

Prelude Music**Seating:** GUESTS GRANDPARENTS MOTHERS**Processional Music****Processional****Call to Worship:**

We are gathered here to worship God and to witness the marriage of [BRIDE] and [GROOM].

Introduction:

Dearly Beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and to bless the joining together of this man, and this woman in holy matrimony. God established the bond and covenant, of marriage in creation and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by His presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union of Christ and His Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people. The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Family Support:

The marriage of [BRIDE] and [GROOM] brings together two different families; two unique story lines, so a new chapter in their lives can begin to unfold. Though this relationship was formed out of the love these two have found in each other, their marriage will ultimately be blessed by the support of their families.

Who stands with this woman to symbolize her family's support of this union?

Escort responds: "I do"-----"We do"---or ---"Her mother and I do"

As these two people join together in marriage, they ask for the support and love of not only their families, but of their friends as well. On this day, they ask that you be more than only friends of [BRIDE] or only friends of [GROOM]. They ask that you recognize their special union and welcome them both as your friends in your lives.

Please join hands

Prayer:

Almighty God, most gracious and merciful, we thank you for love, and for the marriage that is being built upon love today. We ask your blessing upon [BRIDE] and [GROOM] today, and upon their union from this day forward. Grant them wisdom and peace and a home filled with laughter. And assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make, through Jesus Christ our Savior who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Lighting of the Memory Candle: - (OPTIONAL)

It is at this time we would remember those who have passed to spirit. As well as those who could not travel, to be with us today. Although they have been separated from us physically...faith and love will always bind them to family and friends, and continue through the rich legacy that [BRIDE] and [GROOM] begin today. (*Minister to light candle, as he speaks or Bride & Groom Light candle*). With these thoughts, I say these words for the [BRIDE] and [GROOM]: May the lighting of this

candle be a reminder of the memories we have shared, a representation of the everlasting impact you have made upon the lives of those who remember and love you. Today we pause to reflect upon those who have shaped our character, molded our spirits and touched our hearts.

(Momentary Pause) AMEN

Declaration of consent:

[BRIDE], do you come here today, in the presence of these witnesses, with love in your heart and with a conscious desire to be united in marriage with [GROOM]? Do you promise to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your lives together and to give to [BRIDE] all the loving support she needs to become the person she is destined to be? "I DO"

[GROOM], do you come here today, in the presence of these witnesses, with love in your heart and with a conscious desire to be united in marriage with [BRIDE]? Do you promise to share the responsibility for growth and enrichment of your lives together and to give to [GROOM] all the loving support he needs to become the person he is destined to be? "I DO"

Ascend the platform to Altar - bridal party is seated

Homily: Meaning of Marriage - You have arrived at this moment because of feelings, shared experiences, and shared interests. Now, you are ready to merge bank accounts and laundry. When feelings are frazzled, and life gives you too little time together, what will hold you together? Will you recall that list of things about your beloved that gave you goose bumps and made you laugh? Will you recall those times your beloved encouraged you, cared for you while you were ill, and told you, "you could do the impossible"?

Saint Paul gave a description of unconditional love: Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. True Christian marriage is always a merger, never a takeover. Life now becomes a joint venture, and two together are much stronger than two separate, even if following the same path.

Music or Readings by Family and/or Friends: - (OPTIONAL)

[Insert Text]

Vows / Promises:

[BRIDE], will you have this man to be your husband, to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others be faithful to him as long as you both shall live? (I will)

[GROOM], will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others be faithful to her as long as you both shall live? (I will)

Rings:

Though we have heard the vows, which have been shared by [BRIDE] and [GROOM], words, once spoken, are carried away on the wind. Therefore, the wedding ring is a visible symbol of the promises that have been made.

[GROOM], As you place the ring on [BRIDE]'s finger, please repeat after me:

With this ring, I marry you and bind my life to yours.

It is a symbol of my eternal love, My everlasting friendship, And the promise of all my tomorrows.

[BRIDE], As you place the ring on [GROOM]'s finger, please repeat after me:
With this ring, I marry you and bind my life to yours.

It is a symbol of my eternal love, My everlasting friendship, And the promise of all my tomorrows.

May these wedding rings be a reminder to [BRIDE] and [GROOM] of the commitment they have made today and be a testimony to all the world of their devotion in marriage.

Unity Candle (w / musical selection): - (OPTIONAL)

This candle you are about to light is a candle of Marriage. Its fire is magical because it represents the light of two people in love. This candle before you is a candle of Commitment because it takes two people working together to keep it aflame. This candle is also a candle of Unity because both must come together, a spark of themselves, to create the new light. As you light this candle today, may the brightness of the flame shine throughout your lives. May it give you courage and reassurance in darkness; warmth and safety in the cold; and strength and joy in your bodies, minds, and spirits. May your union be forever blessed.

Blessing / Benediction:

Remember that your love is the basis for this marriage; desire nothing else, fear nothing else and allow your love to blossom into what love was meant to be. Allow for spaces in your time together, giving each other room to grow. Love one another; allow that love to be a source of strength, which feeds your soul. None of us knows what the future will bring . . . the important thing is to live today to the fullest and face tomorrow with the certainty that you can accept and handle what it brings.

Declaration (Minister joins couples hands):

Those whom God has joined together let no man separate.

Pronouncement:

[BRIDE] and [GROOM], through their words today, have joined together in holy wedlock. Because they have exchanged their vows before God and these witnesses, have pledged their commitment each to the other, and have declared the same by joining hands and by exchanging rings, I now pronounce (in Jesus' name) that they are husband and wife (together, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit).

Kiss: Congratulations. You may now kiss the bride!

Presentation of Couple:

And now, to all the friends and family who have come to celebrate this marriage, I would like to present, for the first time anywhere, Mr. & Mrs. [Groom's Full Name].

BUTTERFLY RELEASE - (OPTIONAL)

Butterflies are as beautiful as they are fragile. They symbolize transformation and all that is perfect in the world. As you two join today in marriage, your commitment to love releases into the world a new wonder, a new beauty, a new perfection. One of the secrets of being happy with one you love, is to take hold lightly and let go lightly. As you release these gentle creatures, may your love transform itself and everyone it touches into its highest form.