated during Holy Week.

WEDDING FEES:

- a.) \$750 for all registered and actively participating members of the Cathedral of St. Joseph for a minimum of 6-months prior to determining a wedding date and beginning the marriage preparation process. This includes the fees for wedding coordinator, organist and cantor. Registered and active parishioners are those who regularly attend parish liturgies, support the parish using envelopes and are generally part of parish life.
- b.) \$1500 for those persons who are not parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Joseph or do not meet the above criteria. This includes the fees for wedding coordinator, organist and cantor.

- \$250 damage deposit is required in addition to your wedding fee. This deposit is returned if:
 - The Cathedral is left in good order
 - The wedding party adhered to allotted time frame.
 - The couple adhered to *The Cathedral of St. Joseph Wedding Policy*.

PAYMENT:

Payment in full is required six months before the wedding date.

- Please address checks to the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Payment for the Wedding Fee and the Damage Deposit must be on different checks. Please include the names of the engaged couple and the wedding date on the memo line of the check.

Please read *The Cathedral of St. Joseph Wedding Policy* prior to making payment. Payment is received as your agreement to adhere to the *Cathedral of St. Joseph Wedding Policy*.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

If your wedding is cancelled more than six months prior to the date, the payment will be refunded in full. Any cancellation less than six months in advance will be reviewed.

WEDDING PRESIDERS (OFFICIANTS):

- For active Parishioners a priest or deacon from the Cathedral of St. Joseph will be assigned to prepare and preside at your wedding.
- Parishioners may request a particular Cathedral priest and are welcome to submit the request to the Wedding Coordinator.
- If the couple would like a priest from another parish to preside at the wedding, the couple may submit the request to the Wedding Coordinator.
- For persons who are not parishioners of the Cathedral of St. Joseph you must have the priest at your registered parish do your marriage preparation and preside at the wedding.

PRESIDER QUALIFICATIONS:

Catholic priests or deacons preside at weddings at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. To preside at the wedding at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, a priest must be in good standing with the diocese and provide proper documentation to the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

GUEST PRESIDERS AND THE WEDDING CELEBRATION:

A Catholic wedding Mass or ceremony must comply with the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* and must be in keeping with the Cathedral of St. Joseph wedding policies and celebration format.

A member of the Cathedral of St. Joseph staff will conduct the rehearsal; guest presidors are respectfully requested to comply with the directions of the Cathedral staff. Requests for ceremony adaptations, however minor, must be made in writing to the Wedding Coordinator.

CHECK LIST FOR GUEST PRESIDERS AND PREPARATION CHECKLIST:

- Issue a “letter of intent” to the Wedding Coordinator at St. Joseph Cathedral. This letter states that the priest or deacon will oversee the marriage preparation, will file the correct paperwork with the diocese and the state of South Dakota, and will preside at the wedding. This letter must include the date and time of your wedding.
 - For example: “This letter confirms that I, Fr. Tim Smith, will oversee the marriage preparation for Jane Jones and Jim Johnson. I will preside at their wedding at the Cathedral of St. Joseph on July 1, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. I will also file the correct documents with the diocese and the State of South Dakota. “
 - Send the letter of intent to the Wedding Coordinator at the Cathedral of St. Joseph 521 North Duluth Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57104
 - If the officiant is not a priest or deacon with the Sioux Falls Catholic Diocese, he must include a copy of his *celebret*, or other documentation that confirms that he is a priest or deacon in good standing.
- If the officiant is not a priest or deacon from the state of South Dakota, the Cathedral of St. Joseph will coordinate the filing of his credentials with the state of South Dakota.
- If someone other than the Cathedral of St. Joseph is overseeing the marriage preparation, the party overseeing the preparation is required to provide the following completed documents to the Cathedral of St. Joseph not less than one month before the wedding date:
 1. Pre-Nuptial Questionnaire
 2. Dispensation Forms (if required)
 3. Freedom to Marry (if required)
 4. Baptismal Certificates (Baptismal certificate of Catholics must be issued no more than six months prior to the wedding date.)
 5. Marriage License (Marriage license must be issued no more than 20 days before the wedding date.)
 6. Certificate of Completion from a marriage preparation program.
 7. Certificate or letter of completion from a Natural Family Planning course.
 8. Other forms as indicated by circumstance.

Please be advised that NO wedding can take place at the Cathedral of St. Joseph without the above documents properly completed and submitted to the Wedding Coordinator at the Cathedral of St. Joseph one month prior to the wedding date.

- It is the responsibility of the couple and the officiant to ensure that the Cathedral of St. Joseph receives the documents one month before the wedding.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION:

To begin, all engaged couples, who are free to marry and who have their wedding date scheduled with the parish priest, need to meet with him at least 10 to 12 months in advance of the anticipated date of marriage.

The marriage preparation is as follows:

1. Contact and meet with the priest who is going to witness your marriage in order to establish a rapport and begin communication with him. During this initial meeting, he will fill out the necessary paper work, and start a file for your marriage.
2. Complete the FOCCUS inventory of communication. Your answer sheets for the FOCCUS will be processed and sent to the priest whom you met with.
3. Attend the Sioux Falls Catholic Pre-marriage program, which consists of four, two-hour sessions held on the first four Thursdays in February, May, and October, held at O’Gorman Junior High School;

OR

Attend an Engaged Encounter Weekend, held in Sioux Falls and scheduled periodically throughout the year. Your parish priest will be able to help you register for either program you decide upon.

4. Meet with a sponsor couple from the parish. They will then contact you in order to discuss the FOCCUS results. They will determine the number of times you meet, but usually the FOCCUS can be discussed in two-sessions.
5. Attend several class sessions at the parish, usually conducted by the parish priest.
6. Attend a Natural Family Planning classes (a schedule of class times is available at the parish office).
7. Four weeks prior to your wedding; meet again with the priest or Parish Wedding Coordinator to go through and clarify your plans for the Wedding Liturgy.

CIVIL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS

In order for a marriage to be witnessed, it is necessary for the couple to obtain a wedding license from the Minnehaha County Register of Deeds, **NO EARLIER THAN 20 DAYS BEFORE THE WEDDING**. When applying, both the bride and groom must appear together. If one or both parties are between the ages of 16 and 17, they must be accompanied by one parent or legal guardian. Proof of identity (valid photo ID, such as a driver’s license) is required. You must also provide your social security number. There is a \$40.00 charge, which **MUST BE PAID IN CASH**. Once you obtain your license, your wedding **MUST** take place within 20 days, or the license will expire.

CATHOLIC CHURCH REQUIREMENTS

Couples marrying at the Cathedral of St. Joseph are required to have the following documentations on file with the Wedding Coordinator one month prior to their wedding.

1. Second Marriages: If this is your second marriage, be sure to supply the necessary documents (death certificate, annulment papers, or a release from religious vows or priesthood) within two-weeks after your initial meeting with the parish priest preparing your marriage.
2. Baptismal Records: Each baptized person approaching marriage is asked to supply a certificate of baptism at least one month before the wedding date.

- Catholics: This must be a recent and current baptismal certificate (issued within the last six months and obtained from the church at which you were baptized).
 - Non-Catholics: A photocopy of your baptismal certificate from the church verifying your baptism is sufficient.
 - Recent immigrants: No baptism certificate may be required. The parish priest will visit with you about this.
3. Freedom to Marry: Freedom from any previous bonds or impediments is essential for a valid marriage in the Catholic Church. Verification of freedom to marry is obtained if your priest cannot vouch for you personally. The documentation forms will be provided by your Parish priest and must be completed at least three months before the wedding date.
 4. Marriage License: Give to priest at wedding rehearsal- **WITHOUT A LICENSE, THERE CAN BE NO CEREMONY.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND SACRAMENTS

Consider your engagement as an opportunity to deepen your faith, and grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ. A sacrament is an encounter with God that imparts grace. Prepare your heart to receive the grace of God on your wedding day in the sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

Come and worship with your faith community.

Mass at the Cathedral of St. Joseph:

- Monday-Friday: 6:45 a.m., 12 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. in the Chapel, 4 p.m. (Vigil)
- Sunday: 7:30 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 4p.m. (Sudanese)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- Thursday 7 p.m.
- Saturday 12 p.m. and 3-3:30 p.m.

Planning Your Wedding Celebration

The staff at the Cathedral of St. Joseph will work with you to plan a wedding celebration that is meaningful, beautiful and in keeping with the best of Catholic liturgy, theology, and spirituality. Your wedding celebrates the love you have for one another; the service celebrates the love you have for God, your families, and for the community.

A Catholic worship service is communal; a couple's choices must invite and make it possible for their families and friends to fully enter the celebration. Above all else, a Catholic wedding Mass or ceremony gives glory to God.

WEDDING MASS OR WEDDING CEREMONY

When two practicing Catholics marry, they celebrate the Rite of Marriage with a Mass. When a Catholic and a person of another faith marry, they celebrate the Rite of Marriage within a Liturgy of the Word, ensuring that their family and friends can comfortably participate.

PLANNING THE WEDDING CELEBRATION:

A Wedding Celebration Planning Sheet is included at the end of this handbook.

- The Readings for the wedding Mass and Ceremony will be provided in the Wedding Liturgy Preparation section starting on Page 14.
- The music for the wedding celebration can also be found in the Wedding Liturgy Preparation section starting on Page 39.

CATHEDRAL ARRANGEMENTS:

Please note that all wedding arrangements with the Cathedral of St. Joseph are to be made by the couple directly.

The Cathedral of St. Joseph respectfully requests that families of engaged couples direct their questions to the engaged couple, rather than the Cathedral staff. The Cathedral staff will not comment on arrangements made by engaged couples. Families are welcome to review the Cathedral of St. Joseph Marriage and Wedding Preparation policy.

CHOOSING READINGS:

Couples are asked to prayerfully review the Old Testament, Responsorial Psalm, New Testament, and Gospel readings, in the Wedding Liturgy Preparation section on page 14, and enter them on the Wedding Planning Sheet on page 41.

Marriage is a sacrament of the Church, and a sacred event, so it is important to choose appropriate liturgy and prayer. The liturgy should speak not only of the love you and your fiancée have for each other, but also of God's love for us, and your love for Him.

CHOOSING PRAYERS:

With the selection of readings entered on the Wedding Planning Sheet on page 41 the couple then selects the prayers that compliment their readings. The Wedding Planning Sheet on page 41 presents several opportunities for couples to choose prayers.

If the couple is interested, they may also compose the Prayers of the Faithful. Please see Wedding Liturgy Preparation section on page 39.

CHOOSING MUSIC:

The Cathedral of St. Joseph upholds the Catholic Church's guidelines regarding appropriate music for all liturgical celebrations, including weddings.

Music and musicians for all celebrations at the Cathedral of St. Joseph are provided exclusively by the Cathedral music department.

Once the engaged couple has:

- Had the initial meeting with their Presider
- Selected readings for their wedding celebration

They are invited to contact the music department at the Cathedral of St. Joseph to schedule a consultation to review music selections, and to discuss the wedding ceremony. It is most helpful if this meeting takes place at least two months prior to the wedding.

The services of a cantor and organist are included in your wedding fee.

ADAPTATIONS TO WEDDING CEREMONY:

Adaptations to the Cathedral of St. Joseph Wedding Planning Sheet, however minor, may not take place without the expressed consent of the Rector of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Requests must be made in writing to the Wedding Coordinator of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

Wedding Party and Ceremony Participants

WEDDING ATTIRE:

When choosing wedding attire, your choice must reflect the dignity of Christian marriage.

Some styles are more appropriate for evening wear than they are for a sacred event in a holy place. All wedding attire worn at the Cathedral of St. Joseph must be modest. Low necklines and high slits are not in keeping with appropriate guidelines for a religious service.

Suits or tuxedos worn by the groomsmen must be appropriate for a religious service as well, not detract from it. "Costume" style tuxedos or accessories are not appropriate for a sacred event in a holy place.

WITNESSES

South Dakota state law dictates that the official civil witnesses to your ceremony, the Best Man and Maid of Honor, must be at least 16 years old, and must be capable of testifying to the ceremony.

BRIDESMAIDS AND GROOMSMEN:

The bridal party ought to be comprised family and friends who love the couple and will support them as husband and wife. Couples are advised that elaborate and large bridal parties are not recommended.

USHERS:

It is necessary to have ushers in addition to groomsmen. Groomsmen are often busy with photographs as the guests are arriving, and therefore unable to seat them. Ushers are also able to assist at the beginning and end of the ceremony. Our recommendation is to have one usher per fifty guests.

CHILDREN IN THE WEDDING PARTY, RING BEARERS, FLOWER GIRLS:

Children in the wedding party should be at least 6 years of age. Experience shows that children find it difficult to walk down the aisle at the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Little ones often experience the Cathedral as a large disorienting place. Often their parents are in the wedding party and not available to assist their children, or to calm them if they are nervous or frightened. If children are included in the wedding party, please be mindful of their unique needs and plan accordingly.

- Flower Girl [one only, please]: Please note that flower petals may not be thrown on the floor.
- Ring Bearer [one only, please]: Please do not put the wedding rings on the pillow carried by the ring bearer. The best man and/ or the maid of honor should be responsible for the rings.

READERS:

The wedding celebration can include up to three readers at the liturgy. The couple has the following options for readers:

- One person for the first reading, one for the second reading, and one for the Prayers of the Faithful.
- One person to read the first and second readings and the Prayers of the Faithful.
- One person to read the first reading, one person to read the second reading, and the Presider to read the Prayers of the Faithful.

Readers of the Old Testament and New Testament readings must be Catholic. The reader of the Prayers of the Faithful may be Catholic or of another Christian faith.

When choosing readers, please choose people who have had experience with reading in their own parish or Church and who can proclaim the Word of God with familiarity.

Readers should plan on attending the wedding rehearsal. Engaged couples are asked to provide readers with a copy of “their” reading.

OTHER CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS:

If a couple is celebrating with Mass, there is an opportunity to include two people to bring up the gifts (bread and wine) at the Preparation of the Altar, and one to two people to assist with Holy Communion. People who distribute Communion must be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in their own Parishes and provide documentation to the Cathedral of St. Joseph. However, if you feel there would be fewer than 100 persons receiving Communion, the celebrant can distribute Holy Communion without assistance.

ADDITIONAL CATHOLIC CLERGY:

Should the engaged couple have Catholic priests or deacons among their family and friends, the couple is most welcome to invite the clergyman to participate in the ceremony. The priest or deacon can contact the Wedding Coordinator at the Cathedral of St. Joseph to make arrangements.

WEDDING CONSULTANTS AND PERSONAL ATTENDANTS:

If you are utilizing the services of a wedding consultant, please advise him or her that the wedding rehearsal and wedding ceremony are the responsibility of the Cathedral of St. Joseph. Wedding consultants and personal attendants are expected to follow the directives of the Cathedral of St. Joseph.

REHEARSAL:

The Wedding Coordinator or the Presider of your wedding will schedule the wedding rehearsal. The rehearsal lasts one hour; it will start and end on time, so please plan accordingly. The rehearsal is not a social event, but its purpose is to assist the wedding party with an understanding of their role at the ceremony, so that the wedding day, all can participate fully. **PLEASE BRING MARRIAGE LICENSE TO THE REHEARSAL.**

Those who attend the rehearsal are those who have a role in the wedding celebration. They are:

- Bride and Groom
- Maid of Honor and Best Man
- Bridesmaids
- Groomsmen
- Ring Bearer and Flower Girl
- Parents (those who are in the procession or wedding ceremony)
- Ushers
- Readers
- Gift Bearers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

All others (spouses, significant others, family members who do not have a role in the ceremony, out of town guests, etc.) should meet the couple at the rehearsal dinner site rather than attend the rehearsal.

WEDDING COORDINATOR:

The Cathedral Wedding Coordinator will be present at the rehearsal as well as on the day of the ceremony. Due to the large number of weddings at the Cathedral of St. Joseph, you are required to make use of the Wedding Coordinator. The Wedding Coordinator will set up your wedding, keep the celebration running smoothly, and serve as liaison between the Cathedral and your wedding party.

On Your Wedding Day

YOUR SCHEDULE ON YOUR WEDDING DAY:

- 6 p.m. Friday Wedding:
 - 4:30 p.m. Bride's Room is open, photographer may begin set up
 - 6:00 p.m. Ceremony begins
 - 7:30 p.m. Photos conclude

- 1:00 Saturday Wedding:
 - 11:30 a.m. Bride's Room is open, photographer may begin set up
 - 1:00 p.m. Ceremony Begins
 - 2:45 p.m. Photos conclude - Cathedral reopens for general public for confessions and Mass.

Please note the following:

- If there is a morning funeral in the Cathedral, the times for your photographs may need to be adjusted.
- Please do not bring wedding and bridesmaid gowns to the Cathedral the evening before the wedding. The Cathedral of St. Joseph cannot assume responsibility for them.

BRIDE'S ROOM

The Parish Hall, bathrooms and Kitchenette room is available for the bridal party, attendants and members of the family to gather. This area is located in the lower level of the Cathedral (your priest or wedding coordinator can show you this area prior to the rehearsal).

Please make sure all purses and valuables are secured during the ceremony and removed after the ceremony. The Cathedral of St. Joseph is not responsible for the loss or theft of any personal belongings.

GROOM:

The Cathedral of St. Joseph is unable to provide a room for groomsmen to dress. If necessary, they may use the men's restroom in the Parish Hall.

Wedding Flower Policy

Your florist may deliver your wedding flowers no more than ninety minutes before the start of your wedding. The flowers must be delivered directly to the Cathedral building, and not the parish office. Please schedule someone to receive delivery of your flowers. The Cathedral staff cannot receive delivery of flowers or assume responsibility for them. Once flowers are distributed, the florist must clear away the floral boxes, paper, and debris.

The amount of flowers used during your ceremony should be tasteful and complement, rather than distract from the sacredness of the sacrament. The altar is the central focus of our worship, no flowers will be allowed directly on the altar, or immediately in front of it.

Please note:

- It is not permissible to hang decorations of any kind.
- It is not permissible to drop any flower petals (real or artificial) on the floor of the Church.

PEW DECORATIONS AND AISLE DECORATIONS:

The use of any pew decoration is not permitted.

Aisle decorations must not obstruct your guests from entering and exiting the pews, and must be removed immediately after the celebration.

AISLE RUNNER:

The use of any aisle runner is not permitted.

CANDLES:

No provision for a Unity Candle is made in the Catholic Rite of Marriage therefore they are not allowed nor are any other type of candle displays or decorations.

RICE, BUBBLES, BIRDSEED, CONFETTI, ETC.:

Throwing rice, birdseed, confetti, flower petals (real or artificial), or any other similar object is prohibited both inside and outside the Cathedral. No sparklers or bubbles are allowed. Use of any of these will result in a forfeiture of the cleaning deposit.

GUEST BOOK AND RECEIVING LINE:

A table will be available in the foyer of the Cathedral upon request. You must provide the tablecloth. The guestbook must be closed 10 minutes before the start of the wedding. Due to time constraints please have your receiving line at your reception location.

WEDDING PROGRAM:

The wedding program is the responsibility of the bride and groom. The wedding coordinator can help with the structural outline of program.

FOOD AND DRINK:

Food and drink is not permitted in the worship area or vestibule. Please be mindful that those who will be receiving Holy Communion at the Wedding Mass are required to fast for one hour prior to doing so.

CELLULAR PHONES:

Use of cellular phones in The Cathedral of St. Joseph is not permitted.

NO SMOKING POLICY:

Smoking is NOT permitted in the Cathedral of St. Joseph or on the premises.

SECURITY:

Please do not leave any unsupervised valuables anywhere in the Church, including the Bride's Room. The Cathedral is not responsible for the loss or theft of any personal belongings.

Wedding Photography Policy

A copy of the Cathedral of St. Joseph Wedding Photography Policy is in a separate handout. Please give this to wedding photographer and videographer.

Photographers and videographers may begin set up two hours prior to the start of the wedding. Any and all photography or videotaping plans must be discussed and approved by the Wedding Coordinator prior to the day of the wedding.

Wedding photos are successfully completed within this time frame if the families and the wedding party remain available and near the area where the photos are being taken.

The sanctuary is a sacred place.

- Cameras are not permitted within the sanctuary- there are NO exceptions.
- Photographers may pose the wedding party and families on the sanctuary stairs in front of the altar, and nowhere else in the sanctuary.
- When taking posed photographs, please remember that you are in a house of prayer and worship. Conduct yourself appropriately!

Before the Wedding Ceremony:

- Photographers and videographers may set up in the church two hours prior to the ceremony. Set up may not begin before this time.
- Photos must be completed within 30 minutes prior to the ceremony. This includes photos on the Cathedral grounds, in the Bride's Room, etc.

During the Ceremony:

- The entire wedding ceremony may be photographed provided that it is done in a tasteful manner in consultation with the Priest or the Presider.
- Flash photography may be used during the processional and recessional only.
- Flash during the ceremony is prohibited.
- Videographers are asked to remain stationary and tape from the balcony/choir loft.

After the Ceremony:

- All photography must be completed within your allotted time per Cathedral policies noted on page 10.
- Saturday afternoon wedding it is necessary for everyone to be out of the Cathedral by 2:45 due to our Mass and confession schedule.

The Cathedral St. Joseph respectfully requests that the photographer:

- Cooperate with the spiritual nature of the wedding celebration.
- Remain respectful of the sacred environment that is the Cathedral of St. Joseph.
- Work within the guidelines presented here.

Wedding Liturgy Preparation

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

LECTIONARY # 1: GENESIS 1:26-28, 31

A reading from the book of Genesis

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 divine image 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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #2: GENESIS 2:18-24

A reading from the book of Genesis

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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3: GENESIS 24:48-51, 58-67

A reading from the book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

"Then 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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #4: TOBIT 7:9-10, 11-15

A reading from the book of Tobit

Raguel sprang up and kissed him, 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 seals.
Afterward they began to eat and drink.
The Word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #5: TOBIT 8:4B-8

A reading from the book of Tobit
Their wedding night Sarah got up,

and she and Tobiah started to pray
and beg 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.

LECTIONARY #6: PROVERBS 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs

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.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #7: SONG OF SONGS 2:8-10, 14, 16; 8:6-7

A reading from the Song of Songs

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!
"For see, the winter is past,
the rains are over and gone.
The flowers appear on the earth,
the time of pruning the vines has come,
and the song of the dove is heard in our land.
The fig tree puts forth its figs,
and the vines, in bloom, give forth fragrance.
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.

LECTIONARY #8: SIRACH 26:1-4, 13-16

A reading from the book of Sirach

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.

LECTIONARY #9: JEREMIAH 31:31-32, 33-34

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah

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.

PSALMODY

PSALM 33

Response: The earth is full of the goodness, the goodness of the Lord.

They are happy, whose God is the Lord.

the people he has chosen as his own.
The Lord looks on those who revere him,
on those who hope in his love.

Our soul is waiting for the Lord.
The Lord is our help and our shield.
In him do our hearts find joy.
We trust in his holy name.

May your love be upon us, O Lord,
as we place all our hope in you.

PSALM 34

Response: I will bless the Lord at all times.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
God's praise always on my lips;
in the LORD my soul shall make its boast.
The humble shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the LORD with me.
Together let us praise God's name.
I sought the LORD and was heard;
from all my terrors set free.

Look towards God and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.
When the poor cry out the LORD hears them.
and rescues them from all their distress.

The angel of the LORD is encamped
around those who fear God, to rescue them.
Taste and see that the LORD is good.
They are happy who seek refuge in God.

PSALM 103

Response: The Lord is kind and merciful.

My soul, give thanks to the LORD,
all my being, bless God's holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the LORD
and never forget all God's blessings.

The LORD is compassion and love,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
As parents have compassion on their children,
the LORD has pity on those who are God-fearing.

But the love of the LORD is everlasting
upon those who fear the LORD.
God's justice reaches out to children's children
when they keep his covenant in truth,
when they keep his will in their mind.

PSALM 145

Response: The Lord is compassionate to all his creatures.

You are kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good you are, Lord to all,
compassionate to all your creatures.

All your creatures shall thank you, O Lord,
and your friends shall repeat their blessing.
The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due season.

You are just in all your ways
and loving in all your deeds.
You are close to all who call you,
Who call on you from their hearts.

PSALM 148

Response: Let all praise the name of the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens,
praise him in the heights.
Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon, the old together with the young.
praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens

and the waters above the heavens

All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild game and tame,
all earth's rulers and peoples,
the old together with the young

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

LECTIONARY #1: ROMANS 8:31-35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us?
He who 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.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #2 [LONG FORM]: ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-18

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you therefore, brothers,
by the mercies of God,
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.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #2A [SHORT FORM]: ROMANS 12:1-2, 9-13

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

I urge you therefore, brothers,
by the mercies of God,
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.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3: ROMANS 15.1B-3A, 5-7, 13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

We who are strong
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.

The word of the Lord

LECTIONARY #4: 1 CORINTHIANS 6:13-15, 17-20

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

The body, however, 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?
But 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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #5: 1 CORINTHIANS 12:31-13:8

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

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, (love) 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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6 [LONG FORM]: EPHESIANS 5:2, 21-33

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

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.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6A [SHORT FORM]: EPHESIANS 5:2, 25-32

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

In love,
as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.
Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.
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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #7: PHILIPPIANS 4.4-9

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

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,
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.

The Word of the Lord

LECTIONARY #8: COLOSSIANS 3.12 -17

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Put on then, 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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #9: HEBREWS 13.1-4A, 5-6B

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #10: 1 PETER 3:1-9

A reading from the first letter of Saint Peter

Likewise,
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.
The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #11: I JOHN 3:18-24

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

Children, let us love one another
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 everything.
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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #12: 1 JOHN 4:7-12

A reading from the first letter of Saint John

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 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.

The word of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #13: REVELATION 19:1, 5-9

A reading from the book of Revelation

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."

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL READINGS

LECTIONARY #1: MATTHEW 5:1-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

When he 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #2: MATTHEW 5:13-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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, where 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3 [LONG FORM]: MATTHEW 7:21, 24-29

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #3A [SHORT FORM]: MATTHEW 7:21, 24-25

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #4: MATTHEW 19:3-6

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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,

no human being must separate."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #5: MATTHEW 22:35-40

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #6: MARK 10:6-9

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #7: JOHN 2:1-11

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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 servers 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #8: JOHN 15:9-12

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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 may be in you

and your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment:

love one another as I love you."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #9: JOHN 15:12-16

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #10 [LONG FORM]: JOHN 17:20-26

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

"Holy Father, 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

LECTIONARY #10A [SHORT FORM]: JOHN 17:20-23

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:
"Holy Father,
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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider:

Now that we have listened to God's word and felt his presence in the exchange of vows, let us present our prayers to God the Father.

Reader:

Please respond, "Lord hear our prayer," to these petitions.

1. For our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI,
for the bishops and the clergy,
may they lead us to a deeper faith in God

and stronger love for others:

Let us pray to the Lord...

2. For our president and all leaders of government,
may they work to preserve and nurture family life.

Let us pray to the Lord...

3. For all married persons,
may they be faithful to God and to each other.

Let us pray to the Lord...

4. We pray for _____ and _____,
may they live with God as the center of their home,
may they enjoy the support of family and friends,
and may they be blessed with children

Let us pray to the Lord...

5. We pray for the needs of all those
loved by _____ and _____.
may God give strength and peace.

Let us pray to the Lord...

6. For all who have died,
especially _____, _____, & _____,
may they rest in peace.

Let us pray to the Lord...

Presider:

Father,
your Son taught us to ask, to seek, and to knock.
We present our needs to you,
confident that you will listen,
because of your great love for us.

MUSIC FOR THE WEDDING LITURGY

This publication contains liturgical wedding music commonly used at St. Joseph Cathedral. All of the selections are suitable to the Cathedral's liturgical style, acoustic environment and pipe organs. Other songs will normally not be permitted at Cathedral wedding liturgies.

The Sunday Mass is our model for all celebrations at the Cathedral. As the Mother Church for the Diocese and the seat of the Bishop, liturgies at the Cathedral may seem to have stricter guidelines than a typical parish church. These policies have been developed after many years of experience to help you celebrate the most important day of your lives.

A portion of the fee you pay the Cathedral includes payment for the organist and cantor. No guest musicians are allowed. The vast space of the cathedral easily intimidates, and has caused normally exceptional guest musicians to "choke" at the wrong moment (your wedding!) It is very appropriate for a talented family member or friend to be given invitation to share their musical gifts in the more intimate setting of your reception.

Musicians are not present at your 'wedding rehearsal;' this is for the Wedding Party. If a separate musical rehearsal is required for your wedding, an extra fee is charged (extra rehearsal is usually only necessary when other instruments are added.)

No recorded music is allowed, in keeping with an authentic (or, 'organic') expression of prayer. Only one piece of music is played for the procession of the Wedding Party (including Bride) into the church, aligning with the celebration of Mass (we do not sing two opening hymns at Mass.)

The Prelude is the music played (usually 8-10 minutes) while your guests are being seated. The Processional is the piece played as Priest/Presider and entire Wedding Party enter the church. The Recessional is the piece played when Wedding Party leaves. The Postlude is the piece played when guests leave.

Please note where, on your planning form, certain selections are 'optional,' such as an opening hymn or closing hymn. These are normally sung at celebrations that do not celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

When planning your music, it is always good to consider the disposition of your guest list:

- Are both families Catholic?
- Do they regularly attend church, whether Catholic or not?
- Are the guests musically inclined – do they enjoy singing hymns?
- How do your choices of music express your faith?

Suggested Instrumental Music

This is a listing of some of the most popular organ pieces used for weddings. Most of these pieces accommodate other instrumentalists well – for example, strings for the Canon in D; or a trumpet for the Clarke “Trumpet Voluntary.” Pieces that are for organ solo are marked “organ only.” In your individual consultation, the staff organist can also discuss other selections based on his or her personal repertoire. Please note that a hymn is perfectly acceptable to accompany the entrance procession, if you would prefer congregational singing at this point in the wedding.

Many couples do not have strong feelings about the music used for the prelude and postlude. If this is the case, the staff organists will be happy to choose selections for you.

These selections are listed as they would appear in your program: title first, followed by composer information.

Prelude Music

- “Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring” – J.S. Bach
- “Air from Suite No. 3” – J.S. Bach
- “Air from *Water Music*” – G.F. Handel
- “Sheep may Safely Graze” – J.S. Bach
- “Arioso” – J.S. Bach
- “Ave Maria” – F. Schubert
- “Ave Maria” – J.S. Bach/C. Gounod

Processional, Recessional, and Postlude Music

- “Canon in D” – J. Pachelbel
- “Prelude from *Te Deum*” – M.A. Charpentier
- “The Prince of Denmark’s March” – J. Clarke
- “Overture” from “Royal Fireworks Music” – G. F. Handel
- “Hornpipe” from “Water Music” – G.F. Handel
- “The Rejoicing,” from “Royal Fireworks Music” – G.F. Handel
- “La Marche” – G.F. Handel
- “Trumpet Tune” – H. Purcell
- “Fanfare” – J. Lemmens (Organ Only)
- “Toccatà” – C.M. Widor (Organ Only)

Suggested Hymns

There are three places where hymnody can be used within the wedding Mass: During the Entrance Procession, the Offertory (Preparation of the Gifts), and the Communion Procession. Hymns are not required: Any or all of these processions may also be accompanied by instrumental music or the solo singing of the cantor. If you do not expect your guests to participate in singing hymns, instrumental or cantor music may be the better option.

The following list is not exhaustive, but it does include many favorite hymns commonly used at weddings. If you will be selecting other hymns, remember that they need to be in the hymnal we use at the Cathedral.

Hymns for the Entrance or Offertory

- O God, Beyond All Praising
- All Creatures of Our God and King
- Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You
- Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
- Praise to the Lord
- Let All Things Now Living

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
When Love is Found
God, We Praise You

Communion Songs

Ubi caritas (chant)
Where Charity and Love Prevail
Eat This Bread
I Received the Living God
You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
Take and Eat
Taste and See

Other Music for the Mass: Mass Ordinary, Psalm, Alleluia

1. You will need to select a Responsorial Psalm for your wedding – the psalm is sung between the first two readings. When you have provided the psalm number and the refrain wording from your planning booklet, the organist will find a musical setting of that psalm.
2. Similarly, you will need to select an Alleluia verse. In your individual consultation you may want to discuss different options for the musical setting of the Alleluia. However, especially if you and many of your guests are cathedral parishioners, it is recommended that you choose the same musical settings currently in use at the cathedral.
3. The Mass Ordinary includes the Gloria, Sanctus (“Holy, Holy”), Memorial Acclamation, Amen, and Agnus Dei (“Lamb of God”). You can discuss a particular musical setting of these parts of the Mass at your individual consultation. However, it is strongly recommended that you choose the Mass Ordinary setting currently used at the Cathedral.

TIMELINE FOR MUSIC

Two months or earlier before your wedding: Contact the Wedding Director with the following information:

- Date/time of your wedding in the subject line of your email: (e.g., Sept 12, 2011 1:00 p.m.)
- Full names of bride and groom
- Mass, or Liturgy of the Word service
- Choices for: readings I, & II, Psalm, Gospel
- Selections of music you have made – *you are welcome to scan planning form and send as pdf file*
- Any questions* you may have if you are unsure of any musical decisions

Six weeks or earlier before your wedding: Return completed Wedding Party Template to the Wedding Director.

Three weeks before your wedding, if we have not heard from you:

- The cathedral staff will choose lovely music for your wedding. (If you wish for cathedral staff to select your music, just let us know in your first email. Many couples find this service a timesaver.)

Wedding Planning Sheet

(to be submitted to Wedding Coordinator)

Bride: _____ Parish: _____

Groom: _____ Parish: _____

Dear engaged couple:

As you begin the process of preparing for your wedding celebration, you will need a wedding folder. The folder will include the scripture readings from which you may choose for your ceremony along with wedding music information and other preparation information.

Please complete and bring this form to your next appointment with your Parish priest. The planning is not considered final until you have reviewed the content of this planning sheet with your Parish priest.

General Information

Wedding Date: _____ Wedding Time: _____

Rehearsal Date*: _____ Rehearsal Time: _____

Presider: _____

Musicians:

Cantor: _____

Organist: _____

*Rehearsal date is scheduled with Presider.

Bride's phone numbers:

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

Groom's phone numbers:

Home: _____

Work: _____

Cell: _____

Wedding Party

(Please list in order as they will process down the aisle.)

Maid/ Matron of Honor:

Best Man:

Flower Girl (optional):

Ring Bearer (optional):

Bridesmaids:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Groomsmen:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Person in charge of floral delivery: _____

Welcoming: How will your guests be welcomed at the door?

- Family or friends serving as greeters
- Ushers

Prelude Music: Helps set the tone for a joyful celebration. If you like, you can leave for the organist to choose.

1. _____ 2. _____

Entrance Rite

Processional Music: Accompanies the movement of the wedding party and other liturgical ministers into the assembly.

Title

Groom - please select one option:

- Enter from the front and stand with Presider
- Escorted down the aisle by: _____

Bride - please select one option:

- Escorted down the aisle by: _____

Bridal Party- Please select one option:

- Bridesmaids and Groomsmen process down the center aisle as couples
- Bridesmaids process down the center aisle; Groomsmen meet them in front

Opening Hymn: (Optional) *A song of praise that is sung by all present.*

Greeting
Penitential Rite
Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

(You may choose a lector for each Reading, or one lector can read both.)

Old Testament Reading

Reading number: ___ Book/Chapter/Verse: _____ Lector: _____

Responsorial Psalm- *The cantor will sing the verse of the Psalm; everyone is invited to join in the refrain.*

Reading number: ___ Psalm Number: _____

New Testament Reading

Reading number: ___ Book/Chapter/Verse: _____ Lector: _____

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Reading- *The Gospel is read by the Presider.*

Reading number: ___ Book/Chapter/Verse: _____

Homily

Rite of Marriage

VOWS

There are two options for the form of the wedding vows:

Option A:

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

Option B:

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

BLESSING AND EXCHANGE OF RINGS

There are three options for the blessing of the rings:

Option A:

May the Lord bless these rings which you give to each other as a sign of your love and fidelity.

Option B:

Lord, bless these rings which we bless in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always have deep faith in each other. May they do your will and always live together in peace, good will, and love. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Option C:

Lord, bless and consecrate _____ and _____ in their love for each other. May these rings be a symbol of true faith in each other, and always remind them of their love, through Christ our Lord.

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Prayers of the Faithful written by:

_____ Presider

_____ Engaged Couple *(Please attach a copy with this planning sheet)*

Prayers of the Faithful read by:

_____ Presider

_____ Lector (name): _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist

(If Rite of Marriage with Liturgy of Word but no Mass skips the following)

Preparation of Gifts- *If you would like, you may invite family or friends to bring the gifts to the altar.*

If you choose to do so, please list their names:

1. _____ 2. _____

Music during Preparation of the Gifts

Title

Eucharistic Prayer Acclamations:

Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Amen

Rite of Holy Communion

Lord's Prayer (recited)
Nuptial Blessing
Sign of Peace
Lamb of God

Distributing Holy Communion- *People who distribute Communion must be Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion in their own Parishes and provide documentation to St. Joseph Cathedral. However, if you feel there would be fewer than 100 persons receiving Communion, the celebrant can distribute Holy Communion without assistance*

1. _____ 2. _____

Communion Music: *A hymn that speaks of the Eucharist and/or Christian marriage is appropriate.*

Title

Prayer after Communion

Concluding Rite

Announcement- *Would you like your Presider to make any announcements prior to the Blessing and Dismissal? Such as:*

Receiving line will be located at: _____

Reception location: _____

Blessing and Dismissal – *at the conclusion of the Blessing, the Presider will introduce the newly married couple to the assembly. How would you like to be introduced? A few suggestions:*

Joe & Jane Smith ~ Jane & Joe Smith ~ Mr. & Mrs. Joe & Jane Smith ~ Mr. & Mrs. Joe Smith

Please write your preference here

Recessional Music: *Accompanies the wedding party and assembly from the church*

Title

Wedding Policy Agreement Form

Bride: _____

MARRIAGE AND WEDDING PREPARATION

Groom: _____

Wedding Date: _____

Wedding Time: _____

The Cathedral is available to you from: _____

I have received and reviewed the Cathedral of St. Joseph wedding policies and agree to abide by them. I understand that due to the unique character of St. Joseph Cathedral, there may be the need to alter the schedule as currently foreseen to accommodate a special liturgy.

Bride Date

Groom Date

Cathedral of St. Joseph Representative Date