

About Weddings



Calvary Episcopal Church
102 North Second Street • Memphis, TN 38103
901-525-6602 • www.calvarymemphis.org

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TIMELINE OF WEDDING PREPARATIONS	3
MARRYING AT CALVARY CHURCH	4
SETTING THE DATE	4
MARRIAGE LICENSE	5
PLANNING THE CEREMONY	5
MUSIC	5
DECORATIONS	6
WEDDING GUILD	6
THE REHEARSAL	7
PRINTED PROGRAMS	7
THE WEDDING DAY	7
PHOTOGRAPHY	7
SOUND SPECIALIST	8
SECURITY	8
PARKING	8
CALVARY WEDDING CONTACTS	9
WEDDING FEES AND CHARGES	9
FLORIST PERMIT	10
THE WEDDING LITURGY	12

WELCOME

We are honored that you are choosing to be married at Calvary Episcopal Church. The clergy, staff and wedding guild want you to know we are looking forward to sharing this joyful experience with you.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you with planning your wedding at Calvary Church. The guidelines are based on the *Book of Common Prayer*, our prayer book, and on the customs of our church. They are designed to offer information as outlined by the canons and customs of the Episcopal Church.

At Calvary, the Rector is always the final authority on any question you may have concerning your wedding service. All weddings at Calvary follow the service called The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage which is found on pages 423-431 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. A copy of the service may be found at the end of this booklet. Please familiarize yourself with the service so that you may plan accordingly.

Please do not make any plans until you have received permission from the Rector to proceed with your ceremony at Calvary Church. Selection of a wedding date will become final only with the approval of the clergy member designated to officiate at your wedding.

TIMELINE OF WEDDING PREPARATIONS

1. Consult with a priest of Calvary Church a minimum of 6 months before your wedding. Your wedding goes on the Calvary Episcopal Church calendar only with the approval of the priest you are working with, and once you have completed and returned the Wedding Contact Information Sheet and a \$300 deposit to Ebet Peeples.
2. Work with a member of our Wedding Guild. Plan to spend approximately an hour discussing the necessary procedures and policies. (60 days or more before the wedding.)
3. Work with the priest to complete the planning of wedding service details (60 days or more, before the wedding). If you are preparing a wedding bulletin, a copy must be approved by the priest at least two weeks before the wedding.
4. Work with Organist-Choirmaster Kristin Lensch to discuss music for the service. (60 days or more before the wedding.)
5. Work with Flower Guild Chairperson Eric Milner to discuss flowers for the service. (60 days or more before the wedding.)
6. Work with the priest to complete four pre-marriage counseling sessions (30 days or more before the wedding), or arrange with the priest to have your counseling completed elsewhere.
7. Turn in all outstanding wedding fees to Ebet Peeples (30 days or more before the wedding).

MARRYING AT CALVARY CHURCH

Here are some questions we are frequently asked:

What about people who are not active members of the parish?

People who live in the area but are not active members of Calvary can be married at Calvary if our schedule permits. If they do not have a faith community, they are encouraged to share actively in our worship and parish life for six months or more before the wedding. They must complete a minimum of four pre-marital counseling sessions with one of our priests or with their own pastor. All weddings at Calvary must follow the Episcopal wedding liturgy.

What about people who do not live in the area?

People who live out of town but wish to be married in Memphis can be married at Calvary if our schedule permits. Our expectation is that they will receive, prior to the wedding, a minimum of four pre-marital counseling sessions with either one of our priests or with a pastor where they live.

What about people who have been previously married? Divorced persons can be married in the Episcopal Church only with our bishop's permission. You and your clergyperson will talk about the previous relationship, make sure the reasons for its demise have been understood and dealt with, and then request the bishop's consent. Your final decree of divorce must be at least a year old.

SETTING THE DATE

As soon as you know your desired wedding date, it is advisable to verify the availability of Calvary Church by calling Ebet Peebles. However, you must make an appointment and meet with one of our priests before any other plans are finalized. It is important for both the bride-to-be and the groom-to-be to be present at that meeting. No arrangements, which involve the church, church facilities or the priest who will perform the ceremony, are to be announced until the clergy's approval has been received.

Episcopal Church law requires at least thirty days notice before a wedding takes place. Beyond that, there must be time for premarital counseling, so it is important to call the church office as early as possible to begin discussing marriage and wedding plans. A six-month to one-year period is ideal. If either party has experienced a divorce, permission for the priest to officiate at the ceremony must be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese of West Tennessee 60 days prior to the wedding date. This entails additional paperwork and additional time. In this situation, several months before the anticipated wedding date must be allowed.

At Calvary Church, we do not normally have marriage services during the forty days of Lent, i.e. from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day. While social custom prefers Saturday weddings, there are no theological or liturgical reasons to prefer one day over another. Reception facilities are often more readily available on Fridays, Sundays, and at other times.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

A marriage license from the state is a prerequisite to the Solemnization of Matrimony. The state of Tennessee requires both the prospective bride and groom to go to the County Clerk's Office with picture ID and proof of your Social Security number to receive a marriage license. The marriage license should be obtained no more than 30 days in advance of the wedding.

With the presentation of a Certification of Completion of Premarital Preparation Course form, \$60 can be deducted from the cost of the marriage license. A copy of this form may be found on the Shelby County web site, www.shelbycountyttn.gov. The form must be signed by the priest who conducted the counseling and must be notarized.

The marriage license should be brought with you to the rehearsal, typically the night before the wedding and given to the Wedding Guild. The appropriate certificates will be signed at the wedding and the marriage license will be mailed to the County Clerk's office after the ceremony.

PLANNING THE CEREMONY

All wedding ceremonies at Calvary are done in accordance with the *Book of Common Prayer*. However, within the Prayer Book framework, there is room for some creativity and there are many choices to be made. These choices should be discussed with the Wedding Guild and be well thought out before the rehearsal. The decision to include or omit the sacrament of Holy Eucharist, can be made with the counsel of the priest as you plan.

- Seating capacity of Calvary Church is approximately 450.
- Throwing rice, confetti, birdseed, etc. after the service is strictly prohibited.
- Dropping of flower petals (real or artificial) by a flower girl is strictly prohibited.
- Calvary is a non-smoking building.
- Children under the age of 4 are discouraged from participating in the service.
- Groomsmen are discouraged from serving as Ushers.
- Flash photography by wedding guests is strongly discouraged.

MUSIC

One of Calvary's Organist-Choirmasters, Kristin Lensch or John Palmer, takes part in planning the musical portion of all Calvary weddings. They have final approval of all musical selections and can provide you with suggestions. She/he plays for all weddings except under these circumstances:

- (a) When one is not available – In this case, she/he will provide a competent substitute who will attend both rehearsal and wedding and who will be compensated in her/his stead.
- (b) When the bride and groom choose not to have music or not to use organ music at their service. In this case, no compensation is expected.
- (c) When one is available but the bride and groom prefer to bring in their own organist. In these cases, she/he is compensated even though she/he is not expected to play. One of them will meet with the couple to plan the music, and may assist with the rehearsal, if the clergy desire.

Once the couple has planned the details of the wedding with the presiding priest, they are ready to meet with the Organist-Choirmaster, usually a minimum of 30-60 days before the wedding.

Vocal soloists and instrumentalists may be included in the wedding, if desired. Normally the Organist-Choirmaster will arrange for such additional musicians, and all contracts for their services will be executed through the Music Office. The standard fee for guest musicians is \$200 and above.

Guest singers or instrumentalists invited by the bride and groom to participate in the service are subject to the Organist-Choirmaster's approval. In most cases, there will be an extra charge of \$60 per hour for the Organist-Choirmaster to rehearse with guest musicians.

DECORATIONS

The wedding couple is responsible for providing altar flowers that will remain after the wedding on the altar through Calvary's Sunday morning services. Altar flowers can be no greater than nine inches in depth. Flowers that are too deep from front to back (> 9") not only impede Holy Communion, they often fall off the re-table.

Therefore, all altar flowers in Calvary Church must be arranged by one of the following professional florists:

- Garden District - 5040 Sanderlin Ave. #109, 38117, (901) 761-3277
- Le Fleur - 660 S Perkins Rd., 38117, (901) 683-4313
- Calvary's Flower Guild Chairperson, Eric Milner - (501) 231-1227

You may use the florist of your choosing to provide personal flowers (bouquets, boutonnieres, and all other flowers). The church building is locked on Saturdays, so it is *imperative* that your florist arrange with your assigned Wedding Guild member a time for the flowers to be delivered. An email address and a cell phone number for your florist must be provided in order for the Wedding Guild to contact your florist if a problem arises the day of the wedding.

No objects (unity candles, displays, etc.) may be placed directly on the altar. Kneelers will be provided in the sanctuary for the bride and groom. Dropping flower petals and using aisle runners are not permitted. Decorations other than altar flowers, pavement flowers, and pew markers should be cleared with Flower Guild Chairperson Eric Milner.

WEDDING GUILD

At least two members of the Calvary Wedding Guild will be present at all weddings and rehearsals. Guild members will contact you in order to plan details of your service. They will serve as your point of contact to answer any of your questions.

THE REHEARSAL

The purpose of the rehearsal is to acquaint members of the wedding party with their respective roles in the service so that the service itself may be conducted in a relaxed but worshipful manner. The rehearsal is usually a day or two before the wedding. Rehearsals begin promptly at 5:30 p.m. and last approximately one hour. All participants in the wedding (attendants, ushers, parents, bridal party, readers) should participate in the rehearsal. Bring the marriage license to the church on the night of the rehearsal; it will be stored for use the following day.

At least two members of the Wedding Guild will be present to assist the clergy in directing the rehearsal and coordinating the order of procession. Please alert them to any special seating arrangements (grandmothers, etc.) and the number of pews needed to be reserved for family.

The priest in charge has final authority over the order of the marriage service and all matters concerning the wedding party once inside the church. A professional wedding consultant may not be involved in either the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony at Calvary.

Please remember that the rehearsal takes place in a house of prayer. Ask people to dress appropriately. Cell phones are not to be used in the church and should be turned off so they do not ring during the rehearsal. Absolutely no alcohol is allowed before or during the rehearsal.

PRINTED PROGRAMS

Some couples desire to have a printed program for the service. Printed programs are not necessary for a Calvary wedding because the presiding priest provides Prayer Book and Hymnal page numbers to the congregation. If you want to prepare a program, the presiding priest will assist you in the planning of it. It is the responsibility of the wedding party to coordinate the printing of the programs. These programs must be approved at least two weeks in advance by the priest who will preside at the wedding. Copies must be at the church in time for the rehearsal. Plan to have several more programs than the number of guests you expect to attend.

THE WEDDING DAY

The Wedding Guild will help determine a time for the bride and her bridal party to arrive at the church on the wedding day. They will advise you about the bride's dressing facilities. The groom and groomsmen are to arrive at the church fully dressed and to gather in the parish Library. Please arrange for someone to gather clothing, etc. before the service begins. It is not possible to leave belongings in the dressing room. Please do not leave valuables unattended.

Calvary's Chef can provide a selection of seasonal fruits, crudités, cheeses and crackers, cookies, and ice water to serve 10 people at a cost of \$50. You also may bring your own light food and non-alcoholic beverages to the church, if you desire. However, someone who is not a member of the wedding party must be designated to clean up.

The bride, groom and two witnesses (usually the honor attendants) are required to sign Calvary's wedding book and the marriage license after the wedding.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In an effort to preserve the worship experience for the bride and groom and all those who attend the wedding, no photographs, either with or without flashes, may be taken in the church during the service. PLEASE instruct your family and guests who might be likely to snap pictures during the service. You may want to put this note in your bulletin, if you have one: "No photos during the wedding, please." The one exception is a professional photographer who may shoot time exposures without flash from the rear of the church.

Professional photographs may be taken in the church after the wedding has taken place. If the photographer agrees to this, family and friends may be allowed to take their personal photographs at this time. Pictures must be completed 30 minutes after the end of the service.

Note also that photos are often taken in the Great Hall before the wedding party goes into the church. If pictures are to be taken in the church before the wedding, all photography should be completed at least 30 minutes before the service and be coordinated with the Wedding Guild representatives.

Videotaping of weddings in Calvary Church is strongly discouraged. If you wish to do this, your videographer must consult with the Wedding Guild before the day of the wedding.

SOUND SPECIALIST

To assure sound quality, a professional sound technician will be present for your wedding. The lectern (from where the scripture lessons are read) and pulpit are equipped with microphones to amplify the reading of scripture.

SECURITY

For your protection and the protection of your guests, two security guards are required for your wedding. The cost of the guards is included in the facility fee, which covers the first four hours. Additional hours of security requested will be added to the final cost of the wedding.

For security reasons, personal items and valuables should be entrusted to a designated person before the service begins. A friend or family member should be designated to take care of any gifts brought to the church. Calvary cannot be responsible for the loss or theft of any gifts, personal items, or clothing. **The bride and groom assume full liability for their event and for their guests.**

PARKING

We are fortunate at Calvary to have several commercial lots around our building that are available to use for weekend and evening weddings.

CALVARY WEDDING CONTACTS

Ebet Peebles, Rector’s Assistant, 901-312-5201. Please contact Ebet if you have any questions or are not clear about anything in the Wedding Guidelines.

Kristin Lensch, Organist/Choirmaster, 901-312-5212

Eric Milner, Flower Guild Chairperson, 501-231-1227

WEDDING FEES AND CHARGES

Normal fees and charges are listed below, but will be finalized after discussion and agreement with the Rector (or other presiding priest). All fees are subject to change.

All fees must be paid in full a minimum of 30 days in advance of the service.

A. FACILITY FEES

The facility fees (4 hours) for use of Calvary Church include security, sextons, wedding guild, and sound specialist

<i>for Calvary members</i>	\$1,000.00
<i>For non-members</i>	\$2,000.00
<i>Each additional hour</i>	\$100.00
<i>Light food for wedding party (per 10 people)</i>	\$50.00

B. MUSIC FEES

Standard rehearsal and wedding, including consultation with bride and groom but exclusive of rehearsal for requested soloists **\$300.00**

Rehearsal with requested soloists and extraordinary practice time necessitated by requests for difficult or unusual music..... **\$60 per hour**

**** If additional musicians are requested, those costs are not included in the above fees and will be determined by the Organist-Choirmaster.**

C. PRESIDING PRIEST

Since the planning of the wedding, the rehearsal, and the wedding are not part of his or her normal duties, the priest who presides at your wedding should receive a honorarium of not less than \$250. The exact amount is up to you. **\$250.00 +**

A minimum of four sessions of pre-marital counseling is required for all weddings at Calvary Church. When one of our priests provides pre-marital counseling for a couple who are not pledging members of the church, a contribution of \$400 is made.
..... **\$400.00**

The priests are happy to receive (but do not expect) invitations to attend your rehearsal dinner and wedding reception. If you do wish to invite your priest (and their spouse), please do this at the same time other invitations are issued.

FLORIST PERMIT FOR DECORATING CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The following are regulations for the protection of the Church buildings and property. The undersigned florist agrees that he/she has read, will comply with, and be bound by said rules and regulations in order to be listed as a certified florist for Calvary Church and be permitted to prepare floral arrangements for future weddings. **THIS PERMIT MUST BE SIGNED BY THE FLORIST** and mailed to Ebet Peeples at the church office well in advance of the wedding date.

Since Calvary Church has definite guidelines as to the use of candles and flowers in the Church, **it is essential that the florist contact Flower Guild Chairperson Eric Milner, 501-231-1227, before making plans for decorating the Church or Parish House.**

The church building is locked on Saturday, so it is the Florist's responsibility to contact the Bride's assigned Wedding Guild member to arrange a time for delivery of flowers.

- The wedding couple is responsible for providing altar flowers for their wedding.
- Since the priests must celebrate the Eucharist using the space between the altar and the re-table, the flowers must not be any deeper than nine inches.
- Flowers must be in place a minimum of 3 hours before a wedding and remain on the altar for Sunday services.
- Due to a city fire ordinance, only the pavement candles and the candles on the altar may be lit. Unity candles are not permitted.
- No artificial or dyed flowers and greenery may be used.
- No tacks or nails may be used in the Church or Parish House.
- No flower petals (real or imitation) can be thrown by the flower girl.
- Simplicity is recommended in decorating Calvary Church.
- The Wedding Guild will place the special needlepoint wedding cushion at the opening of the Altar Rail for the ceremony. Please note that a kneeling bench is not used.
- A ring bearer's cushion is available, should it be requested. Arrangements for it should be made with the Wedding Guild.

The undersigned florist agrees and is held to be responsible for any, and all, damage to Church property incurred by the use of flowers, greenery, and other decorations and materials used in connection with the wedding or occasion for which this permit is issued. Said florist specifically agrees to pay all costs of repairs, cleaning, or other work necessary to repair such damage.

FLORIST SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

FLORIST EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

NAME OF BRIDE: _____

WEDDING DATE and TIME: _____

The Episcopal Wedding Service in the Book of Common Prayer

Concerning the Service

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church.

A priest or a bishop normally presides at the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, because such ministers alone have the function of pronouncing the nuptial blessing, and of celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

When both a bishop and a priest are present and officiating, the bishop should pronounce the blessing and preside at the Eucharist.

A deacon, or an assisting priest, may deliver the charge, ask for the Declaration of Consent, read the Gospel, and perform other assisting functions at the Eucharist.

Where it is permitted by civil law that deacons may perform marriages, and no priest or bishop is available, a deacon may use the service which follows, omitting the nuptial blessing which follows The Prayers.

It is desirable that the Lessons from the Old Testament and the Epistles be read by lay persons. In the opening exhortation (at the symbol of N.N.), the full names of the persons to be married are declared. Subsequently, only their Christian names are used.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, BCP p.423

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union N.N. and N.N. now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and

keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)
Genesis 2:4-9,15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh)
Song of Solomon 2:10-13;8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)
Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)
Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named)
Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)
Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony)
1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

*Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said.
Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.*

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____ .
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)
Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light ... Let your light so shine)
Matthew 7:21,24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock)
Mark 10:6-9,13-16 (They are no longer two but one)
John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my 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 we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they loose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my 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 we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands.

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (or in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that N. and N. have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder.

People Amen.

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony.

Amen.

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life.

Amen.

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

At the Eucharist

The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.

Preface of Marriage

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual post-communion prayer, the following is said

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, N. and N., now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung; or instrumental music may be played.