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*The gospel reading is taken from the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. Please select 1 of the following 9 options:*

### OPTION #1

Matthew 5: 1-12a

*Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,  
and after he has sat down, his disciples came to him.  
He began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they will be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they will inherit the land.  
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness,  
for they will be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they will be shown mercy.  
Blessed are the clean of heart,  
for they will see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they will be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,  
for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you  
and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.  
Rejoice and be glad,  
for your reward will be great in heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Commentary:

In the Gospel according to Matthew, the sermon containing the Beatitudes is situated on a mountain, suggestive of Mount Sinai. The sermon is seen as the new law corresponding to the old law given to Moses. It spells out how a Christian should live in order to have joy and it is most appropriate advice for a married couple. It is not the self-satisfied, materialistic people who will be blessed and happy, but it is those who show mercy, who treat others gently, who endeavor to make peace, who are unencumbered in spirit and free to be loving who will be happy. Strengthening these habits within the marriage relationship enables partners to radiate a Christian presence beyond their home. Those who are willing to pay the price that love of and commitment to another entails will be rewarded.

## OPTION #2

Matthew 5: 13-16

*You are the light of the world.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything

but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;

it is set on a lamp stand,

where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others,

that they may see your good deeds

and glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Commentary:

Jesus describes the nucleus of the future church as the salt of the earth, a city on a hill and a light to the world. On your wedding day, you are clearly the center of attention, the city, the light that brightens the day and the salt that gives it flavor. You are called by God to continue to be salt, light and a beacon for others. That is achieved only by loving as Jesus loved us. The quality of a bride and groom can be felt on their wedding day by the way they are concerned for others, even on that special day honoring them. It is a good time to try and live that selfless love that will continue to make you a light for others throughout your life.

### OPTION #3 – LONG FORM

Matthew 7:21, 24-29

*A wise man built his house on rock.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,  
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine  
but does not act on them  
will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
And it collapsed and was completely ruined.”

When Jesus finished these words,  
the crowds were astonished at his teaching,  
for he taught them as one having authority,  
and not as their scribes.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### Commentary:

*The commentary for this option is found following the short form on the next page.*

### OPTION #3 – SHORT FORM

Matthew 7:21, 24-25

*A wise man built his house on rock.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus said to his disciples:

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’  
will enter the Kingdom of heaven,  
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

“Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them  
will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came,  
and the winds blew and buffeted the house.  
But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### Commentary:

You are about to build a life together in Christian marriage. Vows made on your wedding day have to be fulfilled through a thousand acts of fidelity, compassion and love. Marriage cannot be built on shifting sands but must be built on the rock of Christ and his teachings if it is to last. This part of the Sermon on the Mount was directed to certain prophets and healers who were upsetting the Church. The test of their work, it asserts, will not be their flashy achievements, but their obedience to the righteousness set forth in the sermon.

**\* OPTION #4**

Matthew 19: 3-6

*What God has united, man must not separate.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,

“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”

He said in reply, “Have you not read that from the beginning

the Creator *made them male and female* and said,

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother*

*and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?*

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Commentary:**

The Pharisees are trying to trap Jesus into taking sides in a dispute about the interpretations of a section of the Torah (the law) dealing with divorce. The Torah said that a man could divorce his wife for “some unseemly thing.” Naturally the argument revolved around what was meant by “some unseemly thing.” One side claimed it meant adultery; the other claimed it meant anything that displeased the husband. Jesus, in answer, harkens back to the original order of creation. It was Moses who permitted divorce as a concession to human weakness; Jesus, however, holds to the ideal that man and wife are joined together forever. The couple, assisted by God’s grace in the sacrament of marriage, is called to be truly a foretaste of heavenly conditions – of fidelity beyond one’s natural strength, of patience beyond one’s own means. It is a prophetic vocation which deserves the support of friends and the Christian community.

## OPTION #5

Matthew 22: 35-40

*This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

### Commentary:

This summary of the law is also found in an earlier Jewish work called the Testaments of the Twelve Patriarchs, but Jesus links the two commandments in a new way. Love of God without love of neighbor is a deception, and love of neighbor without love of God can turn out to be self-love. There are three loves which make up the two essential commandments: love of God with your whole being, love and esteem of yourself as a precious creation of God, and love of neighbor equal to the love you have for yourself. To love in this manner poses a severe challenge to us; our world does not reward or commend those who live for others. Self-centeredness (not the same as self-love) and “looking out for number one” seem to be rewarded. Married love can stand out like a beacon of hope in this dark world when it reaffirms the values of commitment, fidelity, generosity and compassion.

**\* OPTION #6**

Mark 10: 6-9

*They are no longer two, but one flesh.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said:

*“From the beginning of creation,  
God made them male and female.*

*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife,  
and the two shall become one flesh.*

So they are no longer two but one flesh.  
Therefore what God has joined together,  
no human being must separate.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Commentary:**

This is a Marcan parallel of Option 4. The only difference between the two is that the Matthew setting is one of debate; the Mark setting is not. Consult the commentary of Option 4.

**\* OPTION #7**

John 2: 1-11

*Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

There was a wedding in Cana in Galilee,  
and the mother of Jesus was there.  
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.  
When the wine ran short,  
the mother of Jesus said to him,  
“They have no wine.”  
And Jesus said to her,  
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?  
My hour has not yet come.”  
His mother said to the servers,  
“Do whatever he tells you.”  
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial  
washings,  
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.  
Jesus told them,  
“Fill the jars with water.”  
So they filled them to the brim.  
Then he told them,  
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”  
So they took it.  
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,  
without knowing where it came from  
(although the servants who had drawn the water knew),  
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,  
“Everyone serves good wine first,  
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;  
but you have kept the good wine until now.”  
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee  
and so revealed his glory,  
and his disciples began to believe in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Commentary:**

This has been one of the most widely used texts in the Christian wedding liturgy since the Middle Ages. Jesus, who took upon himself our human flesh and condition, approves marriage by this gesture of compassion and love for the couple at Cana. The miracle is also a sign that God has broken into our history in a transforming way. Today, God promises to be with every couple in this sacrament of grace and power. Through the Spirit of Jesus granted to them, the clear, pure water of their lives together can be transformed into a fine wine, a cause of celebration for the Christian community.

## OPTION #8

John 15: 9-12

*Remain in my love.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love,  
just as I have kept my Father's commandments  
and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you  
and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### **Commentary:**

*The commentary for this option is the same as the following option on the next page.*

## OPTION #9

John 15: 12-16

*This is my commandment: love one another.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus said to his disciples:

“This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,

because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,

because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you

and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain,

so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Commentary:

In giving up his life for us, Jesus set us an example of how to live and love. God wants us to be joyful; the way to that joy is obedience to God’s commands, chief of which is the command to love one another as Jesus has loved us. Our relationship with God is not that of servant to master, but of child to parent, a child who is called friend. We have been chosen to go forth and bear fruit. The fruit of this marriage will be the marriage itself and the love and progeny that will come from it. Pray to the Father in Jesus’ name so that your fruit may endure.

## OPTION #10 – LONG FORM

John 17: 20-26

*That they may be brought to perfection as one.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“I pray not only for my disciples,  
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
so that they may all be one,  
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
that they also may be in us,  
that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,  
so that they may be one, as we are one,  
I in them and you in me,  
that they may be brought to perfection as one,  
that the world may know that you sent me,  
and that you loved them even as you loved me.

Father, they are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me,  
that they may see my glory that you gave me,  
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,  
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known,  
that the love with which you loved me  
may be in them and I in them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Commentary:

*The commentary for this option is the same as the following option on the next page.*

## OPTION #10 – SHORT FORM

John 17: 20-23

*That they may be brought to perfection as one.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Holy Father, I pray not only for my disciples,  
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
so that they may all be one,  
as you, Father, are in me and I in you,  
that they also may be in us,  
that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me,  
so that they may be one, as we are one,  
I in them and you in me,  
that they may be brought to perfection as one,  
that the world may know that you sent me,  
and that you loved them even as you loved me.

The Gospel of the Lord.

### Commentary:

This reading is a love song by Christ to us. He wants us to be as he is with the Father, united in perfect union. The unity of Christians is to be a sign to the world that Jesus was sent by God. Marriage in a preeminent way is the sign of this love of God for the world. Christians strive for this kind of union but do it in a sinful world, conscious of our deep need for God’s grace to touch us and transform us. That special grace is guaranteed to the wedding couple in the sacrament of marriage, not just on their wedding day, but throughout their lives together.

## MARRIAGE VOWS

*Please select 1 of the following 4 options:*

### FORM A

Bridegroom: I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my wife. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Bride: I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, to be my husband. I promise to be faithful to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love you and honor you all the days of my life.

### FORM B

Bridegroom: I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, for my **lawful** wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

Bride: I, **N.**, take you, **N.**, for my **lawful** husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do us part.

### FORM C

To the Bridegroom: **N.**, do you take **N.** to be your wife? Do you promise to be faithful to her in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love her and honor her all the days of your life?

Bridegroom: I do.

To the Bride: **N.**, do you take **N.** to be your husband? Do you promise to be true to him in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health, to love him and honor him all the days of your life?

Bride: I do.

### FORM D

To the Bridegroom: **N.**, do you take **N.** for your **lawful** wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part?

Bridegroom: I do.

To the Bride: **N.**, do you take **N.** for your **lawful** husband, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish until death do you part?

Bride: I do.

# THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

## Prayer of the Faithful/Petitions

*There are two options which are edited electronically and submitted to the office or the Director of Liturgy. See the Cathedral's website for instructions.*

### OPTION #1

Priest: Filled with Joy of this celebration, we bring before God our prayers for **N.** and **N.**, for the church and for the world.

#### Lector:

1. For the Church throughout the world and for the parish communities where **N.** and **N.** have in the past and will in the future find fellowship in Christ (especially [**list parishes**]), we pray ...
2. For our nation and this city, and for those who serve in our government, we pray...
3. For the poor, the homeless, and the unemployed, and for all who suffer under persecution, we pray...
4. For **N.** and **N.** and all married couples, for their faithfulness to each other and for their faithful service of the gospel, we pray...
5. For the parents and families of **N.** and **N.**, for their godparents, and for all who formed them in faith, we pray...
6. For the deceased relatives of **N.** and **N.**, especially [**list names**]; for the sick and for those unable to be with us today, we pray...

Presider: Gracious God, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, poured forth blessings on the wedding couple at Cana. Look with kindness on **N.** and **N.**, as they pledge their lives to one another in the presence of your church. May they cherish one another and be heartened by our love. Through them, may your church be blessed. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

*Option #2 follows on the next page.*



















### Option #3

The Priest, with hands extended over the bride and bridegroom, says:

May the Lord Jesus,  
who graced the marriage at Cana by his presence,  
bless you and your loved ones.

℟. Amen.

May he, who loved the Church to the end,  
unceasingly pour his love into your hearts.

℟. Amen.

May the Lord grant  
that, bearing witness to faith in his Resurrection,  
you may await with joy the blessed hope to come.

℟. Amen.

And he blesses all the people, adding:

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

℟. Amen.