**Catholic Ceremony Outside of Mass**

**Depending upon the wishes of the couple, parts of the ceremony can be removed to accommodate for time and personal style.**

**(Charge to audience)**

Dearly beloved, we are gathered here in the sight of God and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together **N., and N.,** in holy matrimony; this is an honorable estate, instituted by God, and signifying unto us the mystical union which exists between Christ and his Church; It is therefore not to be entered into unadvisedly, but reverently, discreetly, and with the approval of God. It is into this holy estate these two persons come now to be joined. (You may be seated)

* ***Option Request Blessings from Parents or Family***

Grooms Parents: Do you sanction this marriage with your blessing, and receive **N. (bride)** with love as a member of your family?

 Brides Parents: Do you sanction this marriage with your blessing, and receive **N. (groom)** with love as a member of your family?

**Presentation of bride:**

Throughout time it’s always been the distinct honor to present the bride in marriage whose honors that today?

* **Option – Thanking the parents**

**[](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6z41gHdHaW8&feature=relmfu" \o "Watch Adressing Parents Video)**[Watch Addressing Parents Video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6z41gHdHaW8&feature=relmfu" \o "Watch Adressing Parents Video)

**N and N** have asked me to publicly express their love and appreciation to you, their parents, for all the love and guidance you have given them. It is through you, they have learned the meaning of the words “respect,” love” and “honor”. These ‘gifts’ that you have bestowed upon them - they will now come to share and exchange with each other. It is a tribute to you that they now stand here before us. For your support that has brought them this far in their lives they say thank you-..and I say thank you.

* **Option – Memorial acknowledgment**

Officiant may say:

As we celebrate this wedding today, we would like to pay special tribute to the memory of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (She) is with us today in the hearts of those who knew her and loved her. The love that she gave continues to live on, especially in the love that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ brings to this marriage. We light this candle to honor \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Couple can go together to like the candle or it can be pre-lite or they can go present a single stemmed flower in the chair)

Collect:

O God, who since the beginning of the world

Have blessed the increase of offspring,

Show favor to our supplications

And pour forth the help of your blessing

On these thy servants \_\_\_\_ N & N\_\_\_\_,

So that in the union of Marriage

They may be bound together

In mutual affection,

In likeness of mind,

And in shared holiness.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

One God, forever and ever.

Old Testament Reading:

* Genesis 2:18, 21-24

And the Lord God said, it is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helpmate for him.  And the Lord caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and the Lord took one of his ribs, and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and brought her to the man.  And Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and the flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.  Therefore, it is for this reason a man will leave his father and his mother, and be united to his wife: and they shall become one flesh. RSV

Other Optional Old Testament Readings:

* **Genesis 1:26–28, 31** Male and female he created them
* **Genesis 24:48–51, 58–67** In is love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother
* **Tobit 7:6-14** May the Lord of Heaven prosper you both
* **Proverbs 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31** She who fears the Lord is to be praised
* **Song Of Songs 2:8–10, 14, 16a: 8:6 – 7a** Stern as death is love
* **Jeremiah 31:31–32a, 33–34a** I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel.

New Testament readings:

* Colossians 3:12–15

Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Other optional New Testament readings:

* **Romans 8:31b–35, 37–39** What will separate us from the love of Christ?
* **Romans 12:1–2, 9–18** Offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.
* **Romans 15:1b–3a, 5–7, 13** Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you
* **1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a**, **17- 20** Your body is a temple of the Spirit
* **1 Corinthians 12:31- 13:8a** If I do not have love, I gain nothing
* **Philippians 4:4- 9** The God of peace will be with you
* **Hebrews 13:1- 4a, 5- 6b** Let marriage be held in honor by all

Alleluia and Verse before the Gospel: E4

1 John 4:16

Whoever remains in love,

Remains in God and God in him.

Gospel Reading – This Is the Greatest And First Commandment. The Second Is Like It.

Matthew 22:35 – 40

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking,
“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?”
He said to him,
“You shall love the Lord, your God,
with all your heart,
with all your soul,
and with all your mind.
This is the greatest and the first commandment.
The second is like it:
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Other Optional Gospel Readings:

* **Matthew 5:13-16** You are the light of the world
* **Matthew 7:21, 24-29** A wise man built his house upon a rock
* **Matthew 19:3-6** God has united, man must not separate
* **Mark 10:6-9** They are no longer two, but one flesh
* **John 15:9-12** Remain in my love
* **John 15:12-16** This is my commandment: love one another
* ***Option Blessing of the Hands***

**[](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vPNmhTdVjc&feature=channel_video_title" \o "Watch Adressing Parents Video)**[Watch Hand Ceremony Video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vPNmhTdVjc&feature=channel_video_title" \o "Watch Adressing Parents Video)

Officiant addresses audience: Just as the bride’s hand was presented in marriage, we would like to take a moment to bless the hands of **N., and N.** For it is through the hands that we demonstrate our love and commitment to one another.

**N, and N**, please face each other and join both hands so that we may bless them.

Reading by officiant:

These are the hands of your best friend, young and strong and full of love for you.

They are being held by yours on your wedding day as you two promise to love each other for the rest of your lives.

These are also the hands that will work alongside yours as together you build your future and share your inner most dreams and secrets together.

These are the very hands that will passionately love you and cherish you through the years, and with the slightest touch will comfort you like no other.

These are the hands that will hold you when fear or grief threatens to overwhelm you.

The hands that you hold are the same hands that will countless times wipe the tears from your eyes; tears of sorrow and tears of joy.

These too are the hands that will tenderly hold your children. (optional)

These are also the hands that will help you to hold your family as one.

And lastly, these are the hands that even when wrinkled and aged will still be reaching for yours, still giving you the same unspoken tenderness with just a touch.

Prayer:

God, bless these hands that you see before you this day. May they always be held by one another. Keep them tender and gentle as they nurture each other in their wondrous love. Help these hands to continue building a relationship founded in your grace. May **N. and N**., see their four hands as healer, protector, shelter and guide. We ask this in your name, Amen.

**(Charge to couple)**

I require and charge you both, as you stand in the presence of God, before whom the secrets of all hearts are disclosed, that, having duly considered the holy covenant you are about to make, you do now declare before this company your pledge of faith, each to the other. Be well assured that if these solemn vows are kept, as God’s Word demands, and if steadfastly you endeavor to do the will of your heavenly Father, God will bless your marriage, will grant you fulfillment in it, and will establish your home in peace.

Vows of intent

N & N, have you come here freely and without reservation to give yourselves to each other in marriage?

Will you love and honor each other as man and wife for the rest of your lives?

Will you accept children lovely from God and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his church?

Marriage vows

Since it is your intention to enter the marriage, please now declare your consent before God and his church.

I N take you \_\_\_N\_\_ to be my wedded wife/ to have and to hold/ for better or for worse/ for richer or for poorer/ in sickness and in health/ to love and to cherish/ as long as we both shall live/ this is my promise to you.

I N take you \_\_\_N\_\_ to be my wedded husband/ to have and to hold/ for better or for worse/ for richer or for poorer/ in sickness and in health/ to love and to cherish/ as long as we both shall live/ this is my promise to you.

You have declared your consent before the church. May the Lord and his goodness strengthen your consent and fill you both with his blessings.

What God has joined together man must not divide. Amen

Blessing of Rings:

These rings are made of precious metal to represent the precious love that is share between the two of you. They are circular to represent the unbroken circle of love – for love that is freely given has no beginning or no end.

Prayer: May God bless these rings and the two of you who wear them, may you abide in his peace and continue in his favor.

### Exchange of Rings Vows (first the husband then the wife)

In token and pledge/

of our constant faith/

and abiding love/ with this ring/

I thee wed/ in the name of the Father/

the Son/ and Holy Spirit/ Amen

* Option - Unity Candle/Sand ceremony

Nuptial Blessing:

Let us humbly invoke by our prayers, dear brothers and sisters, God’s blessing upon this bride and groom,

That in his kindness he may favor

those on whom he has bestowed the Sacrament of Matrimony.

(All pray in silence for a moment)

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, N.\_\_

And upon N,, 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 (Guests respond with “Amen”)

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.

**R – AMEN**

May you be blessed in your children, Have solace in your friends And enjoy true peace with everyone.

**R – AMEN**

May you be witnesses 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.

**R – AMEN**

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here – the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.

**R – AMEN**

Formal pronouncement:

Forasmuch as **N. and N**. have consented together in holy wedlock, and have witnessed the same before God and this company, and thereto have pledged their faith each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by giving and receiving rings, I pronounce that they are husband and wife together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Amen.

Ladies and Gentleman, it is with the greatest of pleasure I present the very first time, Mr. and Mrs.

**Depending upon the wishes of the couple, parts of the ceremony can be removed to accommodate for time and personal style.**

**Couples may choose their preferred Scripture reading from the above selections:**

Old Testament Scripture\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

New Testament Scripture\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Gospel reading\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Couples may choose their preferred options:

\_\_\_\_\_\_Asking parents (or family) for the blessings

\_\_\_\_\_\_Thanking the parents

\_\_\_\_\_\_Memorial acknowledgment

\_\_\_\_\_\_Blessing of the hands

\_\_\_\_\_\_Unity candle/sand ceremony/other