

## WEDDING MASS LITURGY

### **I THE PROCESSION:**

1. Procession starts from the south sacristy door. **Line-up: Altar Servers, Deacon, Presider, Groom, Best Man, Groom's Men.** Parents and ushers do not walk in with the Groom.
2. Altar servers venerate altar and go to chairs (one stands on pulpit rail to receive Brides bouquet).
3. Groom and his men stop at the end of the first row in formal stance with hands at their sides, looking toward the back of the church.
4. **At signal from the Presider**, the mothers (escorted by male attendants of the party) come forward. The Groom's mother lights the Unity Candle first, followed by the Bride's mother, and they both return to their seats together (Groom's mother on the right first pew and the Bride's mother on the left first pew).
5. The Bridesmaids, **slowly** walk toward the front of the church toward the altar, bows lightly, and goes in front of the first pew on the left. She remains standing and looking at the Bride. **When the first Bridesmaid bows to the altar, the next one starts down the aisle.**
6. The Ring bearer & Flower girl go before the Maid of Honor. Once they get to the Altar, they go in front of the first pew on the left and stand (depending on the age, they can go and sit in the first pew, together with the Bride's parents).
7. The Maid of Honor comes to the fourth pew where she is met by the Best Man, who escorts her up to the left first step. He then walks along the first step to the right side of the altar, behind the Groom and both wait looking toward the back of the church.
8. **After everyone is settled and not before, the Presider announces, "Please stand for the entrance of the Bride."** The Bride, at the left side of her father, slowly walks to the front of the church and stops at the first pew. She faces her father (if she is wearing a veil, the father lifts the veil) and he kisses her.
9. The Groom comes forward (while the father is kissing the Bride), shakes hands with the Father. The Groom offers his left arm to the Bride and both advance to the first step. The Bride offers her bouquet to the Maid of Honor (who gives it to the Altar Server to be positioned on the Altar next to the rings).
10. As soon as the wedding March is over, the **Presider asks**, "*Who is giving this woman to this man in marriage?*", and **the father and the mother of the bride answer**, "*We are.*" The Presider then welcomes the people.
11. The Maid of Honor arranges the Bride's gown and train. All the Bridesmaids and Ushers go to their side pews.

### **II THE ENTRANCE RITE**

OPENING PRAYER is done by the Presider.

When the Presider finishes, the first reader goes to the Ambo from the side steps, bows to the altar and starts the first reading.

### III LITURGY OF THE WORD

1. OLD TESTAMENT READING  
**Read slowly, clearly, and distinctly.** When finished, he/she always returns descending thru the side steps to the seat. Then the next reader likewise approaches the Ambo, bows to the altar and starts the reading of the Psalm.
2. THE RESPONSORIAL PSALM (unless a meditation song takes its place)  
**Read slowly, clearly, and distinctly.** When finished, the reader returns to the seat. Then the next reader approaches the Ambo, bows to the altar and starts the second reading.
3. NEW TESTAMENT READING  
**Read slowly, clearly, and distinctly.** When finished, returns in the same way to the seat.
4. THE GOSPEL  
**All Stand.** Proclaimed by the Deacon or, in his absence, by the Presider.
5. HOMILY / SERMON  
Given by the Presider at the Ambo or the Altar. **The Bride and Groom kneel at the altar.**

### III RITE OF MARRIAGE

1. CEREMONY OF CONSENT  
**The Bride, Groom and the two witnesses stand at their place.** The Presider explains the consent, then he asks three questions and the Bride and Groom will answer affirmatively, after each question.

After the Consent, the Presider invites the couple to face each other, directs the Groom to extend his hands (palms up) to the Bride, who puts her hands (palms down) on his hands and they exchange the marital vows (either memorizing it or repeating it, or saying "I Do"). **The couple respond loud and slowly** after the Presider, while keeping their eyes locked on each other and not on the Presider, who then blesses the exchange.

2. BLESSING OF THE RINGS  
The rings are taken from the Altar by the server and are blessed by the Presider.

The Bride and Groom keep facing each other (do not look at the Presider). When the Presider says the words "**Double Ring**", the Bride places her right palm under his left hand, then she places her left palm over his left hand and then the Groom puts his right hand over her left, palm down. Both spouses repeat the ring formula putting the ring on each other. After the Groom has received the blessing, the hands are turned over together for the Bride's ring blessing.

The Presider will introduce the Bride and Groom now "*It is with great joy that I am introducing for the first time Mr. and Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_*".

**The Groom always holds the arm of his bride** when standing. The spouses turn toward the people, after a kiss, and then, after the applause is ended, they turn back

toward the altar.

3. PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

In the absence of a Deacon, the chosen Reader comes to the Ambo, bows to the altar and starts reading, as soon as the priest has ended his invitation to the prayer. The priest will end also with a Final Prayer.

**The response is** “*Lord hear our Prayer.*”

4. LIGHTING OF THE UNITY CANDLE

*The Church will provide a holder - If you have your own, please let the Parish Secretary or the Sacristan know.*

- a. At the invitation of the presider, the Bride and Groom will proceed to the right of the Altar to light the candle.
- b. The Maid of Honor will carry the train.
- c. The Presider will offer the Bride and Groom the tapers.
- d. The Bride (from the left side) and the Groom (from the right side) will light their tapers from the smaller candles lighted by the mothers. They then together light the main candle. Do not remove the small candles, use the tapers. After lighting the main candle, use the taper holder bell to snuff out the mothers’ candles.
- e. The spouses return to the center of the Altar, facing the Altar.
- f. The Maid of Honor will fix the trailer.

If the traditional homage to the Blessed Mother is requested, the spouses go with the bouquet (taken from the Altar) to the image of Mary and pray the Hail Mary, before returning to the Altar. If they so wish, they go to their mothers to offer a floral homage, the Maid of Honor follows holding the train.

#### IV PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

The Presentation of the gifts is optional and usually done by family members.

#### V LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

1. THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS, PREFACE and CONSECRATION are done as usual.

2. NUPTIAL BLESSING

After the Lord’s Prayer, the priest faces the Bride and Groom, and with hands joined he pronounces the blessing.

3. THE SIGN OF PEACE is exchanged. The couple can go to give peace to family members, with the Maid of Honor holding the train.

4. COMMUNION

The Presider will first give the Host to Bride and then to the Groom. He will hand the Cup to the Bride, **who will offer it first to the Groom**. She will then give the cup back to the Deacon or Presider, who will hand it to the Groom, **who will offer it to the Bride**. Then he returns it to the Deacon. Communion of the Faithful follows while the Bride and Groom pray to the Lord.

5. PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

## **VI CONCLUDING RITE**

### 1. FINAL BLESSING

Before blessing the people at the end of Mass, the priest blesses the Bride and Groom.

At the set of Blessings, all answer: "*Amen*", when the Presider **drops his arms**, after each blessing.

## **VII THE PROCESSION**

The Bridal Party processes out in opposite order as the first, the men offering their right hand to their ladies. Bride and Groom - arm in arm, Best Man and Maid of Honor, Ring bearer and Flower girl, Bridesmaids and Escorts, family and friends, and then the faithful.

Proceed to the rear of the church or outside to return immediately to the church thru the right front door for the picture taking session.