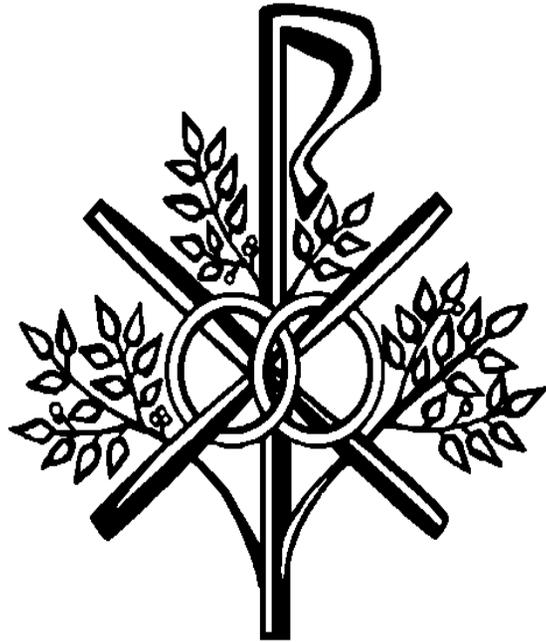


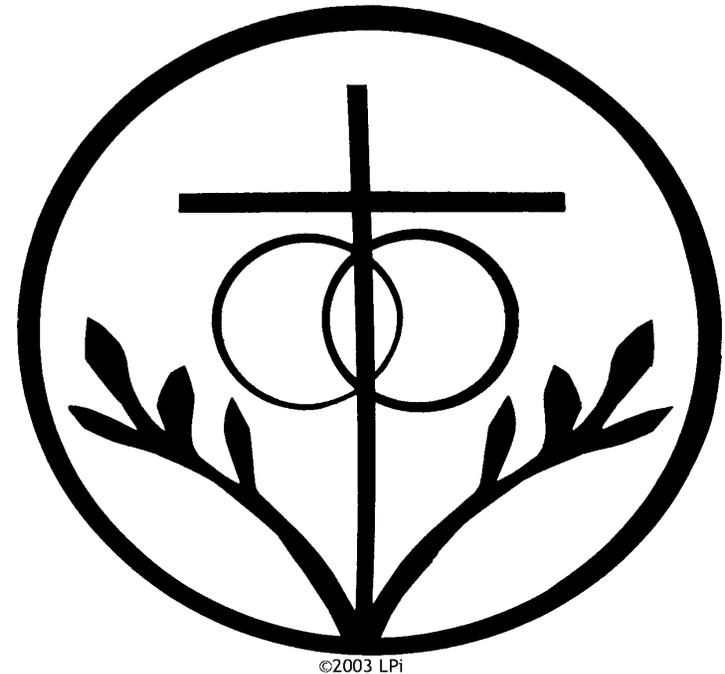
Catholic Wedding Guide



Prince of Peace Parish

PO Box 1540
16 Ste. Croix Street
Lewiston, ME 04241

207-777-1200
POP@portlanddiocese.org
Fax: 207-786-9223



©2003 LPI

Prince of Peace Parish

Lewiston, ME

Dear Friends:

I am very happy to share your joy at your approaching marriage. Congratulations! You are to be commended for making the decision to pledge your love to each other until death in a public way which includes an expression of your faith in God. From the time of the earliest Christian communities, the Catholic Church has recognized the dignity of marriage as a state of life created by God and as a source of great blessing for the couple. I am grateful that you have decided to make God a part of your plans for your wedding.

This packet of information is meant to help you prepare for the celebration of your wedding in the churches of Prince of Peace Parish, Lewiston, Maine. The Catholic Church draws on the Scriptures and our 2,000 year tradition for the signs and symbols of its marriage ceremonies. These may or may not correspond to what may be familiar to many people in contemporary society. As you know, contemporary culture has many different ideas about what makes a marriage. These are not always compatible with the Christian ideal of marriage. By considering the choices which will be placed before you in this packet you can participate more fully in the Church's own statement of faith about marriage.

In many ways it is not sufficient only to prepare for the wedding. It is more important to prepare for the marriage! The wedding lasts one day; the marriage lasts a lifetime. In this packet you will also find information about how the parish wants to help you prepare for this life. You have already been prepared to a great degree by the example of married family members and friends. Your own upbringing bears the greatest influence on your readiness for marriage. However, at this point in your lives together the Church has its own wisdom to propose. It has the example of holy husbands and wives from the past and the present. It has the experience across time and across cultures to share with you. I pray that you can take the greatest advantage of this additional help to preparing for your married life.

The parish rejoices that you have found each other and wish to remain together for the rest of your lives. Your marriage will have the greatest possible measure of success to the extent that you allow God to be a partner with you in this adventure. Best wishes to you!

Sincerely yours,
Msgr. Marc B. Caron

Offertory Gifts will be brought to the altar by:

_____ The Parish altar server

_____ The following practicing Catholics:

1) _____

2) _____

We:

_____ Have our music arranged with the Music Director

_____ Do not yet have our music arranged with the Music Director

We:

_____ Have paid our deposit and will pay the balance prior to the rehearsal.

_____ Have not yet paid our deposit.

We:

_____ Will bring our marriage license to the rehearsal.

Please bring this booklet to your meeting with the priest prior to your wedding.

Please contact the parish office, 777-1200, if you have any questions or concerns. We wish to make your wedding plans progress as smoothly as possible!

We choose the following Old Testament Reading: (Circle one) Or, you may choose just a New Testament Reading.

A B C D E F

This reading will be proclaimed by:

_____ The Parish lector

_____ The following practicing Catholic: _____

We choose the following New Testament Reading: (Circle one) Or, you may choose just an Old Testament Reading.

A B C D E F G

This reading will be proclaimed by:

_____ The Parish lector

_____ The following practicing Catholic: _____

We choose the following Gospel reading: (Circle one)

A B C D E F G H

This reading will be proclaimed by:

The Prayer of the Faithful (General Intercessions) will be read by:

_____ The Parish lector

_____ The following practicing Catholic: _____

There are many steps that must be taken before your wedding occurs. This Guide book will help you along the way. Keep this nearby and refer to it often. Use the checklist below to help you keep track of the church-related tasks that must be completed.

- Appointment with Pastoral Life Coordinator
- Deposit to secure date on church calendar. Checks should be made out to: Prince of Peace Parish (\$100.00 for the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul; \$50.00 for other Lewiston churches)
- Photo of yourselves for church file
- Take FOCCUS test
- Appointment for FOCCUS test review
- Contact Music Director
- Attend a Marriage Preparation Program
- Appointment with priest at least one month prior to wedding
- Marriage License - bring to wedding rehearsal
- Balance of church fee to Parish Office prior to rehearsal. Check should be made out to: Prince of Peace Parish

There are many questions couples ask about their wedding ceremony and church rules and regulations. Here are some of them.

May we write our own vows? No, but you can choose from several options. The priest will review these with you.

May we have a runner down the main aisle of the church? For safety reasons, we do not permit runners.

What about flowers? If your wedding occurs during the Christmas or Easter season, additional flowers may not be necessary. Other times of the year, except during Lent, flowers are permitted as long as they do not obstruct the lectern or the altar, or restrict movement of the priest, servers, or yourselves and members of your wedding party in or around the sanctuary.

You may attach flowers or bows to the pews as long as only string or ribbon are used.

We can tell you if another wedding is occurring in the church of your choice on the same day. Perhaps you can share expenses with another couple.

The church will be open one hour prior to the wedding for flower delivery.

May we choose our own music or musicians? Perhaps. Secular or popular music is not permitted in church. This is best left for the reception. All music requires the approval of the Music Director. There is more information on music later in this booklet.

Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Alleluia

Gospel

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Statement of Intentions

Exchange of Consent

Blessing of Rings

General Intercessions

Nuptial Blessing

Closing

Lord's Prayer

Solemn Blessing

Recessional

May we have a Unity Candle? Yes. Although this is not a required part of the ceremony, it is permitted. Discuss this with the priest at your pre-wedding appointment. You are responsible for purchasing the unity candle.

Do we have to have a Mass? A Mass is not required as part of your wedding ceremony but we hope you would consider having Mass as part of your wedding day. You are asking God to bless your marriage and be with you throughout your lives together. What better way than to start your lives together with the Eucharistic Liturgy?

What documentation do we need? Catholics are required to provide proof of baptism in a Catholic church. Non-Catholics who have been baptized in another faith should provide proof of baptism, if possible. These documents must be obtained within six months of the wedding date.

If either party has been married previously, a copy of the divorce decree and, if applicable, annulment decree must be presented to the Parish Office.

One of us was married before. May we still be married in the Catholic Church? Perhaps. A church court must examine the previous marriage and declare that it no longer binds the party in question. This is called an annulment process. We can assist you with this. **However, we will not secure your wedding date or proceed with further paperwork until the final annulment is granted. There are no exceptions.**

One of us is not Catholic. May we still be married in the Catholic Church? Yes. We will need to know whether the non-Catholic person has been baptized in another Christian community or not. We will ask that the Catholic party sign a document indicating their promise to do everything in their power to have your children raised in the Catholic faith. When one of the couple is not baptized, the wedding takes place in church but there is no Mass.

We would like a priest friend or relative to perform our wedding. Is that permitted? A visiting priest is permitted. He must send proof from his bishop that he is a priest in good standing. Using a priest other than one from this parish does not change the wedding fee.

May we have flower petals or rice thrown at the wedding? Flower petals, rice, confetti, or bubbles are not permitted either inside or outside of the church because of safety concerns. We also do not have custodial staff available during wedding times.

Are there times when weddings are not permitted? Yes. Weddings are not permitted at any time on Sunday or after 1pm on Saturdays. Weddings are discouraged during the season of Lent.

Where do we get a marriage license? Your marriage license is obtained from the City of Lewiston or any local municipality. You **MUST** bring this to the rehearsal or present it to the Parish Office prior to the wedding rehearsal. Your rehearsal will not take place without your license.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation of Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

Communion

Prayer After Communion

Closing

Solemn Blessing

Recessional

RITE OF CELEBRATING MARRIAGE OUTSIDE MASS (No Mass)

Entrance

Entrance Procession

Opening Prayer

It might be helpful for your planning to know the order of events at your wedding.

RITE OF CELEBRATING MARRIGE DURING MASS

Entrance

Entrance Procession

Opening Prayer

Liturgy of the Word

Scripture Reading

Responsorial Psalm

Alleluia

Gospel

Homily

Rite of Marriage

Statement of Intentions

Exchange of Consent

Blessing of Rings

General Intercessions

Lord's Prayer

Nuptial Blessing

What about pictures during or after the wedding? Can the wedding be videotaped? Be sure your photographer is familiar with a Catholic wedding. Photographers or videographers are not permitted in the sanctuary. They are not permitted to disrupt the service in any way. You may stay in the church for photographs afterwards keeping in mind that another wedding may be scheduled after yours and our church personnel are present as volunteers. Please ask your photographer to introduce him/herself to the priest prior to the beginning of the wedding service.

May one of our friends or family members read the scripture readings or bring up the gifts? If these persons are practicing Catholics they may participate in these ministries.

Can we walk down the aisle together? We encourage both the bride and groom to process down the aisle with the priest and altar server, and members of your wedding party. You may wish your parents to be part of this procession as well.

WEDDING MUSIC GUIDELINES

Because you have chosen to invite Christ to make your love a sacrament, the music you choose for your wedding should express this unique and distinct encounter. Just as you would not expect to pronounce your wedding vows in street language, so you would not expect to hear “everyday” love songs at the celebration of the sacrament of our marriage.

Emphasis during the wedding ceremony should be on God’s love for you, your love for God, the love of the community for you, your love for them, and how these support and confirm your love for each other.

The music chosen for your wedding ceremony should encourage all those present to join in singing as a way to fully participate in the liturgy. The music should help those present to pray.

The following are considered **Essential Music** portions of a wedding ceremony, whether your wedding takes place with or without a Mass.

During the Liturgy of the Word:

Responsorial Psalm

Gospel Acclamation

If your wedding takes place during a Mass, the following are also essential:

During the Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Holy, Holy

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Lamb of God

Most couples leave these selections to the discretion of the Music Director.

Mother of Groom: _____

Father of Groom: _____

We:

_____ Will have a unity candle

_____ The following people will light the unity candle at the beginning of the wedding:

1) _____

2) _____

_____ Will not have a unity candle

Entrance Procession: (check appropriate line)

_____ Both bride and groom , accompanied by parents and wedding party will process down the aisle.

_____ Both bride and groom, accompanied by wedding party will process down the aisle.

_____ Bride accompanied by father and wedding party will process down the aisle.

_____ Other (please explain)

OTHER MUSIC

Wedding:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Church: _____

Rehearsal:

Date: _____ Time: _____

Church: _____

Who's Who:

Bride: _____

Groom: _____

Maid/Matron of Honor: _____

Best Man: _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Flower Girl: _____

Number in wedding party: _____

Mother of Bride: _____

Father of Bride: _____

Processional: During the processional, the ministers of the wedding liturgy enter. This includes the priest or deacon, altar server, bride (and perhaps groom) and members of the wedding party. You may wish to include your parents in this procession as well.

The music for the procession should reflect the dignity of this moment. The processional may be a hymn or an instrumental composition.

Gathering Song: If an instrumental processional is chosen, a Gathering Song may be sung once the procession is over. This song serves to open the celebration, foster unity of those present, and introduce them to the forthcoming liturgy.

Preparation of the Gifts: An instrumental or vocal selection may accompany the presentation and preparation of the gifts. The music used here should not prolong this minor part of the liturgy, therefore, instrumental music is most appropriate here. If a vocal is chosen, whether solo or congregational, it should reflect God's love for you and God's blessings on your marriage.

Communion Song: Congregational singing is most appropriate here because it gives expression to our unity as the Body of Christ. A song with a repeated refrain is especially helpful. A vocal, instrumental, or choral piece could also be used here.

Recessional: This is usually instrumental but a vocal solo or choral piece may be used.

SPECIFIC MUSIC SUGGESTIONS

The following suggestions are meant as a starting point and you are certainly not limited to them. Your specific music choices will also depend on who will serve as the music ministers for your wedding.

Because of the nature of the liturgy as a communal and corporate act of the entire people of God, solo singing which does not permit the participation of the whole assembly is not usually appropriate during the liturgy. Solo singing which disposes the assembly for prayer may take place prior to the celebration.

Responsorial Psalm:

Psalm 33 - "Blest are They"

Psalm 103 - "The Lord is King and Merciful"

Psalm 128 - "Happy are They"

Gospel Acclamation:

Festival Alleluia

Celtic Alleluia

Mass Setting:

Mass of Creation

Community Mass

Processionals:

Cannon in D - Johann Pachelbel

Trumpet Voluntary (Prince of Denmark's March) -

Jeremiah Clarke

Trumpet Tune - Henry Purcell

Trumpet Tune - David Johnson

Reading H:

John 15: 12-16

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."

Reading F:

Mk 10: 6-9

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.”

Reading G:

John 2: 1-11

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 the 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.

Gathering Song:

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Love is the Sunlight

Preparation of the Gifts:

Instrumental:

Wie Melodien - Brahms
Nun bitten - Buxtehude

Vocal:

Wherever You Go - David Haas
Faith, Hope, and Love - David Haas
We Have Been Told - David Haas

Communion Song:

Taste and See
Gift of Finest Wheat
Eat This Bread

Recessional:

Fanfare - Lemmens
Toccata from Symphony V - Widor
Crown Imperial - Walton

The musicians employed by Prince of Peace Parish are the most familiar with the various worship spaces, instruments, acoustics, and priests, and understand well the liturgical guidelines used in this Parish.

You may use a musician from outside the parish **only** with the consent of the Music Director. All music **must** be submitted for approval.

MUSIC PACKAGE OPTIONS

Your basic church wedding fee (\$500.00 for the Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul; \$350.00 for Holy Family or Holy Cross Churches) includes a music fee to cover the cost of the parish organist and a cantor.

This is the least expensive choice and most closely reflects our liturgical practice.

These are other options:

Option A: An additional fee of \$100.00 for a folk ensemble (guitar and/or other instruments).

Option B: Your own outside musician/vocalist. You are responsible for direct payment arrangements to these people in addition to the basic music package payable to the parish. These people are required to meet with the parish music director to review set-up and acoustics at the specific church.

Reading C:

Jn 15: 9-12

Jesus said to his disciples, “As the Father loves me, so I 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.

Reading D:

Mt 5: 13-16

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.”

Reading E:

Mt 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?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 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.”

You may choose ONE of the following Gospel readings:

Reading A:

Mt 5: 1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had 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. Bless 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 pure 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.”

Reading B:

Mt 19: 3-6

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.

You may choose ONE of the following Old Testament readings:

Reading A:

Gen 1: 26-28, 31a

Then God said: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground.”

God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying: “Be fertile and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it. Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on the earth.”

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

Reading B:

Gen: 2: 18-24

The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.” So the Lord God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while

he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said, “This one, at last, is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called ‘woman’, for out of “her man” this one has been taken.”

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one body.

Reading C:

Tobit 8: 4b-8

On their wedding night Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, “Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance.” Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They began with these words: “Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praised be your name forever and ever. Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support; and from these two the human race descended. You said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.’ Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust, but for a noble purpose. Call down your mercy on me and on her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age.

They said together, “Amen, amen.”

Reading F:

Col 3: 12-17

Brothers and sisters: Put on, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these things put on love, that is, the bond of perfection. And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called in one Body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Reading G:

Heb 13: 1-4a, 5-6b

Brothers and sisters: Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect hospitality, for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels. Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you may as yet suffer as they do. Let marriage be honored among all and the marriage bed be kept undefiled. Let your life be free from love of money but be content with what you have, for he has said, *I will never forsake you or abandon you.* Thus we may say with confidence: *The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid.*

Reading D:

1 Cor 6: 13c-15a, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immortality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

Reading E:

1 Cor 12: 31-13: 8a

Brothers and sisters: Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts. But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing symbol. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Reading D:

Prov 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls. Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize. She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life. She obtains wool and flax and makes cloth with skillful hands. She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle. She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her a reward of her labors, and let her words praise her at the city gates.

Reading E:

Song of Songs 2: 8-10, 14, 16a; 8: 6-7a

Hark! My lover—here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills. My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag. Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices. My lover speaks; he says to me, “Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!

O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff; let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely.”

My lover belongs to me and I to him. He says to me: “Set me like a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; for stern as death is love, relentless as the nether-world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away.”

Reading F:

Sirach 26: 1-4, 13-16

Blessed the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days; the worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life. A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord; be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband, his thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones; a gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth. Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste soul. A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul. Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

OR: You may choose ONE of the following New Testament readings.

Reading A:

Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters: If God is for us, who can be against us? He did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, will he not also give us everything else along with him? Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn? It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels,

nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reading B:

Romans 12: 1-2, 9-13

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing, and perfect.

Let love be sincere; hate what is evil, hold on to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor. Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

Reading C:

Romans 15: 1b-3a, 5-7, 13

Brothers and sisters: We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves; let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up. For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God. May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.