

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

Name of couple _____

Date and time of Rehearsal and Wedding _____

Date and time to coordinate for music. _____

Music **must** be coordinated with the parish music director.

Date and time to review Planning Guide with priest. _____

Assigned marriage couple for FOCCUS _____

Date and time to coordinate with marriage couple _____

Please check and complete the appropriate selections. Return this planning guide to the priest as soon as possible but **no later than** one month before the wedding.

Entrance Procession

- ___ Seating of Guests
- ___ Seating of Parents
- ___ Groom and Priest await the Bride
- ___ Groom, Priest & Best Man
 await the Bride

Gospel Acclamation

Please coordinate with music ministry

Gospel (Pages 5-7)

(Please select one F-1 thru F-10)

F ___ Reading _____

Entrance Procession

- ___ Bridesmaids accompanied
 by groomsmen
- ___ Bridesmaids alone
- ___ Bride Accompanied by _____
- ___ Other _____

Exchange of Consent (Pages 7-8)

- ___ H-1
- ___ H-1 alternative
- ___ H-2

Opening Prayer (Page 2)

- ___ A-1
- ___ A-3
- ___ A-3
- ___ A-4

Blessing of Rings (Page 8)

- ___ I-1
- ___ I-2
- ___ I-3

Old Testament Reading (Pages 2-4)

(Please select one -- B-1 thru B-7)

B ___ Reading _____

Prayer of the Couple (optional)

- ___ Prayer (Page 9)
- ___ Own Composition
- ___ Omitted

Responsorial Psalm

Please coordinate with music ministry

Prayers of the Faithful (Pages 9-11)

- ___ J-1
- ___ J-2
- ___ J-3

New Testament Reading (Pages 4-5)

(Please select one -- D-1 thru D-5)

D ___ Reading _____

Nuptial Blessing (Pages 11-12)

- ___ K-1
- ___ K-2
- ___ K-3

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

OPENING PRAYERS

A-1 Father, you have made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ's love for his Church. Hear our prayers for N. & N. With faith in you and in each other, they pledge their love today. May their lives always bear witness to the reality of that love. We ask you this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A-2 Father, hear our prayers for N. & N. who today are united in marriage before your altar. Give them your blessing, and strengthen their love for each other. We ask you this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

A-3 Almighty God, hear our prayers for N. & N., who have come here today to be united in the sacrament of marriage. Increase their faith in you and in each other, and through them bless your Church with Christian children. We ask you this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives, and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, For ever and ever. Amen

A-4 Father, when you created mankind you willed that man and wife should be one. Bind N. & N., in the loving union of marriage; and make their love fruitful so that they may be living witnesses to your divine love in the world. We ask you this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

B-1 *The creation of man and woman.* Genesis 1:26-28, 31

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.

B-2 *The Creation of Woman.* Genesis 2:18-24

The LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate. So from the soil the LORD God fashioned all the wild beasts and all the birds of heaven. These he brought to the man to see what he would call them; each one was to bear the name the man would give it. The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of heaven and all the wild beasts. But no helpmate suitable for man was found for him. So the LORD God made the man fall into deep sleep. And while he slept, he took one of his ribs and enclosed it in flesh. The LORD God built the rib he had taken from the man into a woman, and brought her to the man. The man exclaimed: This at last is bone from my ones, and flesh from my flesh! This is to be called woman, for this was taken from man. This is why a man leaves his father and mother and joins himself to his wife, and they become one body.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

B-3 *The Meeting of Isaac and Rebekah.* Genesis 24:48-51; 58-67

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.

B-4 *Prayer of the New Spouses.* Tobit 8:4-9

Tobias rose from the bed and said to Sarah, "get up, my sister; You and I must pray and petition our Lord to win his grace and his protection," She stood up and they began praying for protection and this was how he began: "You are blessed, O God of our fathers; blessed too, is your name for ever and ever. Let the heavens bless you and all things you have made for evermore. It was you who created Adam, you who created Eve his wife to be his help and support; and from these two the human race was born. It was you who said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; let us make him a helpmate like himself,' And so I do not take my sister for any lustful motive; I do it in singleness of heart. Be kind enough to have pity on her and on me and bring us to old age together." The Word of the Lord.

B-5 *Love is Strong as Death.* Song of Songs 2:8-12, 14, 16; 8:6-7

I hear my Beloved. See how he comes leaping on the mountains, bounding over the hills, My Beloved is like a gazelle, like a young stag. See where he stands behind our wall. He looks in at the window, he peers through the lattice. My Beloved lifts up his voice, he says to me, come then, my love, my lovely one, come. My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock, in the coverts of the cliff, show me your face, let me hear your voice; for your voice is sweet and your face is beautiful. My beloved is mine and I am his. He said to me: Set me like a seal on your heart, like a seal on your arm. For love is strong as Death, jealousy relentless as Sheol. The flash of it is a flash of fire, a flame of the Lord himself. Love no flood can quench, nor torrents drown.

B-6 *A Really Good Wife and a Joyful Husband.* Sirach 26:1-4, 16-21

Happy the husband of a really good wife: the number of his days will be doubled. A perfect wife is the joy of her husband, he will live out the years of his life in peace. A good wife is the best of portions, reserved for those who fear the Lord; rich or poor, they will be glad of heart, cheerful

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

of face, whatever the season. The grace of a wife will charm her husband, her accomplishments will make him the stronger. A silent wife is a gift from the Lord, no price can be put on a well-trained character. A modest wife is a boon twice over, a chaste character cannot be weighted on scales. Like the sun rising over the mountains of the Lord is the beauty of a good wife in a well-kept house.

B-7 *The New Covenant of the People of God.* Jeremiah 31:31-34

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel and the House of Judah, but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbor to try to teach neighbor, or brother to say to brother, “Learn to know the Lord!” No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest.

NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

D-1 *The Love of Christ.* Romans 8:31-39

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God’s right hand he stands and pleads for us. Nothing therefore can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this; neither death nor life, nor angel, nor prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

D-2 *The Greatest of These is Love.* 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

D-3 *The Mystery of Marriage.* Ephesians 5:2, 25-32

Follow Christ by loving as he loved you. Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church and sacrificed himself for her to make her holy. He made her clean by washing her in water with the form of words, so that when he took her to himself she would be glorious, with no

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

speck of wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless. In the same way, husbands must love their wives as they love their own bodies; for a man to love his wife is for him to love himself. A man never hates his own body, but he feeds it and looks after it; and that is the way Christ treats the Church, because it is his body – and we are its living parts. For this reason, a man must leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one body. This mystery has many implications; but I am saying it applies to Christ and the Church.

D-4 *Live in Love and Thanksgiving.* Colossians 3:12-17

You are God's chosen people, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful. Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

D-5 *The Marriage of the Lamb.* Revelation 19:1, 5-9

I, John, seemed to hear the great sound of a huge crowd in heaven, singing, "Alleluia! Victory and glory and power to our God! Then a voice came from the throne; it said, Praise our God, you servants of his and all who, great or small, revere him. And I seemed to hear the voices of a huge crowd, like the sound of the ocean or the great roar of thunder, answering, Alleluia! The reign of the Lord our God Almighty has begun; let us be glad and joyful and give praise to God, because this is the time for the marriage of the Lamb. His bride is ready, and she has been able to dress herself in dazzling white linen, because her linen is made of the good deeds of the saints. The angel said, Write this: Happy are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb

GOSPEL READINGS

F-1 *The Beatitudes.* Matthew 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them. How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

F-2 *Salt of the Earth & Light of the World.* Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hilltop cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp stand where it shines for everyone in the house.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

In the same way our light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.

F-3 *House Built Upon a Rock.* Matthew 17:21, 24-25

Jesus said to his disciples: "It is not those who say to me, 'Lord, Lord' who will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the person who does the will of my Father in heaven. "Therefore, everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who built his house on rock. Rain came down, floods rose, gales blew and hurled themselves against that house, and it did not fall: it was founded on rock.

F-4 *What God Has United, Man Must Not Divide.* Matthew 19:3-6

Some Pharisees approached him, and to test him they said, Is it against the Law for a man to divorce his wife on any pretext whatever? He answered, Have you not read that the Creator from the beginning made them male and female and that he said: "This is why a man must leave father and mother, and cling to his wife, and the two become one body?" They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.

F-5 *Love. The Greatest Commandment.* Matthew 22:35-40

To disconcert him one of them put a question, Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law? Jesus said, You must 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 resembles it: You must love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.

F-6 *Two Become One Body.* Mark 10:6-9

From the beginning of creation God made them male and female. This is why a man must leave father and mother, and the two become one body. They are no longer two, therefore, but one body. So then, what God has united, man must not divide.

F-7 *The Wedding feast at Cana.* John 2:1-11.

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited. When they ran out of wine, since the wine provided for the wedding was all finished, the mother of Jesus said to Him, they have no wine. Jesus said, Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet. His mother said to the servants, Do whatever he tells you. There were six stone water jars standing there meant for the ablutions that are customary among the Jews: each could hold twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to the servants, Fill the jars with water and they filled them to the brim. Draw some out now, he told them, and take it to the steward. They did this; the steward tasted the water and it had turned into wine. Having no idea where it came from – only the servants who had drawn the water knew – the steward called the bridegroom and said, People generally serve the best wine first and keep the cheaper sort until the guests have had plenty to drink; but you have kept the best wine till now. This was the first of the signs given by Jesus: it was given at Cana in Galilee.

F-8 *Remain in My Love.* John 15:9-12

Jesus said to his disciples: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my father's

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment love one another, as I have loved you.

F-9 *Love One Another as I Have Loved You.* John 15:12-16

Jesus said to his disciples: As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me, no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name.

F-10 *That They May Be One as We Are One.* John 17:20-23

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and prayed, saying: "I pray not only for these, but for those also who through their words will believe in me. May they all be one. Father, may they be one in us, as you are in me and I am in you, so that the world may believe it was you who sent me. I have given them the glory you gave to me, that they may be one as we are one. With me in them and you in me, may they be so completely one that the world will realize that it was you who sent me and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS AND STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS

(All stand, including the bride and groom, and the priest addresses them in these or similar words):

Friends, you have come together in this church so that the Lord may seal and strengthen your love in the presence of the Church's minister and this community. Christ abundantly blesses this love. He has already consecrated you in baptism and now he enriches and strengthens you by a special sacrament so that you may assume the duties of marriage in mutual and lasting fidelity. And so, in the presence of the Church, I ask you to state your intentions.

The priest then questions them about their freedom of choice, faithfulness to each other, and the acceptance and upbringing of children.

1. N. & N., have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?
2. Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?
3. Will you accept children lovingly from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church?

Priest invites the couple to declare their consent.

Since it is your intention to enter into marriage, join your right hands, and declare your consent before God and his Church.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

EXCHANGE OF CONSENT

H-1 Recited after Priest.

Bridegroom: *I, N., take you, N., to be my wife. 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.*

Bride: *I N., take you N. to be my 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.*

H-1 Alternative Form through questioning

Bridegroom: *N., do you take N. to be your wife? Do you promise to be true to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life? **I Do.***

Bride: *N., do you take N. to be your husband? Do you promise to be true to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life? **I Do.***

H-2 (In the USA the following alternative may be used)

Bridegroom: *I, N., take you, N., for my lawful wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.*

Bride: *I N., take you N., for my lawful husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, or worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.*

RECEPTION OF CONSENT

You have declared your consent before the church. May the Lord in his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings. What God has joined, men must not divide. *Amen.*

BLESSING OF RINGS

I-1 May the Lord bless + these rings which you give to each other as the sign of your love and fidelity. *Amen.*

I-2 Lord, bless these rings which we bless + in your name. Grant that those who wear them may always have a deep faith in each other. May they do your will and always live together in peace, good will, and love. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

I-3 Lord, bless + and consecrate N. and N, 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. *Amen.*

EXCHANGE OF RINGS

Bridegroom: *N., take 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.

Bride: *N., take 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.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

PRAYER OF THE COUPLE

Something personal is best, so if you choose to compose your own prayer, please give to the priest prior to the rehearsal.

(Bride and groom together): All-powerful, ever-living God, we now kneel (stand) before you very happy, but somewhat nervous. We feel you brought us together in the beginning, helped our love grow and at this moment are with us in a special way. We ask that you stay by our side in the days ahead. Protect us from anything which might harm this marriage, give us courage when burdens come our way, teach us to forgive one another when we fall.

(For the Groom): I ask from you the assistance I need to be a good husband and father. Never let me take my wife for granted or forget she needs to be loved. If you bless us with children, I promise to love and care for them, to give them the best possible example.

(For the bride): I ask from you the assistance I need to be a good wife and mother. May I never fail to give my husband encouragement? If you bless me with motherhood, I promise to devote myself to the children, even to the point of stepping aside when they must walk alone.

(Bride and groom together): We ask, finally, that in our old age we may love one another as deeply and cherish each other as much as we do at this very moment. May you grant these wishes which we offer through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The priest will begin and conclude with these or similar words.

Invitation #1: Now that we have heard God's word in the Bible and experienced the Lord's presence in this exchange of vows, let us present these prayerful petitions for people in the world today. The response is "*Lord, hear our prayer.*"

Invitation #2: God has given us promises in the word of Scripture. N. & N. have given their promises to each other in their marriage. This hour of promise is also a time of prayer. We turn to God our Father and make our response by saying: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Conclusion #1: These are our words of prayer today for ourselves and all human beings. Tomorrow there will be others. Lord God the beloved of humankind who has first loves us, give our words by your listening the power of your word so that all things may be accomplished sweetly and gently for the happiness of all. Through Christ our Lord.

Conclusion #2: Father, You have chosen us and given us Your love, the power of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Hear our prayers today and keep us open. May our faith issue forth in action, our love show itself in deeds, and our hope give us courage. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

J-1

For our Holy Father on earth, the Pope, all the bishops and the clergy everywhere that they may lead us to deeper faith in God and a stronger love for others. Let us pray to the Lord.

For our president and all leaders of government that they may be effective in achieving peace and eliminating poverty. Let us pray to the Lord.

For married persons that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepen with the passing of each day. Let us pray to the Lord.

For N. & N., now beginning their life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and good health until a ripe old age. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are sick, lonely, discouraged, or oppressed that they may be strengthened by God's help and aided by their friends. Let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, especially the relatives and friends of N. & N. and of all present for this wedding, that they may enjoy perfect happiness and total fulfillment in eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord.

For these personal needs which we mention now in silence (pause). Let us pray to the Lord.

J-2

For leaders of the Church and State, for heads of institutions, for heads of homes and households that they will lead us and guide us in the search for God and the good life. In the search for peace and joy. In the search for love among us. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all married people. For those who were married yesterday, For the new couple N. and N., married today. For those that will marry tomorrow... That they may savor the joy of being together, warm love and children, a long life, wine and friends, and a new day, everyday. Let us pray to the Lord.

For all young single people who look forward to a vocation full of life and full of love. Let us pray to the Lord.

For the lonely old and the lonely young, for the hungry rich and the hungry poor. For the sick in body, mind, and spirit. For weakness in all of us. Let us pray to the Lord.

For our relatives and friends who walk with us on life's journey, and for those who have gone before us to the other side of life. For fulfillment of all their unfulfilled desires. Let us pray to the Lord.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

J-3

For our Church, to keep the promise of salvation, we pray to the Lord.

For our world, to keep the promise of peace, we pray to the Lord.

For our country, to keep the promise of freedom, we pray to the Lord.

For our parish, to keep the promise of discipleship, we pray to the Lord.

For our hearts, to keep the promise of loving, we pray to the Lord.

For our hands, to keep the promise of giving, we pray to the Lord.

For our lives, to keep the promise of growing, we pray to the Lord.

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

NUPTIAL BLESSING

K-1

My friends, let us turn to the Lord and pray that he will bless with his grace N. now married in Christ to N. and that he will unite in love the couple he has joined in this holy bond.

All pray silently for a short while, and then the priest extends his hands and continues.

Father, by your power you have made everything out of nothing. In the beginning you created the universe and made mankind in your own likeness. You gave man the constant help of woman so that man and woman should no longer be two, but one flesh, and you teach us that what you have united may never be divided. Father, you have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and his Church. Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood. Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scriptures. May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church. Father, keep them always true to your commandments. Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living examples of Christian life. Give them the strength which comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of Christ to others. Bless them with children and help them to be good parents. May they live to see their children's children. And after a happy old age, grant them fullness of life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Saint Mark Catholic Church Wedding Selections Planning Guide

K-2

Let us pray to the Lord for N. & N. who come to God's altar at the beginning of their married life so that they may always be united in love for each other.

All pray silently for a short while, and then the priest extends his hands and continues.

Holy Father, you created mankind in your own image and made man and woman to be joined as husband and wife. In union of body and heart and so fulfill their mission in this world. Father, to reveal the plan of your love, you made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between you and your people. In the fulfillment of this sacrament, the marriage of Christian man and woman is a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church. Father, stretch out your hand, and bless N. & N.

Lord, grant that as they begin to live this sacrament they may share with each other the gifts of your love and become one in heart and mind as witnesses to your presence in their marriage. Help them to create a home together and give them children to be formed by the gospel and to have a place in your family. Give your blessing to N., your daughter, so that she may be a good wife and mother, caring for the home, faithful in love for her husband, generous and kind. Give your blessing to N., your son, so that he may be a faithful husband and a good father. Father, grant that as they come together to your table on earth, so they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

K-3

My friends, let us ask God for his continued blessings upon this bridegroom and his bride.

All pray silently for a short while, and then the priest extends his hands and continues.

Holy Father, creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing from married life, we humbly pray to you for this woman who today is united with her husband in this sacrament of marriage. May your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love (and enrich your Church with their children). Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy and turn to you in their sorrows. May they be glad that you help them in their work and know that you are with them in their need. May they pray to you in the community of the Church, and be your witnesses in the world. May they reach old age in the company of their friends, and come at last to the kingdom of heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*