



Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish  
467 Fairford  
Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan 48236-2410

## Our Lady Star of the Sea Planning the Wedding Liturgy

What is the proper rite for your wedding?

You and Msgr. Gary, taking all circumstances into consideration, will decide which rite is best for you and the day you have selected.

Choice of Rite:

The order of Celebrating Matrimony within Mass

When two Catholics are planning to marry. The *Order for celebrating Matrimony within Mass* is normally used. This includes the prayers and reading that a specifically designated for the wedding liturgy. A Priest or Bishop must preside

The Rite of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass

When Mass is not celebrated, either by necessity or because of circumstances, *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass* is used. A priest, Deacon may preside.

This rite is selected if the Marriage is between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic.

However, if circumstances warrant Matrimony within a Mass may be used with the consent of the local Bishop.

The order of Celebrating Matrimony between a Catholic and A Catechumen or a Non-Christian

If Marriage takes place between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a non-Christian, or a member of a Christian denomination who has not yet been baptized, the Church provides a specific rite. It too, contains various options. A Priest of a Deacon may preside.

The order of Celebrating Matrimony Mass

Introductory Rites

Entrance Procession

Liturgical processions should be different from those wedding processions commonly stages in movies or on television. A liturgical procession sets the tone for the celebration of the Sacrament of Matrimony, allows the liturgical ministers to enter the church, and helps the assembly to anticipate what is to come and to see those having special roles.

When the wedding liturgy takes place during Mass, the procession may include the Priest, possibly a Deacon, other liturgical ministers, attendants, and the bride and groom to be accompanied by their parent, if they wish since this rite will join two families.

Note: There is no change of music for the bride only, since the bride and groom share equally in the covenant relationship

Recommended order:

Priest

Bridesmaids/groomsmen: other attendants; if applicable

Maid/Matron of Honor and Best Man

Bride and Groom – 3 options

Bride and Groom together

Groom with parents; Bride with Parents

Groom: then Bride

Sign of the Cross  
Greeting of the People  
Introduction  
Glory to God  
Collect (opening prayer)

The Liturgy of the Word - please refer to the link in the email I sent you

First Reading  
Responsorial Psalm  
Second Reading  
Gospel Acclamation  
Gospel  
Homily

The Celebration of Matrimony

Address to the Bride and Groom  
The Question before the Consent  
The Consent  
The Reception of Consent  
The Blessing and Giving of the Rings

Unity Candle – OPTIONAL- Not part of the Rite - please read the section regarding Unity Candle

The Universal Prayer (Prayers of the Faithful)

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Presentation of the Gifts  
Prayer over the offerings  
Eucharistic prayer  
The Lord's Prayer  
The Nuptial Blessing  
Sign of Peace  
Breaking of the Bread  
Invitation to Communion  
Distribution of Holy Communion  
Prayer after Communion

Flowers to the Blessed Mother – OPTIONAL- Not part of the Rite – please read the section regarding

Flowers to the Blessed Mother

Concluding Rite

Solemn Blessing  
Dismissal  
Recessional  
Bride and Groom  
Witnesses  
Parents

For The Rite of Celebrating Matrimony without Mass

Everything is the same with the exception of the Liturgy of the Eucharist

## Unity Candles

Chances are, if you've been to a wedding in the past couple of decades, you've seen something called a "Unity Candle" ceremony. At some point in the ceremony, the parents of the couple being married– or maybe just their mothers– light two small side candles, and then the bride and groom take those candles and light a larger candle. They may or may not blow out the side candles, which one hopes doesn't reflect their feelings about their families of origin.

No one seems really clear about the origin of the Unity Candle. Some claim it was popularized by the 1981 wedding of television's Luke and Laura on General Hospital, although there's evidence of its use in the mid-1970s. Some sources claim it was developed as a way to sell couples three pounds of wax for \$50 dollars.

In many Catholic churches, the Unity Candle is discouraged or prohibited. It isn't part of our wedding ritual. Liturgy requires inculturation, but it's not clear that a Unity candle is part of anyone's culture.

The fact is, we Catholics already have a powerful symbol of love and unity at our nuptial masses, one that connects us to our families, the whole community of faith, and the communion of saints. We have the Eucharist. For Catholics, that's a symbol of unity you can't hold a candle to.

*(uscbb - <http://www.foryourmarriage.org/the-unity-candle/>)*

You may choose to purchase a unity candle for your wedding. The maximum diameter of the unity candle to fit our stands is 3 inches. You will also need to purchase two plain white 10" dinner tapers.

Star of the Sea will supply the unity candle stand. (we have 2 to choose from) Please ask a family member or close friend to be responsible for removing the unity candle after the wedding ceremony so it is not left behind.

## Flowers to the Blessed Mother

Although giving flowers to Mary during a Catholic wedding is not part of the Rite of Marriage, many couples who have a devotion to Mary want to take a moment before the conclusion of the liturgy to offer prayers to Mary as they begin their life together. Mary is a wonderful model of how we are to live out our faith and trust in God.

Couples will often bring a flower to the statue of Mary in the church and offer prayers asking for her intercession. This ritual usually takes place at the end of the ceremony, before the final blessing. You may also be able to choose a Marian hymn such as the "Ave Maria" to be sung during this time. Praying the Hail Mary after laying the flowers before the statue of Mary is a simple way to carry out this devotion.

What kind of flowers should be placed before the statue of Mary during a Catholic wedding? While almost any flower would be appropriate for this devotion, the flowers that have a special connection to the Virgin Mary are lilies, roses, the iris, impatiens, marigolds, violets, the May Hawthorn, and many others. Arrange for one of these flowers to be placed near your seats in front of the church so that when the time comes to bring the flowers to Mary, you will be able to pick them up and take them to the statue.