

Sample Program

*Optional Items

Rite of Marriage Within Mass

Prelude

* Lighting of the Candles

Seating of the Family

Procession

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament

Gospel

Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Questions of Intent

Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

*Lighting of Unity Candle

Prayers of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Sign of Peace

Holy Communion

*Flowers to Mary

CONCLUDING RITE

Solemn Blessing

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Rite of Marriage Outside Mass

Prelude

* Lighting of the Candles

Seating of the Family

Procession

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Old Testament

Responsorial Psalm

New Testament

Gospel

Homily

RITE OF MARRIAGE

Questions of Intent

Consent

Blessing and Exchange of Rings

*Lighting of Unity Candle

Prayers of the Faithful

CONCLUDING RITE

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

*Sign of Peace

*Flowers to Mary

Solemn Blessing

Presentation of the Couple

Recessional

Sample Guidelines for the Reception of Communion for Wedding Program

On November 14, 1996, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the following guidelines on the reception of Communion. The guidelines, which are to be included in missalettes and other participation aids published in the United States, seek to remind all those who may attend Catholic liturgies of the present discipline of the Church with regard to the sharing of Eucharistic Communion.

For Catholics

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly and frequently. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should not be conscious of grave sin and normally should have fasted for one hour. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord without prior sacramental confession except for a grave reason where there is no opportunity for confession. In this case, the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (canon 916). A frequent reception of the Sacrament of Penance is encouraged for all.

For our fellow Christians

We welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Eucharist as our brothers and sisters. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions which separate us. We pray that these will lessen and finally disappear, in keeping with Christ's prayer for us "that they may all be one" (Jn 17:21).

Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission according to the directives of the diocesan bishop and the provisions of canon law (canon 844 §4). Members of the Orthodox Churches, the Assyrian Church of the East, and the Polish National Catholic Church are urged to respect the discipline of their own Churches. According to Roman Catholic discipline, the Code of Canon Law does not object to the reception of Communion by Christians of these Churches (canon 844 §3).

For those not receiving Holy Communion

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another.

For non-Christians

We also welcome to this celebration those who do not share our faith in Jesus Christ. While we cannot admit them to Holy Communion, we ask them to offer their prayers for the peace and the unity of the human family.