*The Sacrament of*

*Marriage*

*N & N*



*……. Church*

*Date*

*Wedding Party*

***Bride***

***Groom***

***Matron of Honour***

***Bridesmaids***

***Flowergirl***

***Best Man***

***Groomsmen***

***Pageboy***

***Music***

*Entrance:*

*The Lighting of the Candles*

*The Greeting*

*The Lord be with you*

***And with your spirit***

*Penitential Rite*

***I confess to almighty God and to you,***

***my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,***

***in my thoughts and in my words,***

***in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,***

***through my fault, through my fault,***

***through my most grievous fault;***
***therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,***

***all the Angels and Saints,***
***and you, my brothers and sisters,***

***to pray for me to the Lord our God.***

*May almighty God have mercy on*

*Forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.*

***Amen.***

*Lord have mercy* ***Lord have mercy***

*Christ have mercy*  ***Christ have mercy***

*Lord have mercy* ***Lord have mercy***

*Opening Prayer*

*Be attentive to our prayers, O Lord, and in your kindness pour*

*out your grace on N & N, that coming together before your altar they may be confirmed in love for one another. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.* ***Amen.***

***THE LITURGY OF THE WORD****(See separate Readings file)*

*FIRST READING*

*A reading from the book of Genesis 1:26-28.31*

*God said, ‘Let us make man in our own image, in the likeness of ourselves, and let them be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven, the cattle, all the wild beasts and all the reptiles that crawl upon the earth.’*

*God created man in an image of himself,*

*in the image of God he created him,*

*male and female he created them.*

*God blessed them, saying to them, ‘Be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth and conquer it. Be masters of the fish of the sea, the birds of heaven and all living animals on the earth.’ God saw all he had made, and indeed it was very good.*

*The word of the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

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*Responsorial Psalm (sung)*

*SECOND READING*

*A reading from the first letter of St. John 4:7-12*

*My dear people, let us love one another*

*since love comes from God*

*and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.*

*Anyone who fails to love can never have known God,
because God is love.*

*God’s love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him;*

*that is the love I mean:*

*not our love for God,*

*but God’s love for us when he sent his Son*

*to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.*

*My dear people,*

*since God has loved us so much,*

*we too should love one another.*

*No one has ever seen God;*

*but as long as we love one another*

*God will live in us*

*and his love will be complete in us.*

*The word of the Lord.*

 *Thanks be to God.*

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*Gospel Acclamation*

*Alleluia, Alleluia! (sung)*

*Priest: The Lord be with you.*

***People: And with your spirit.***

*Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew* ***People: Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:*

*‘How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.’*

*Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.*

***People: Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.***

***THE RITE OF MARRIAGE***

*The Address*

***Priest:****Dear children of God, you have come to this church so that the Lord may seal your love in the presence of the priest and this community.  Christian marriage is sacred union, which enriches natural love.  It binds those who enter it to be faithful to each other forever; it creates between them a bond that endures for life and cannot be broken; it demands that they love and honour each other.  To help them in their marriage a husband and wife receive the life-long grace of this sacrament.*

*Is this your understanding of marriage?*

***Both: It is.***

*The Declaration of Consent*

***Priest:*** *I invite you then to declare before God and his Church your consent to become husband and wife.*

***Groom: I, N take you N as my wife***

***for better, for worse***
***for richer, for poorer,***
***in sickness and in health,***
***all the days of my life.***

***Bride: I, N take you N as my husband,***
***for better, for worse,***
***for richer, for poorer,***
***in sickness and in health,***
***all the days of my life.***

***Priest:*** *The Lord has joined you together. May he fulfil*

*his blessing in you; may he keep you in his love.*

*The Blessing of Rings & The Exchange of Rings*

***Priest:*** *Lord bless N & N and consecrate their married life.* *May these rings be a symbol of their faith in each other* *and a reminder of their love.  Through Christ our Lord.* ***Amen.***

***Groom:    N, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love*** ***in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.***

***Bride:      N, wear this ring as a sign of our faithful love*** ***in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.***

 *Prayer of the Newly Married Couple.*

***We thank you, Lord, and we praise you***

***for bringing us to this happy day.***

***You have given us to each other.***

***Now, together, we give ourselves to you.***

***We ask you, Lord:***

***make us one in our love;***

***keep us one in your peace.***

***Protect our marriage. Bless our home.***

***Make us gentle. Keep us faithful.***

***And when life is over***

***unite us again where parting is no more***

***in the kingdom of your love.***

***There we will praise you***

***in the happiness and peace of our eternal home.***

***Amen.***

*The Lighting of the Wedding Candle*

*Prayers of the Faithful*

*We pray for N and N as they begin their married life together. May their home be full of joy and laughter, may God give them good health and may they always find happiness in each other.*

*Lord hear us.*

***Lord graciously hear us.***

*We pray for all here present that God may give you peace in your hearts for today, hope in your hearts for tomorrow and love in your hearts forever.*

*Lord hear us.*

***Lord graciously hear us.***

*We pray for the private intentions of everyone gathered here*

*today.* *May God grant your prayers.*

*Lord hear us*

***Lord graciously hear us****.*

*We remember the smiles and laughter of those who have gone before us, who would have loved to share in the joy and happiness of this day. We thank God for the happy memories they have left with us. May God one day unite us again.*

*Lord hear us.*

***Lord graciously hear us.***

*Priest: Let us pray that prayer that unites all Christians; the Lord’s Prayer*

***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 whose trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from Evil.***

*NUPTIAL BLESSING*

*Priest: Dear brothers and sisters,*

*let us humbly pray to the Lord*

*that on these his servants, now married in Christ,*

*he may mercifully pour out the blessing of his grace.*

*Priest: Holy Father, maker of the whole world* *who created man and woman in your own image* *and willed that their union be crowned with your blessing*

*We humbly beseech you for these your servants*,

***N & N****, who are joined today in the Sacrament of Marriage.*

*May your abundant blessings come upon them*

*And may the power of your Holy Spirit*

*Set their hearts aflame from on high*

*So that, living out together the gift of Matrimony*

*They may (adorn their family with children and)*

*enrich the Church.*

*In happiness may they praise you, O Lord*

*In sorrow may they seek you out,*

*May they have the joy of your presence to assist them in toil* a*nd know that you are near to comfort them in their need;* *Let them pray to you in the Holy Assembly and bear witness to you in the world*

*and after a happy old age, together with the circle of friends that surrounds them, may they come to*

*the Kingdom of Heaven.*

*Through Christ our Lord.*

***People: Amen.***

*Concluding Prayer*

*Lord, you have made* ***N & N****, one in the Sacrament of Marriage, may they always hold fast to you and proclaim your name to the world. Through Christ our Lord.*

***Amen.***

*Concluding Prayer & Final Blessing*

*Priest: The Lord be with you.*

***People: And with your spirit.***

*Priest: Bow your head and pray for God’s blessing*

*God, the eternal Father keep you in love with each other so that the peace of Christ may stay with you and be always in your home.*

***People: Amen.***

*Priest: May you be blessed in your children, have solace in your friends and enjoy true peace with everyone.*

***People: Amen.***

*Priest: May you be witnesses in the world to God’s charity, so that the afflicted and needy who have known your kindness may one day receive you thankfully into the eternal dwelling of God.*

***People: Amen.***

*Priest: And may almighty God bless all of you*

*the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

***People: Amen.***

*Priest: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.*

***People: Thanks be to God.***

*The congregation sit as the Marriage Schedule is signed.*

*Recessional*

*To our family and friends*

*We want to thank you for sharing this special day with us as we begin our new life together.*

*The memories of our wedding*

 *will last forever in our hearts.*

*Your warm wishes, love and support*

*will forever be cherished in our hearts.*

*N & N*