

Leading the Church's Prayer at Matrimony

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Elements of the Ars Celebrandi

- # Structure of the Rite
- # Texts of the Rite
- # [Architecture for the Rite]
- # [Painting and Sculpture for the Rite]
- # Vestments, Furnishings and Sacred Vessels for the Rite
- # Liturgical Song for the Rite



Official Options for Canada

- # N.B. *Editio typica altera* of 1991
- # Rite for celebrating marriage during Mass
- # Rite for celebrating marriage outside Mass
- # Rite for celebrating marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person [or a catechumen]
- # [Rite for celebrating marriage in the presence of a lay assistant]

Structure of the Rite

- # [STATIONAL LITURGY 1 = entryway of the Church]
- # 38. Two alternatives are provided for the processional entry of the priest and ministers and of the bridal party.
- # [PROCESSION = to Liturgy of the Word
- # First option: The priest vests for Mass...and goes in procession to the main door of the church. There he greets the couple in a warm and friendly way: he shows them that the Church is rejoicing with them on their day. Then all go to the altar in one procession: the ministers, or servers, lead the priest and the spouses follow him with the attendants, and also with their parents. The entrance hymn is sung during this procession.

Second option: The priest and ministers go in procession to the altar as usual. The priest greets the couple from his place... The rite does not describe any particular method by which the bridal party comes to its places.

[1991 additions to the Introductory Rites:

Monitio to a) couple or b) assembly

Glory to God mandated]

- # [STATIONAL LITURGY 2 = ambo]
- # **Liturgy of the Word**
- # [1991 additions to the Liturgy of the Word
- # More choices in the Lectionary for Mass
- # At least one of the readings must explicitly speak of marriage]

- # [STATIONAL LITURGY 3 = Matrimonial covenant]
- # Monitio to couple
- # Marriage rite proper
 - # Questions
 - # Consent
 - # Declaration of Consent
 - # [Acclamation]
- # Explanatory Rites
 - # Blessing and Exchange of Rings
 - # [Other rites: wrapping hands in stole, lasso, arras, unity candle, jumping the broom, etc.]
 - # [Song of Thanksgiving]

- # General Intercessions
- # Nuptial Blessing
 - # Form A = adaptation of ancient Roman prayer [for the bride]
 - # Forms B and C = new compositions post-Vatican II
 - # [Form D = dialogic blessing prayers for use with a lay assistant]
- # [STATIONAL LITURGY 4 = exit]
- # Lord's Prayer
- # Solemn Blessing
- # Dismissal
- # [Music]

Texts for the Rite



Nuptial Blessing A

Father,

[divine address]

[1A] By your power you have made everything out of nothing. In the beginning you created the universe and made mankind in your likeness.

[1B] You gave man the constant help of woman so that man and woman should no longer be two, but one flesh, and you teach us that what you have united may never be divided.

[1C] Father, you have made the union of man and wife so holy a mystery that it symbolizes the marriage of Christ and his Church.

[2] Father, by your plan man and woman are united, and married life has been established as the one blessing that was not forfeited by original sin or washed away in the flood.

[anamnesis of characteristic activities of God]

Look with love upon this woman, your daughter, now joined to her husband in marriage. She asks your blessing. Give her the grace of love and peace. May she always follow the example of the holy women whose praises are sung in the scriptures.

[Petitions for the bride]

May her husband put his trust in her and recognize that she is his equal and the heir with him to the life of grace. May he always honor her and love her as Christ loves his bride, the Church

[Petitions for the groom]

Father, keep them always true to your commandments.
Keep them faithful in marriage and let them be living
examples of Christian life. Give them the strength that
comes from the gospel so that they may be witnesses of
Christ to others. [Bless them with children and help them
to be good parents. May they live to see their children's
children.] And, after a happy old age, grant them fullness of
life with the saints in the kingdom of heaven.

[Petitions for the couple]

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

[Stereotyped ending]



Nuptial Blessing B

Holy Father,

[*divine address*]

[1] You created mankind in your own image and made man and woman to be joined as husband and wife in union of body and heart and so fulfill their mission in this world.

[2] Father, to reveal the plan of your love, you made the union of husband and wife an image of the covenant between you and your people.

[3] In the fulfillment of this sacrament, the marriage of Christian man and woman is a sign of the marriage between Christ and the Church.

[*anamnesis of characteristic divine activity*]

Father, stretch out your hand, and bless N. and N.

Lord, grant that as they begin to live this sacrament they may share with each other the gifts of your love and become one in heart and mind as witnesses to your presence in their marriage.

Help them to create a home together [and give them children to be formed by the gospel and to have a place in your family].

[Petitions for the couple]



Give your blessings to N., your daughter, so that she may be a good wife (and mother), caring for the home, faithful in love for her husband, generous and kind.

[Petitions for bride]

Give your blessings to N., your son, so that he may be a faithful husband (and a good father).

[Petitions for husband]



Father, grant that as they come together to your table on earth, so they may one day have the joy of sharing your feast in heaven.

[*Petition for the couple*]

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

[*Stereotyped ending*]



Nuptial Blessing C

- # Holy Father,
- # [*divine address*]
- # Creator of the universe, maker of man and woman in your own likeness, source of blessing for married life,
- # [*appositive phrases*]
- # We humble pray to your for this woman who today is united with her husband in this sacrament of marriage.



May your fullest blessing come upon her and her husband so that they may together rejoice in your gift of married love [and enrich your Church with their children].

[General petition for the couple]

[1] Lord, may they both praise you when they are happy and [2] turn to you in their sorrows. [3] May they be glad that you help them in their work and [4] know that you are with them in their need. [5] May they pray to you in the community of the Church, and [6] be your witnesses in the world. [7] May they reach old age in the company of their friends, and [8] come at last to the kingdom of heaven.

[Particular petitions for the couple]

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

[*Stereotyped ending*]



Vestments, Furnishings and Sacred Vessels for the Rite

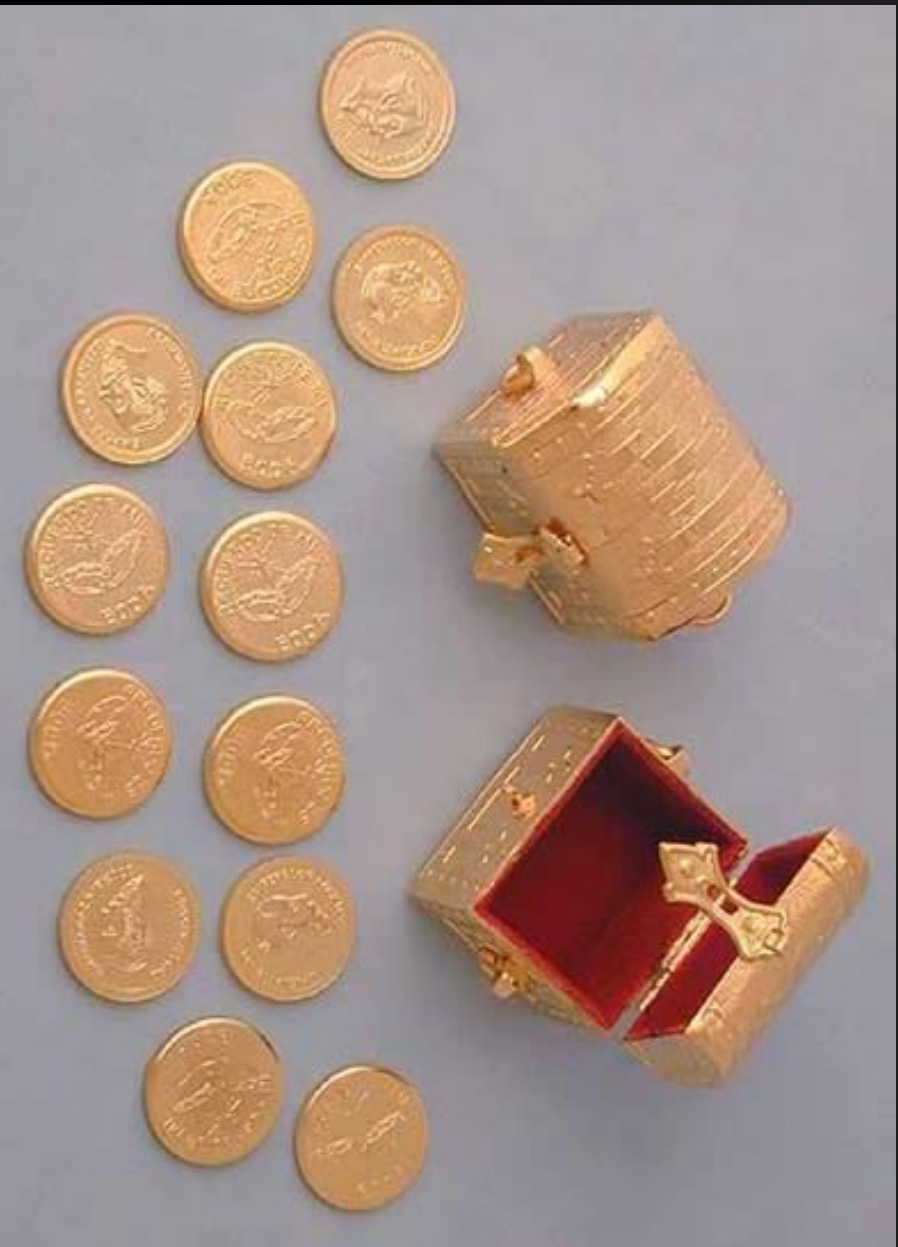




LASSO



Artras



Unity Candle





WALLFLOWER PHOTOGRAPHY

Liturgical Song for the Rite

Entrance Song

[Acclamation after Consent]

[Song of Praise after Rite of Marriage]

Nuptial Blessing



“Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels” from *Winter Name of God*

- # 1. Not for tongues of heaven’s angels,
- # Not for wisdom to discern,
- # Not for faith that masters mountains:
- # For this better gift we yearn:

- # REFRAIN: May love be ours, Lord, may love be ours,
- # May love be ours, O Lord.

“Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels”
from *Winter Name of God*

- # 2. Love is humble, love is gentle,
- # Love is tender, true and kind,
- # Love is gracious, ever-patient,
- # Generous of heart and mind.

- # REFRAIN: May love be ours, Lord, may love be ours,
- # May love be ours, O Lord.

“Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels” from *Winter Name of God*

- # 3. Never jealous, never selfish,
- # Love does not rejoice in wrong.
- # Never boastful or resentful,
- # Love believes and suffers long:
- # REFRAIN: May love be ours, Lord, may love be ours,
- # May love be ours, O Lord.



“Not for Tongues of Heaven’s Angels” from *Winter Name of God*

- # 4. Soon will fade the word of wisdom
- # Faith and hope will one day pass
- # When we see our Savior clearly
- # Love it is alone will last.
- #
- # REFRAIN: May love be ours, Lord, may love be ours,
- # May love be ours, O Lord.

“A Nuptial Blessing” from *Come to Me*

- # REFRAIN: May God bless you, hold and keep you,
- # May God’s mercy shine on you,
- # Guide your work and guard your resting,
- # Keep your love for ever new.



- # 1. May God satisfy your longing, be refreshment at your table
- # And provide your daily bread,
- # Guard your going and your coming, be the solace in your silence,
- # Life within the lives you wed.

REFRAIN:



- # 2. May God join your hopeful spirits, fill your hearts with truth and courage,
- # Trust to share both joy and tears.
- # Teach love to your children's childre; May your household learn to witness
- # Living faith through all your years.
- # REFRAIN:



- # 3. May God make your home a refuge where you warmly welcome strangers
- # And the lowly find a place,
- # Make you caring, kind companions, help you meet the needs of neighbors,
- # Finding Christ in every face.
- # REFRAIN

