

Rite Of Marriage

[Choose one from each selection of options in the Rite highlighted by **]

**Three Forms for the Rite of Marriage

The Catholic Church provides three different forms of celebrating the Rite of Marriage.

1. [Option #1] **Wedding within a Mass often used when two Catholics are getting married.**
2. [Option #2] **Wedding with Liturgy of the Word often used when a Catholic marries another baptized Christian.**
3. [Option #3] **Wedding with Liturgy of the Word and special prayers used when a Catholic marries someone who is not baptized.**

The couple chooses one of these options based on their particular circumstances in conversation with the priest who will witness the marriage vows.

This video explains more about the Rite of Marriage and what to expect at a Catholic wedding.

<http://www.foryourmarriage.org/saying-i-do-what-happens-at-a-catholic-wedding/>

The Questions before Consent

The priest asks the bride and groom a series of questions immediately before they exchange their wedding vows. These questions involve the couple's "freedom of choice, fidelity to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children". While they are asked the questions together, each person must answer the questions individually. The bride and groom pledge before God and the community their intention to undertake through God's grace the vocation of lifelong marriage, a permanent union open to the gift of new life.

Celebrant:

[Name] and [Name], have you come here to enter into Marriage without coercion, freely and wholeheartedly?

The bridegroom and bride each say: **I have.**

The celebrant continues:

Are you prepared, as you follow the path of Marriage, to love and honor each other for as long as you both shall live?

The bridegroom and bride each say: **I am.**

The following question may be omitted, if circumstances suggest this, for example, if the couple are advanced in years.

Celebrant:

Are you prepared to accept children lovingly from God and to bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

The bridegroom and bride each say: **I am.**

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The Marriage Vows

The marriage vows are at the heart of the Catholic wedding ceremony. It takes place after the Questions Before Consent and before the Blessing and Giving of Rings.

The vows provide rich reflection both for couples preparing for marriage and those married for years. By promising in the presence of God and the Church to love each other faithfully for the rest of their lives, bride and groom form an unbreakable covenant.

****The Vows**

Since the vows are at the heart of the sacrament of marriage, the bride and groom normally repeat the vows after the priest. The bride and groom declare their consent using one of the following formulas:

1. **[Vows Option #1] *I (name) take you (name) 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.***
2. **[Vows Option #2] *I (name) take you (name) 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.***

Or, the bride and groom may use one of the following formulas in which each answers **I do** after the priest or deacon poses the question.

3. **[Vows Option #3] *(Name), do you take (name) to be your wife/husband? Do you promise to be faithful to her/him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her/him and to honor her/him all the days of your life? I do.***
4. **[Vows Option #4] *(Name), do you take (name) for your 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 you part? I do.***

Then, receiving their consent, the Priest says to the bride and bridegroom:

1. **[Reception of consent option #1] *May the Lord in his kindness strengthen the consent you have declared before the Church, and graciously bring to fulfillment his blessing within you. What God joins together, let no one put asunder.***
2. **[Reception of consent option #2] *May the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God who joined together our first parents in paradise, strengthen and bless in Christ the consent you have declared before the Church, so that what God joins together, no one may put asunder.***

The Priest says: **Let us bless the Lord.** All reply: **Thanks be to God.**
Another acclamation may be sung or said.

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****The Blessing and Giving of Rings**

The Priest says:

1. [Rings Blessing Option #1] **May the Lord bless+ these rings, which you will give to each other as a sign of love and fidelity. Amen.**
2. [Rings Blessing Option #2] **Bless, O Lord, these rings, which we bless+ in your name, so that those who wear them may remain entirely faithful to each other, abide in peace and in your will, and live always in mutual charity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**
3. [Rings Blessing Option #3] **Bless+ and sanctify your servants in their love, O Lord, and let these rings, a sign of their faithfulness, remind them of their love for one another. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The husband places his wife's ring on her ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest: **(Name), 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.**

Likewise, the wife places her husband's ring on his ring finger, saying, as the circumstances so suggest: **(Name), 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.**

The Lighting of the Unity Candle is an option at this time.

The Blessing and Giving of the Arras.

If the occasion so suggests, the rite of blessing and giving of the arras (coins) may take place following the blessing and giving of rings. This custom is common in Latin America.

The Priest says: **Bless, O Lord, these arras that (name) and (name) will give to each other and pour over them the abundance of your good gifts.**

The husband takes the arras and hands them over to his wife, saying:

(Name), receive these arras as a pledge of God's blessing and a sign of the good gifts we will share.

The wife takes the arras and hands them over to the husband, saying:

(Name), receive these arras as a pledge of God's blessing and a sign of the good gifts we will share.

The Lazo is another custom that can be chosen.

Then a hymn or canticle of praise may be sung by the whole community.

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****The Nuptial Blessing**

1. [Nuptial Blessing Option #1] O God, who by your mighty power created all things out of nothing, and, when you had set in place the beginnings of the universe, formed man and woman in your own image, making the woman an inseparable helpmate to the man, that they might no longer be two, but one flesh, and taught that what you were pleased to make one must never be divided;

O God, who consecrated the bond of Marriage by so great a mystery that in the wedding covenant you foreshadowed the Sacrament of Christ and his Church.

O God, by whom woman is joined to man and the companionship they had in the beginning is endowed with the one blessing not forfeited by original sin nor washed away by the flood.

Look now with favor on these your servants, joined together in Marriage, who ask to be strengthened by your blessing. Send down on them the grace of the Holy Spirit and pour your love into their hearts, that they may remain faithful in the Marriage covenant.

May the grace of love and peace abide in your daughter (Name), and let her always follow the example of those holy women whose praises are sung in the Scriptures.

May her husband entrust his heart to her, so that, acknowledging her as his equal and his joint heir to the life of grace, he may show her due honor and cherish her always with the love that Christ has for his Church.

And now, Lord, we implore you: may these your servants hold fast to the faith and keep your commandments; made one in the flesh, may they be blameless in all they do; and with the strength that comes from the Gospel, may they bear true witness to Christ before all; (may they be blessed with children, and prove themselves virtuous parents, who live to see their children's children).

And grant that, reaching at last together the fullness of years for which they hope, they may come to the life of the blessed in the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

2. [Nuptial Blessing Option #2] Holy Father, who formed humanity in your own image, male and female you created them, so that as husband and wife, united in body and heart, they might fulfill their calling in the world;

O God, who, to reveal the great design you formed in your love, willed that the love of spouses for each other should foreshadow the covenant you graciously made with your people, so that, by fulfillment of the sacramental sign, the mystical marriage of Christ with his Church might become manifest in the union of husband and wife among your faithful;

Graciously stretch out your right hand over these your servants (Name) and (Name), we pray, and pour into their hearts the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grant, O Lord, that as they enter upon this sacramental union, they may share with one another the gifts of your love and, by being for each other a sign of your presence, become one heart and one mind.

May they also sustain, O Lord, by their deeds the home they are forming (and prepare their children to become members of your heavenly household by raising them in the way of the Gospel).

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Graciously crown with your blessings your daughter (*name*), so that, by being a good wife (and mother), she may bring warmth to her home with a love that is pure and adorn it with welcoming graciousness.

Bestow a heavenly blessing also, O Lord, on (*name*), your servant, that he may be a worthy, good and faithful husband (and a provident father).

Grant, holy Father, that, desiring to approach your table as a couple joined in Marriage in your presence, they may one day have the joy of taking part in your great banquet in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

3. [Nuptial Blessing Option #3] Holy Father, maker of the whole world, who created man and woman in your own image and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing, we humbly beseech you for these your servants, who are joined today in the Sacrament of Matrimony.

May your abundant blessing, Lord, come down upon this bride, (Name), and upon (Name), her companion for life, and may the power of your Holy Spirit set their hearts aflame from on high, so that, living out together the gift of Matrimony, they may (adorn their family with children and) enrich the Church.

In happiness may they praise you, O Lord, in sorrow may they seek you out; may they have the joy of your presence to assist them in their toil, and know that you are near to comfort them in their need; let them pray to you in the holy assembly and bear witness to you in the world, and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

****Final Blessing**

1. [Final Blessing Option #1] May God the eternal Father keep you of one heart in love for one another that the peace of Christ may dwell in you and abide always in your home.
May you be blessed in your children, and have solace in your friends and enjoy true peace with everyone.
May you be witness in the world to God's charity so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.
And May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
2. [Final Blessing Option #2] May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy and bless you in your children.
May the Only Begotten Son of God stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.
May the Holy Spirit of God always pour forth his love into your hearts.
And May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.
3. [Final Blessing Option #3] May the Lord Jesus who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence, bless you and your loved ones.
May he, who loved the Church to the end, unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.
May the Lord grant that, bearing witness to the faith in his Resurrection, you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.
And May almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here, the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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General Intercessions (Prayers of the Faithful)

The prayers of the faithful take place after the exchange of wedding rings or arras. There should be 4 to 6 intercessions making requests to God. One petition must be for the general Church. Intercessions are not prayers of thanksgiving. Several suggested intercessions are listed below. You may use them as they are or modify them to fit your particular circumstances. Feel free to write your own intercessions using the general form you see below to personalize your wedding. After making your choices and writing them down, read them aloud to make sure they sound okay. Type them up and print them off for the person who is going to read them. Bring a copy to rehearsal. Choose 4 to 6 or write your own.

1. For Pope Francis and all who lead and guide the Church, that they may lead us to a deeper faith in God and a stronger love for one another. We pray to the Lord.
2. That all civil leaders may base their decisions on respect for life and the human dignity of all people. We pray to the Lord.
3. For God's continued blessings on (Name)'s and (Name)'s parents, who through their shared love bestowed the gift of life and love on them. We pray to the Lord.
4. That the family and friends of (Name) and (Name) may always know God's love for them through their shared love for each other. We pray to the Lord.
5. For (Name) and (Name), now united as husband and wife that their love for each other may continue to grow and be a source of inspiration to us all. We pray to the Lord.
6. That our parish communities may always be a place of welcome and belonging for all its members. We pray to the Lord.
7. For all God's people that God will continue to build up their faith and they will be beacons of God's presence in the communities where they live. We pray to the Lord.
8. For God's blessings on all the people that have helped (Name) and (Name) prepare for their married lives and today's celebration. We pray to the Lord.
9. For all married couples, that their love may be a sign of God's love for us and for all God's people. We pray to the Lord.
10. For single people in our church family, that together we may be a source of support and strength in the lifestyle of one another. We pray to the Lord.
11. For those less fortunate than ourselves: the homeless, the hungry, those struggling with relationships, the jobless, the sick and the dying. We pray to the Lord.
12. For all the dead, especially the deceased family members and friends of (Name) and (Name) that they may rejoice in God's loving presence. We pray to the Lord.