

C.) Traditional Wedding Ceremony

Depending on the ceremony requirements, Non-denominational, Religious, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, etc. can be performed. This type of Ceremony maybe longer due to having additional Traditions included in the Couple's Ceremony such as The Matrimony Liturgy, Mass, Communion, music, readings, singing, individual speakers at the Couple's request. Ceremonies can be celebrated inside or outdoors.

On the day of your Ceremony, please have your Ceremony Book prepared as follows: Once Ceremony Script is approved, have your chosen Ceremony edited and made personal to you both, printed out in "26" point font size", placed into sheet protectors, and put into a nice white 3 ring binder. This ceremony book will be used by Rev. Carroll at your ceremony. Please send/e-mail a copy back to the administration office ASAP or at least a month prior to the wedding ceremony for review/approval.

NOTE: Please have the pages separated so the speaking, reading, and page turning, flows well together. Keep the ceremony sections together. When completing the Ceremony Script Book, place only ONE page in each sheet protector and only on the right side of each page. This stops unnecessary pauses in the reading of the ceremony that causes dead space and silence and interrupts that flow of the ceremony. From a audio point of view.

The readings should be given ahead of time to the readers so that they can practice them. Also, have copies of the readings given to the readers on the day of your wedding prior to the start of the ceremony. You should select family and/or friends who are good public speaking to do any readings. Readers who mumble and cannot be understood detract from your ceremony. No reading is better then a mumbled reading.

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHOICES FOR
YOUR CEREMONY PERSONAL TO YOU
AND PUT IT IN 26 POINT FONT SIZE**



**Traditional Wedding
Ceremony
of**

(Bride's Full Name)

and

(Groom's Full Name)

Location:

City:

State:

Date:

I. ENTRANCE RITE

REV. CARROLL:

Welcome everyone. My name is Msgr. Michael Carroll, the Abbot of St. Patrick's Abbey of the Mid-Atlantic Diocese. Concelebrating with me today/tonight is Sub-Deacon Ken Warne also from the Abbey.

We gather today for one of the happiest occasions in all of life, the joining of two people who love each other.

***(Name)* and *(Name)*, it is our joy to witness and celebrate your wedding in a rich spiritual heritage, sustained as we are, in the mysterious power of all creation. In a loving God, who is the begetter and sustainer of all life, and whose core is Love. You come here today as individuals.**

You come to become as One -- not to lose yourselves, but to promise a new life of unity and love together.

Your friends, family, and guests are here to share in your joy and so now we ask God, to bless you. For you see, Marriage is a sealed and Sacred covenant. God powers all of human love, because God is love itself.

And today, the Creator gives you both great joy. Through that joy, you will share your new journey together with others. We pray that you may fulfill God's purpose all of your lives by living within your love, and maintaining your joy. We all support you as you freely give yourselves to each other.

To this moment you bring the fullness of your hearts as a treasure to share with each other. But more profoundly you bring your dreams, which will bind you together when life becomes difficult.

You both bring your particular personalities and spirits out of which will grow the reality of your life together. We all celebrate with you now as you express the outward symbol of your inward union of hearts -- a union that has already been created by friendship, by respect, and by love.

2. READINGS

**The First Reading will be read
by:_____**

**and their relationship to the
couple:_____**

**The Second Reading will be read
by:_____**

**and their relationship to the
couple:_____**

3. GOSPEL READING

REV. CARROLL:

*Ceremony Sermon about “**THE WEDDING FEAST OF CANA**”*

(Presentation of OPTIONAL Wedding Certificate)

4. DECLARATION OF INTENT

REV. CARROLL:

In this Sacred and joyful moment, we call forth the highest in you, (*Name*) and you (*Name*), that divine inner presence that brought you to love, and has chosen for you this commitment of marriage. For you we ask every blessing of this moment, a confirmation of the wisdom of your choice, great happiness on the path that is set before you. Use discretion, kindness, and care as you walk upon it and have strength to live out your purpose.

May you have Grace and peace through each step of your journey. Your beloved friends, family, and guests are here supporting you.

REV. CARROLL:

***(Name-Groom)*, are you here to ask *(Name-Bride)* to be your friend, your partner, and your wife. Do you intend to give her your deepest friendship and love, not only when you remember that you are a made in a loving God's image, but also in times when you do not?**

Do you now announce before God and all present that you will always seek the best within *(Name-Bride)* and always share the best of yourself with her?

***(Name-Groom)*: I do.**

REV. CARROLL:

***(Name-Bride)*, are you here to ask *(Name-Groom)* to be your friend, your partner, and your husband. Do you intend to give him your deepest friendship and love, not only when you remember that you are a made in a loving God's image, but also in times when you do not?**

Do you now announce before God and all present that you will always seek the best within *(Name-Groom)* and always share the best of yourself with him?

***(Name-Bride)*: I do.**

5. THE BANNS OF MATRIMONY

REV. CARROLL:

Who gives (*Bride Name*) to (*Groom Name*) to be joined together?

Sponsor(s): We do. (*Bride's Parents*)

List Sponsor Name(s):(Usually the Bride's Parents)

Who gives (*Groom Name*) to (*Bride Name*) to be joined together?

Sponsor(s): We do. (*Groom's Parents*)

List Sponsor Name(s):(Usually the Groom's Parents)

REV. CARROLL:

(IF APPLICABLE-Addressing children from previous relationships:)

(List the first name(s) of each child)

Will you children give your new family your trust, love, and affection?

Children: I (we) will.

REV. CARROLL:

Let us pray for these children who are entering a new family life.

They deserve the warmth, security, and environment of a loving family. Provide to this family Your peace and love which you have promised to all of us.

(Choose one of the Vow Selections or you can write your own.)

(VOW SELECTION # 1:)

(Name), we entered into each other's lives and experienced love and happiness. Today I am confirming my promise for the rest of my life to love and respect you, to be faithful and honest with you, to give you encouragement, strength, and trust, to stand together in our times of joy and of sorrow. I pray that our home will be one of love and understanding and patience . . . not to remain the same, but to grow better and stronger with the passing of time, and through the love we have for one another. Our lives have become joined with the times we have shared, and will be more complete by the memories ahead, ready to be made. I am promising from this day forward that I will be your husband/wife/life companion, to walk with you throughout all your tomorrows. I love you.

***(Name)*, we entered into each other's lives and experienced love and happiness. Today I am confirming my promise for the rest of my life to love and respect you, to be faithful and honest with you, to give you encouragement, strength, and trust, to stand together in our times of joy and of sorrow. I pray that our home will be one of love and understanding and patience . . . not to remain the same, but to grow better and stronger with the passing of time, and through the love we have for one another. Our lives have become joined with the times we have shared, and will be more complete by the memories ahead, ready to be made. I am promising from this day forward that I will be your life husband/wife/life companion, to walk with you throughout all your tomorrows. I love you.**

(VOW SELECTION # 2:)

I, (*Name*), take you, (*Name*), to be my husband/wife/life companion/ life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, or for worse, for richer, or for poorer, in sickness, and in health, to love, to honor and to cherish unconditionally. Forsaking all others, I will be faithful to you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I, (*Name*), take you, (*Name*), to be my husband/wife/life companion/life partner, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, or for worse, for richer, or for poorer, in sickness, and in health, to love, to honor and to cherish unconditionally. Forsaking all others, I will be faithful to you. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

(VOW SELECTION 3:)

***(Name)*, I give myself to you to be your husband/wife/life companion/ life partner. I promise to love and sustain you in the covenant of marriage, from this day forward, in sickness, and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, as long as we both shall live.**

***(Name)*, I give myself to you to be your husband/wife/life companion/ life partner. I promise to love and sustain you in the covenant of marriage, from this day forward, in sickness, and in health, in plenty and in want, in joy and in sorrow, as long as we both shall live.**

(VOW SELECTION # 4:)

(Name), I want you to be my husband/wife/life companion/life partner. I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask of you no more than you can give. I promise to respect you as your own person and to realize that your interests, needs, and desires are no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time and my attention, and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the windows of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams. I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes as we both change in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give, and all I feel inside, in the only way I know how . . . completely and forever.

***(Name)*, I want you to be my husband/wife/life companion life partner. I promise to give you the best of myself and to ask of you no more than you can give. I promise to respect you as your own person and to realize that your interests, needs and desires are no less important than my own. I promise to share with you my time and my attention, and to bring joy, strength and imagination to our relationship. I promise to keep myself open to you, to let you see through the windows of my world into my innermost fears and feelings, secrets and dreams. I promise to grow along with you, to be willing to face changes as we both change in order to keep our relationship alive and exciting. I promise to love you in good times and in bad, with all I have to give, and all I feel inside, in the only way I know how . . . completely and forever.**

7. THE EXCHANGE & BLESSING OF THE WEDDING RINGS

REV. CARROLL:

Who bears the rings of this Union?

(Designated Individuals-(suggest the mothers)-bring the rings forward)

Response: I/we do.

Blessing Of The Wedding Rings

REV. CARROLL:

I now Bless these rings! Lord, these rings are circles, symbols that represent our Sun, our Earth, and our Universe. Symbols of Holiness, of perfection, of peace, and completion . . . that which has no beginning, that which has no end.

And so now, in this moment, you both bring the finest of yourselves represented by these rings that you exchange to be your rings of unity, joining, and commitment. From a rock, precious metals have been forged into these rings. These are the rings that *(Name)* and *(Name)* will wear for the rest of their lives, that signifies the love they have for each other.

I ask all of you to take a few moments to reflect upon this moment, and extend your love and affection to this couple. When *(Name)* and *(Name)* wear these rings they will carry all of you with them to the very ends of time itself.

(Designated Individuals hold the Rings up for all family, friends, and guests to see.)

Unity Candle or Pouring of the Sand: (Optional)

REV. CARROLL:

At the beginning of this ceremony, the mothers of *(Name)* and *(Name)* lit two individual candles, symbolic not only of the life they gave to their children but also of the light *(Name)* and *(Name)* have been individually to others through their values. Now the bride and groom will light their Unity candle together, as symbol of their love and new lives together.

(Lighting of the Unity Candle: (Name) and (Name) light the Unity Candle....while music or solo is played)

OR

Pouring of the Unity Sand:

(Name) and (Name), you have just sealed your relationship by exchanging vows and rings in a Sacred covenant. This is a relationship pledge between both of you who agree that you will commit yourselves to one another throughout life. Today this relationship is symbolized through the pouring of these two individual containers of different colored Sands. One representing you, (Bride Name), as a new Bride and one representing you, (Groom Name), as a new Groom. As these two containers of different sands are poured into the third container, the individual containers of sand will no longer exist, but will be joined together as one. Just as these grains of sand can never be separated and poured again into the individual containers, so will your marriage be.

(Pouring of the Unity Sand: (Name) and (Name) pour sand from separate containers into one container....while music or solo is played)

REV. CARROLL:

The Exchange of Peace:

**Lord Jesus Christ, you said to you're Apostles;
I leave you peace, my peace I give to you. Look
not on our transgressions, but on the faith of
your Church and grant us the peace and unity
of your Kingdom where you live for ever and
ever.**

People Respond: Amen

REV. CARROLL:

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People Respond: And also with you.

Let us offer each other a sign of peace.

All in Attendance: *(A hand shake or embrace)*

Recite the Lords Prayer

Communion: (Optional)

REV. CARROLL:

Today we share Communion with each other everyone regardless of your faith or religion.

REV. CARROLL:

Loving God, we praise you and we bless you. You have made us and we are yours. You do not hide from us. You are not distant. You have revealed yourself and your great love for us in all your wonderful works.

We see you in the strength of mountains, the solitude of the desserts, and in gentle and refreshing rains. We see you in the height of skies and in the ocean depths, in the birds that soar and the fish that swim. We see you in the hope of a sunrise, and the relief and rest of a sunset.

All your works proclaim your love. Loving God we thank you for speaking your greatest message of love to us in, Jesus the Christ. He came to show us clearly who you are! He taught us to know you as a loving God. He told us that You are spirit, and is in everything that has being.

He left us the greatest of all gifts showing Your encompassing power of your love, when . . . On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his Apostles and friends together for a Supper and shared with them his life and love. While they were at supper, he took bread, gave you thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying: “Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body which given for you.”

Then he took a Chalice filled with wine, said the blessing, and gave it to His disciples saying: “Take this, all of you, and drink from it.

This is the Chalice of my love, poured out for people everywhere, so that sin and wrong doing may be forgiven. This is the new and everlasting covenant.

Whenever you do this KNOW I am there with you always.”

Communion is now given out to the couple, family and guests.

After Communion Ending Prayer:

We thank you for Christ’s life among us. The powerful example He left us of how to live a life of love. We gratefully recall his death and how He shows us a way to die to self and how to live for others. This communion supper of bread and wine, is a constant reminder, that Jesus is God, and that Jesus called himself our brother and not our master. God is the substance of all creation, especially of other people.

Finally, we remember the hope, we have in Jesus' resurrection and His ascension into Paradise. This is the hope of the seed that falls into the ground. The hope of the grapes that yield to crushing, that hope we proclaim by the union today/tonight of *(Name)* and *(Name)* in Holy Matrimony, the hope of their new and fuller life.

8. THE NUPTIAL BLESSING

REV. CARROLL:

Please stand, and join me in the Nuptial Blessing of the couple.

May the peace of Christ live always in your hearts and in your home. May you have true friends to stand by you, both in joy and in sorrow.

May you be ready and willing to help and comfort all those who come to you in need. May the blessings promised to the compassionate be yours in abundance.

May you find happiness and satisfaction in your work. May daily problems never cause you undue anxiety, nor the desire for earthly possessions ever dominate your lives. But may your hearts' first desire be the abundance of good things awaiting you from a loving God.

May the Lord bless you with many happy years together, so that you may enjoy the rewards of a good, long, and healthy life. And after serving God, by your love of others in this physical world, may God welcome you into the eternal Paradise for all of time to come.

***(Name)* and *(Name)*, be filled with joy. May you keep your wedding vows to each with ease. May love abide with you always.**

And today, let your hearts sing. May all of your days be filled with peace. May the love you have found grow in meaning and strength until its beauty is shown in a common devotion to all that is compassionate, all that is life giving.

May the flow of your love help brighten the face of our ever so tired Earth. May the source of all love touch and bless us all, but especially bless the both of you, and grace your lives with strength, harmony and fulfillment.

9. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MARRIAGE

REV. CARROLL:

Only a couple can administer the Sacrament of Matrimony to each other, and only a couple can sanctify it. The Church and the authority vested in me by the Commonwealth of Virginia (State) grants me the power to declare what your hearts have already spoken to each other.

And so now, inasmuch as you, (*Name*), and you, (*Name*), have announced these truths written in your hearts, and have witnessed this Truth in the presence of these, your family, friends, and guests, and before God, the One Living Spirit I announce you to be Husband and Wife.

(Ceremony Ending Selections)

You may now kiss each other.

You may now kiss your Husband.

You may now kiss your Bride.

You may now kiss your Wife.