



# The Order of a Rite of Marriage with a Full Mass

## The Introductory Rites

*"The marriage liturgy is a unique event, which is both a family and a community celebration. The first signs of Jesus were performed at the wedding feast of Cana. The good wine, resulting from the Lord's miracle that brought joy to the beginning of a new family, is the new wine of Christ's covenant with the men and women of every age."* – Pope Francis, [Amoris Laetitia](#), no. 216

1. **Welcome of the bride and bridegroom by the priest and procession into the church** (the welcome can take place at the door of the church or at the altar, depending on the style of procession chosen)

2. **Greeting** of the couple and congregation by the priest

*Note: The Penitential Act is omitted from a wedding ceremony*

3. **Gloria** (said or sung, except on certain occasions)
4. **Collect** / Opening prayer (six versions to choose from)

## The Liturgy of the Word

*In the Liturgy of the Word "are expressed the importance of Christian Marriage in the history of salvation and the responsibilities and duties of Marriage to be attended to for the sanctification of the spouses and of their children."* – Order of Celebrating Matrimony, no. 35.

**Note:** There may be two or three readings plus the Responsorial Psalm, and at least one of them must explicitly speak of marriage.

1. **Old Testament Scripture Reading** (nine options; if it is the Easter season, a reading from the Book of Revelation should be chosen instead)
2. **Responsorial Psalm** (seven options; many composers have set them to music)
3. **New Testament Scripture Reading** (fourteen options)
4. **Gospel Acclamation**
5. **Gospel** (ten options)
6. **Homily** based on the Scriptures, Church teaching on marriage, and the individual couple

## The Celebration of Matrimony

*"It needs to be stressed that these words [of consent] cannot be reduced to the present; they involve a totality that includes the future: 'until death do us part.'" – Pope Francis, [Amoris Laetitia](#), no. 214*

*"The consent by which the spouses mutually give and receive one another is sealed by God himself."* – [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), no. 1639

1. **Address** to the couple by the priest
2. The **Questions before the Consent**
3. The **Consent** (two versions of the vows to choose from, and the couple can either say the words themselves or respond "I do" to the vows posed as a question by the priest)
4. The **Reception of the Consent** by the priest
5. The **Blessing and Giving of Rings** (three versions of the prayer to choose from)
6. *Optional: The **Blessing and Giving of the Arras**, a tradition important in Hispanic and Filipino families*
7. *Optional: a hymn or canticle of praise may be sung*
8. The **Universal Prayer** / Prayers of the Faithful (two examples provided in the liturgical text; couples can also work with the priest to write their own)
9. The **Creed** (said or sung only if Marriage is celebrated on certain days)



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## The Liturgy of the Eucharist

*"The liturgical crowning of the marriage rite is the Eucharist, the sacrifice of that 'body which has been given up' and that 'blood which has been shed,' which in a certain way finds expression in the consent of the spouses." – St. John Paul II, [Letter to Families](#), no. 11*

*"It is...fitting that the spouses should seal their consent to give themselves to each other through the offering of their own lives by uniting it to the offering of Christ for his Church made present in the Eucharistic sacrifice." – [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), no. 1621*

1. The **Preparation of the Gifts** (the bride and groom may bring the bread and wine to the altar, or someone else may be invited to do so)
2. The **Eucharistic Prayer**
3. The **Lord's Prayer**, stopping just before "Deliver us..."
4. *Optional: The **Blessing and Placing of the Lazo or the Veil**, a tradition important in Hispanic and Filipino families. This could also be done before the Lord's Prayer, or even earlier, according to local custom.*
5. The **Nuptial Blessing** (three versions to choose from)
6. The **Sign of Peace**
7. **Holy Communion** (an appropriate Communion song should be sung)
- 8.

## The Conclusion of the Celebration

1. **Solemn Blessing** of the newly married couple and the congregation
2. **Dismissal**
3. **Recessional** (a hymn could be sung, or instrumental music could be played)