


Wedding Planning Guide

Information regarding Weddings for the twinned parishes of:



The Church of
Saint Benedict

PO Box 98
Avon, MN 56310

www.stbenedictavon.org

AND



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Of Collegeville

14241 Fruit Farm Rd
St Joseph MN 56374

www.stjohnthebaptistparish.org

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Your wedding celebration is a grace-filled and joyful experience, and we wish to help you make it so. We offer you the following guidelines, designed to enhance this experience for you and your guests, as well as preserve the sacred atmosphere of church to which you are to be married.

How to Get Started

This binder will help you get started in the decision-making process of planning your wedding liturgy from beginning to end. You will also find a check list which will help you to make sure that the appropriate steps are taken to make your big day less stressful and more wonderful. If at any time during the planning process you have questions feel free to contact the pastor or parish staff.

Contact the Pastor

Begin by contacting the pastor of the parish you wish to be married at least 9 months prior to your wedding date. Normally the pastor from the parish will preside at your wedding liturgy. Since priests represent the civil government as well, they must be registered in any county in the state of Minnesota. If you invite a guest presider from another state to your wedding liturgy, he will need to be registered in a Minnesota county before your wedding. Both you and the pastor will begin by establishing your marriage file with the completion of a Marriage Data Form. Once your marriage file is established, you will be asked to complete additional forms, a retreat and supply additional documents as outlined in this manual. If at any time, you have questions or concerns please check with the pastor or parish staff.

Father Greg Miller OSB
Phone: 320-291-5223
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Required Documents:

A Baptismal Certificate (Note: NOT a birth certificate), issued within the past six months is to be brought to your pastor/presider. Since Confirmation, Marriage, Ordination, religious profession, etc. are all recorded on your Baptismal record, a recent certificate serves as the Catholic Church's "certificate of freedom to marry." Persons baptized in other faith traditions need to present a photo copy of the essential data of their baptism. If the person preparing you for marriage does not know you very well, an additional statement regarding your freedom to marry may be required, filled out by someone who does know you quite well.

You will also need a Marriage License valid in the State of Minnesota. Please note that Minnesota has a seven-day waiting period on marriage licenses. Please present the marriage license and three blank marriage certificates to the presider at least one day before the wedding ceremony so that they can be properly filled out before the wedding. After the wedding, two signed copies of the marriage certificates will be given to the wedding party, but the signed CLERK of the COURT copy should be given to the pastor so that proper entry can be made in parish records. The pastor will then forward the certificate to the Clerk of the Court.

Check List

- Reserve the church with agreement of presider and down payment.
- Schedule wedding rehearsal date and time.
- Meet with the pastor to begin your marriage file.
- Receive your personal ID number from the parish office to take the premarital survey on-line.
- Take the Fully Engaged survey on-line.
- Meet with the marriage sponsor couple or pastor to process the results of the premarital survey.
- Attend a pre-marriage encounter/retreat at least three months prior to your wedding date.
- Obtain a Waiver of Marriage License Fee from the pastor by submitting your proof of pre-marriage counseling certificate.
- Submit a recently issued (within 6 months) Baptismal Certificate from the Church of your (both Bride & Groom) baptism. (If other than Catholic, a photo copy is sufficient.)
You may direct the Church of your baptism to mail your certificate directly to the parish address listed on the front cover of this manual.
- Meet with the pastor to review the wedding liturgy program draft six weeks prior to your wedding date.
- Obtain a valid marriage license from Stearns County (no more than two weeks in advance, please drop off at the Parish Office).

Marriage Preparation and Counseling

How to get started:

- 1) Once your file has been established in the parish office, you will receive a personal ID number to take your Fully Engaged Inventory/Survey on-line.
- 2) Go to the Fully Engaged website:

St. John's Weddings: <http://getfullyengaged.com/scoring/parish/SJSCStJohntheBaptist>

St. Benedict's Weddings: <https://scoring.getfullyengaged.com/scoring/parish/AVSCStBenedict>

Once you get to the website, you will need to enter your personal ID number which is:

The scoring program will then prompt you to complete your demographic information
The scoring program will then prompt you to answer each statement
Once you complete the inventory, an email will be sent to the parish with your results.

- 3) After your results have been received, they will be forwarded to our parish marriage sponsor couple. The sponsor couple will contact you to review the results and share with you where your strengths and weaknesses might be in your relationship.
- 4) Each couple is required by the Diocese to take a Marriage Preparation Course. To register for your course, you will need to go to the Diocesan website: www.stcdio.org/marriageprep
- 5) Once, your marriage prep course and your meeting(s) with your sponsor couple are complete, you will need to schedule a meeting with the pastor to begin planning the details of your wedding liturgy.

Recommended Music for Weddings

The music list below is recommended for Weddings. Any music not found within this list must be approved by the Music Coordinator.

Everything listed below is approved for the Licensure at the Church of St. Benedict (Avon) along with St. John the Baptist (Collegeville).

If there is a song we are not licensed for, there is an additional fee if you would like it for the Wedding (see note above regarding approval). The church does not provide any wedding music. If your musicians do not have the music you wish used at your service, it is your responsibility to purchase that music.

OneLicense.net License fee: \$95.00

CCLI.com License fee: \$111

The musician is responsible for any damage to our piano/organ. Please notify the parish in advance if you need the piano/organ, microphones, or music stands.

It is your responsibility to contact and pay for any musicians for your wedding. You are not required to have music at your wedding; however, music CDs and tapes are not permitted in place of musicians.

Song Title	Composer	Source	Publisher	Opening Song	Gifts	Communion	Closing Song
All Are Welcome	Haugen	GC 753	GIA	X			
All Creatures of Our God and King	Draper	GC 533		X			X
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus		GC 853	GIA	X			X
All Who Hunger	Dunstan	GC 820				X	
Amazing Grace	Newton	GC 612	GIA	X		X	X
Anthem	Conry	GC 690	OCP				X
At the Table of Jesus	Alonso	-	GIA			X	
Blest Are They	Haas	GC 659	GIA			X	
Blest Be the Lord	Schutte	GC 617	OCP	X			X
Canticle of the Sun	Haugen	GC 496	GIA	X			X
City of God	Schutte	GC 678	OCP				X
Come to the Water	Foley, SJ	GC 502	OCP		X	X	
Eye Has Not Seen	Haugen	GC 638	GIA		X	X	
For the Beauty of the Earth	Dix	GC 572	GIA	X	X	X	
Gather Us In	Haugen	GC 744	GIA	X			
Gather Your People	Hurd	-	OCP	X			
Gift of Finest Wheat	Kreutz	GC 815	OCP			X	
Glory and Praise to Our God	Schutte	GC 522	OCP	X			X
God Is Love	Haas	GC 629	GIA		X	X	
Here I Am, Lord	Schutte	GC 686	OCP		X	X	
How Beautiful	Paris	-	CCLI			X	
I Am the Bread of Life	Toolan	GC 828	GIA			X	
Song Title	Composer	Source	Publisher	Opening Song	Offertory	Communion	Song of Praise

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You		GC 528	GIA	X			X
Lead Me, Lord	Becker	-	OCP				X
Let All Things Now Living		GC 567	OCP				X
Let Us Be Bread	Porter	GC 816	GIA			X	
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	Wesley	GC 622	GIA				
Love Has Come	Maher	-	OCP				
Many and One	Angrisano	-	OCP			X	
No Greater Love	Joncas	GC 628	GIA		X	X	
Now Thank We All Our God		GC 565	GIA				X
Now We Remain	Haas	GC 694	GIA		X	X	
One Bread, One Body	Foley, SJ	GC 830	OCP				
Only a Shadow	Landry	-	OCP		X	X	
Open My Eyes	Mannibusan	-	OCP		X	X	
Prayer of St. Francis	Temple	GC 726	OCP		X	X	
Seed, Scattered and Sown	Feiten	GC 834	OCP			X	
Seek Ye First	Lafferty	GC 615	OCP		X	X	
Sing a New Song	Schutte	GC 537	OCP	X			
Sing Out, Earth and Skies!	Haugen	GC 499	GIA	X			X
Table Song	Haas	GC 849	GIA			X	
Take and Eat	Joncas	GC 831	GIA			X	
Take and Eat This Bread	O'Brien	GC 842	GIA			X	
Taste and See	Moore, Jr.	GC 814	GIA			X	
The Servant Song		-	OCP		X	X	
Though the Mountains May Fall	Schutte	GC 602	OCP	X			X
To Be Your Bread	Haas	-	OCP			X	
Ubi Caritas	Rosania	-	OCP		X	X	
We Are Called	Haas	GC 718	GIA				X
We Are Many Parts	Haugen	GC 733	GIA		X	X	
We Come to Your Feast	Joncas	GC 850	GIA		X	X	
We Have Been Told	Haas	GC 699	GIA		X	X	
Wherever You Go	Haas	GC 867	GIA		X	X	
Without Seeing You	Haas	GC 844	GIA			X	
You Are Mine	Haas	GC 649	GIA		X	X	
You Are the Voice	Haas	GC 549	GIA	X			X

Responsorial Psalms

Song Title	Composer	Source	Publisher
Psalm 33: Let Your Mercy Be On Us <i>Ref III</i>	Haugen	GC 45	GIA
Psalm 34: Taste and See	Haugen	GC 47	GIA
Psalm 65: The Seed That Falls	Haas	-	GIA
Psalm 103: Loving and Forgiving	Soper	-	OCP
Psalm 103: The Lord Is Kind and Merciful	Cotter/Haugen	GC 99/100	GIA
Psalm 118: Let Us Rejoice	Haugen	GC 114	GIA
Psalm 128: Blest Are Those Who Love You	Haugen	GC 125	GIA
Psalm 145: I Will Praise Your Name	Haas	GC 137	GIA

Exchange of Vows

Song Title	Composer	Source	Publisher
Up From the Waters	Haugen	-	GIA
We Give You Thanks	Haas	-	GIA
Who Calls You By Name	Haas	-	GIA

Mass Setting (Gloria, Gospel Acclamation, Holy, Memorial Acclamations, Amen, Lamb of God)

*Choose one for the entire Liturgy

Song Title	Composer	Source	Publisher
<i>Mass of Christ, Light of the Nations</i>	Alonso	-	GIA
<i>Mass of Christ the Savior</i>	Schutte	-	OCP
<i>Mass of Creation</i>	Haugen	-	GIA
<i>Mass of Glory</i>	Hurd	-	OCP
<i>Mass of Joy and Peace</i>	Alonso	-	GIA
<i>Mass of Renewal</i>	Stephan	-	OCP

Additional Service Music

Song Title	Composer	Part in Service	Source	Publisher
<i>Celtic Alleluia</i>	Walker	Gospel Acclamation	-	OCP
<i>Mass of Christ, Our Hope</i>	Haas	Gloria	-	GIA
<i>Mass of Communion</i>	Maher	Gloria	-	CCLI

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An Order of the Music for a Wedding Mass

Music before the Mass

The ordinary Entrance Procession:

1. Acolytes bearing the cross and candles
2. Other ministers, as deemed appropriate (e.g. a Lector carrying the Lectionary)
3. The priest (and deacon)
4. Choice of three options:
 - option a: Groom with his parents, then Bride with her parents
 - option b: Groom alone, then Bride alone
 - option c: Groom at the altar, then Bride without parents

During the Mass:

The **Entrance Hymn** is sung during the Procession or as it finishes.

The **Gloria** is sung or recited.

The **Responsorial Psalm** is sung or recited

The **Alleluia before the Gospel** can be sung. If not, it is omitted.

Following the Exchange of Vows, the **Acclamation** is said or sung.

After the Exchange of Rings, a **Hymn of Praise** may be sung by the assembly.

The **Preparation of Gifts**. A short instrumental is preferred over a hymn or a vocal solo so as not to delay the liturgy.

The **Holy, Holy, Holy** is sung or recited.

After the Words of Institution is the **Mystery of Faith**. It is sung or recited.

The **Amen** is said or sung at the conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer (after “Through him and with him and in him...”).

At the **Exchange of Peace**, a SHORT instrumental piece is permitted. A vocal solo is not recommended.

Just before Communion is the **Lamb of God**. It is sung or recited.

During **Holy Communion**, there can be a hymn or a solo piece.

Then comes the **Recessional** at the end of the Mass. This needs to be long enough for the couple to leave as well as the parents. **Postlude** music can be played as the congregation leaves.

Program Format for a Wedding with Eucharist

Gathering Rite:

Prelude Music: _____

Processional: _____

Greeting:

Glory to God (please join in song):

Opening Prayer:

Liturgy of the Word:

At least one reading (O, N, or G below) must be marked with an asterisk.

This mark indicates the readings which consider more directly the institution of Marriage.

First Reading: #O- _____ Read by: _____

Second Reading: #N- _____ Read by: _____

Gospel Acclamation:

Gospel: #G- _____

Homily

Rite of Marriage:

Exchange of Vows: ___option 1 ___option 2

Acclamation: _____

(Default: Priest: Let us bless the Lord.All: Thanks be to God.

Blessing and Exchange of Rings:

Prayer of the Faithful: ___option A ___option B Read by: _____

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

Preparation of the Gifts

Song: _____

Gift Bearers: _____

Mass Setting:

Lord's Prayer:

Nuptial Blessing:

Sign of Peace Song: _____

Lamb of God

Communion Song(s): _____

Eucharist Ministers: _____

Prayer after Communion:

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

Recessional Music: _____

Postlude

(optional): _____

Wedding Participants Worksheet

Bride: _____ Groom: _____

Parents: _____

Grandparents: _____

Wedding Party:

Maid of Honor: _____ Best Man: _____

Bridesmaids: _____ Groomsmen: _____

Ring Bearer: _____

Flower Girl: _____

Ushers: _____

Reader(s): _____

Gift Bearer(s): _____

Eucharistic Minister(s): _____

Presider: _____

Vocalist: _____

Accompanist: _____

Personal attendant: _____

(Flowers representing deceased family members)

(Thank you from couple)

Old Testament (First) Reading Options (choose one):

* O-1 *Genesis 1:26-28, 31a*

A reading from the Book of Genesis

Then God said:

“Let us make man in our own 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.

The word of the Lord.

*** O-2 Genesis 2:18-24**

A reading from the Book of Genesis

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 of the birds of the air, and all 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.

The word of the Lord.

*** O-3 Genesis 24:48-51, 58-67**

A reading from the Book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

“I bowed down in worship to the Lord,
blessing the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road
to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.
If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master, let me know;
but if not, let me know that, too.
I can then proceed accordingly.”

Laban and his household said in reply:

“This thing comes from the Lord; we can say nothing to you either for or against it.
Here is Rebekah, ready for you; take her with you,
that she may become the wife of your master’s son,
as the Lord has said.”

So, they called Rebekah and asked her,
“Do you wish to go with this man?”

She answered, “I do.”

At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave,
along with Abraham’s servant and his men.

Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

“Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads;
And may your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!”

Then Rebekah and her maids started out;
they mounted their camels and followed the man.
So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi
and was living in the region of the Negeb.

One day toward evening he went out ... in the field,
and as he looked around, he noticed that camels were approaching.

Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him,
she alighted from her camel and asked the servant,
“Who is the man out there, walking through the fields toward us?”

“That is my master,” replied the servant.

Then she covered herself with her veil.

The servant recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.

Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;
he married her, and thus she became his wife.

In his love for her Isaac found solace
after the death of his mother Sarah.

The word of the Lord.

*** O-4 Tobit 7:6-14**

A reading from the Book of Tobit

Raphael and Tobiah entered the house of Raguel and greeted him.

Raguel sprang up and kissed Tobiah, shedding tears of joy.

But when he heard that Tobit had lost his eyesight,

he was grieved and wept aloud.

He said to Tobiah:

“My child, God bless you!

You are the son of a noble and good father.

But what a terrible misfortune

that such a righteous and charitable man
should be afflicted with blindness!”

He continued to weep in the arms of his kinsman Tobiah.

His wife Edna also wept for Tobit;

and even their daughter Sarah began to weep.

Afterward, Raguel slaughtered a ram from the flock

and gave them a cordial reception.

When they had bathed and reclined to eat,

Tobiah said to Raphael, “Brother Azariah,

ask Raguel to let me marry my kinswoman Sarah.”

Raguel overheard the words;

so he said to the boy:

“Eat and drink and be merry tonight,

for no man is more entitled to marry my daughter Sarah than you, brother.

Besides, not even I have the right to give her to anyone but you,

because you are my closest relative.

But I will explain the situation to you very frankly.

I have given her in marriage to seven men,

all of whom were kinsmen of ours,

and all died on the very night they approached her.

But now, son, eat and drink.

I am sure the Lord will look after you both.”

Tobiah answered, “I will eat or drink nothing

until you set aside what belongs to me.”

Raguel said to him: “I will do it.

She is yours according to the decree of the Book of Moses.

Your marriage to her has been decided in heaven!

Take your kinswoman;

from now on you are her love,

and she is your beloved.

She is yours today and ever after.

And tonight, son, may the Lord of heaven prosper you both.

May he grant you mercy and peace.”
Then Raguel called his daughter Sarah,
and she came to him.
He took her by the hand and gave her to Tobiah with the words:
“Take her according to the law.
According to the decree written in the Book of Moses
she is your wife.
Take her and bring her back safely to your father.
And may the God of heaven grant both of you
peace and prosperity.”
He then called her mother and told her to bring a scroll,
so that he might draw up a marriage contract
stating that he gave Sarah to Tobiah as his wife
according to the decree of the Mosaic law.
Her mother brought the scroll,
and he drew up the contract,
to which they affixed their seal.
Afterward they began to eat and drink.

The word of the Lord.

*** O-5 Tobit 8:4b-8**

A reading from the Book of Tobit

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.”

The word of the Lord.

*** O-6 Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31**

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

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 fleeing;
the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Song of Songs

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 as 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 blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love.
 nor floods sweep it away.”

The word of the Lord.

*** O-8 Sirach 26:1-4, 13-16**

A reading from the book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife,
twice-lengthened are his days;
A 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,
her 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.

The word of the Lord.

O-9 Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord,
when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel
and the house of Judah.
It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:
the day I took them by the hand
to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.
But this is the covenant which I will make
with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord.
I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts;
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.
No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives
how to know the Lord.
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

New Testament (Second) Reading Options (choose one)

N-1 Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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,

how 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 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.

The word of the Lord.

N-2 Long Form: Romans 12: 1-2, 9-18 -or- Short Form: Romans 12:1-2, 9-13 (omit [])

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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 need of the holy ones,
exercise hospitality.

*[Bless those who persecute you,
bless and do not curse them.*

*Rejoice with those who rejoice,
weep with those who weep.*

*Have the same regard for one another;
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;
do not be wise in your own estimation.*

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil;
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all
If possible, on your part, live in peace with all.]*

The word of the Lord.

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

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

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.

The word of the Lord.

N-4 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, 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.

The word of the Lord.

N-5 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

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 cymbal.

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 always 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 brook 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.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.

N-6 Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit
through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.

***N-7 Long Form: Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 -or- Short Form: Ephesians 5:2a, 25-32 (omit [])**

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us
and handed himself over for us.

[Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of his wife

*just as Christ is head of the Church,
he himself the savior of the body.*

As the Church is subordinate to Christ,

so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.]

Husbands, love your wives,

even as Christ loved the Church
and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,
cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,
that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,
without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,
that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh

but rather nourishes and cherishes it,
even as Christ does the Church,
because we are members of his Body.

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

This is a great mystery,

but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

*[In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,
and the wife should respect her husband.]*

The word of the Lord.

N-8 Philippians 4:4-9

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,
by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,
make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding
will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,
whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious
if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned and received
and heard and seen in me

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The word of the Lord.

N-9 Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

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 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.

The word of the Lord.

N-10 Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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 also are in the body.

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.

The word of the Lord.

*** N-11 1 Peter 3:1-9**

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Peter

Beloved:

Your wives should be subordinate to your husbands so that,
even if some disobey the word,
they may be won over without a word
by their wives' conduct
when they observe your reverent and chaste behavior.

Your adornment should not be an external one:
braiding the hair, wearing gold jewelry,
or dressing in fine clothes,
but rather the hidden character of the heart,
expressed in the imperishable beauty
of a gentle and calm disposition,
which is precious in the sight of God.

For this is also how the holy women who hoped in God
once used to adorn themselves
and were subordinate to their husbands;
thus Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him "lord."

You are her children when you do what is good
and fear no intimidation.

Likewise, you husbands should live with your wives in understanding,
showing honor to the weaker female sex,
since we are joint heirs of the gift of life,
so that your prayers may not be hindered.

Finally, all of you, be of one mind, sympathetic,
loving toward one another, compassionate, humble.

Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult;
but, on the contrary, a blessing,
because to this you were called,
that you might inherit a blessing.

The word of the Lord.

N-12 1 John 3:18-24

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Children, let us love not in word or speech
but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth
and reassure our hearts before him
in whatever our hearts condemn,
for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.

And his commandment is this:
we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ,
and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them,
and the way we know that he remains in us
is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The word of the Lord.

N-13 1 John 4:7-12

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, let us love one another,
because love is of God;
everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.
Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.
In this way the love of God was revealed to us:
God sent his only-begotten Son into the world
so that we might have life through him.
In this is love:
not that we have loved God, but that he loved us
and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.
Beloved, if God so loved us,
we must also love one another.
No one has ever seen God.
Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us,
and his love is brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Reading Options (choose one)

G-1 Matthew 5:1-12a

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

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.

G-2 Matthew 5:13-16

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,

here 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.

G-3 Long Form: Matthew 7:21, 24-29 -or- Short Form: Matthew 7:21, 24-25 (omit [])

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.

***G-4 Matthew 19:3-6**

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.

G-5 Matthew 22:35-40

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.

*** G-6 Mark 10:6-9**

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.

***G-7 John 2:1-11**

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 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.

G-8 John 15:9-12

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.

G-9 John 15:12-16

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

G-10 Long Form: John 17:20-26 -or- Short Form: John 17:20-23 (omit [])
(Long Form)

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.

(Short Form)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“Holy Father, I pray not only for these,
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.

Exchange of Consent (choose one option and method)

Option 1:

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

Option 2:

I, *N.*, take you, *N.*, for my lawful *wife/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.

Choose method:

- A. Bride and Groom memorize the option and recite.
- B. Bride and Groom repeat after the presider.
- C. Bride and Groom are asked in question form by the presider and asked to respond.

Prayers of the Faithful Choose one option:

Prayer of the Faithful Option A

Presider: The Lord is here among us: in the Word proclaimed to us, in the exchange of vows by N... and N..., and in our very assembly. Let us present to the Lord our prayers for the need of the church and the world.

Lector: For the community of all Christian Churches,
that all who follow Christ may live in the unity for which Christ prayed;
let us pray to the lord.

For our nation and this place,
and for all who hold positions of leadership;
let us pray to the Lord.

For the poor, the homeless, and the unemployed of this country,
and for all who suffer under persecution;
let us pray to the Lord.

For the parents and families of N... and N...
for their Godparents, and for all formed them in their faith;
let us pray to the Lord.

For the deceased relatives of N... and N...,
for the sick and for the those who care for the sick;
let us pray to the Lord.

For all of our personal intentions
we mention now in the silence of our hearts;
(pause for a moment of silence...)
let us pray to the Lord.

Presider: Lord, hear the prayers that this church offers today.
Grant what may be best for us and for the building up of
your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Prayer of the Faithful Option B

Presider: Gathered in joyful hope, we offer our prayers to God, who creates hearts to love.

Lector: For the Church and those who serve the Church,
and for all people who preach and practice the Gospel of Christ, we pray to the Lord:
let us pray to the Lord.

For our nations and the local community,
and for all who serve in our government:
let us pray to the Lord.

For the poor, the homeless and the unemployed,
and for all who suffer under persecution;
let us pray to the Lord.

For N... and N... and for all married couples,
for their faithfulness to each other
and for their loving service of the Gospel;
let us pray to the Lord.

For the parents and families of N... and N...,
for their godparents (*names*),
and for all who formed them in faith;
let us pray to the Lord.

For the deceased relatives of N... and N...,
for the sick and for all those unable to join us today;
let us pray to the Lord.

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 your love. Through them, may your Church be blessed. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Church of St. Benedict Guidelines for eligibility and fees:

Eligibility for Use of the Church:

Anyone is welcome to be married at St. Benedict's in Avon. Members of the Parish pay \$200 usage fee which is to be paid up front in order to reserve the Church. However, if you are not a parishioner, the fee is \$1,000.

Scheduling:

To reserve the Church or Parish Hall you must contact the Parish Office to request your potential wedding date. Weddings in the Church are scheduled for 2 pm.

Rehearsal times are also preset, usually Friday evening prior to the wedding.

Fees:

As mentioned above, if you are a parishioner of St. Benedict's the use of the Church is free. If you are not a parishioner of St. Benedict's there is a fee of \$1,000. Musicians and the presider are to be paid directly by the couple.

General Guidelines, Rules, Expectations:

Since the church is a place of prayer and worship, we ask you to avoid bringing food and beverages into the sanctuary area. Food and beverages can be stored downstairs in the Parish Hall. There is no smoking allowed on the grounds of St. Benedict's. We ask the bride and groom to inform the wedding party, photographer, musicians, and others involved in the celebration of procedures and behavior fitting to this sacred place. For the sake of ecology and sensitivity to world hunger, we ask you not to use rice, confetti, real/silk rose petals or bird seed.

When the sanctuary is decorated according to the liturgical season, very little additional décor is needed. We ask all those who use the church to respect the environment that is in place when you celebrate your wedding.

If you have special needs that are not covered here, be sure and let your presider know, and we will work to resolve the problems and create an atmosphere for a fitting celebration of this very important day in your life together.

After the Wedding Liturgy is Over...

Make sure the couple and witnesses (Best Man/Maid of Honor) meet with the priest to sign the forms.

Following your wedding liturgy, you must take all of your items with you. No decorations, personal items, programs, etc. can remain in the Sanctuary, Bride's Room, Gathering Space, etc. It is recommended that your ushers or designated family members assist with this matter.