

## Prayer Service for Married Couples

*Use this complete prayer service with Chapter 9 of Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments. You may also choose to use only individual parts of the prayer service.*

Needs:

- copies as needed

### *Introduction*

**Leader:** Today we come together to pray for all married people and Christian families. Lord, we thank you for the gift of the Sacrament of Matrimony and for the love you give to married couples. We pray today for those who are married, that they may be strengthened with God's grace to live out faithfully their vows.

### *New Testament Reading*

**Reader 1:** A reading from the Book of Genesis (Gen 2:18–24),

The LORD God said: It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suited to him. So the LORD God formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each living creature was then its name. The man gave names to all the tame animals, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals, but none proved to be a helper suited to 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 the rib that he had taken from the man into a woman. 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 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

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 33: 12, 18, 20–22)

**Reader 2: The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

**All: The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

**Reader 2:** Blessed the nation whose God is the LORD,  
the people he has chosen as his heritage.

Yes, the LORD's eyes are upon those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love.

**All: The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

**Reader 2:** Our soul is waiting for the LORD,

He is our help and our shield,

in him do our hearts find joy.

We trust in his holy name.

**All: The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

**Reader 2:** May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD.

**All: The earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.**

*Gospel Reading*

**Reader 3:** A Reading from the Holy Gospel According to John (Jn. 2:1–11),

On the third day 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 when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers 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.

**All:** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

*Prayers of Intercession*

**Leader:** Let us lift up our prayers to Jesus Christ, who has raised the love of marriage to be a source of grace for married couples.

**Reader 4:** For all people preparing to enter the Sacrament of Matrimony, that they might prepare their hearts to make a faithful and lasting promise to one another.

**All:** Jesus, source of love, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** For our married family members and friends, that their marriages may be based on the unity that God desires for them.

**All:** Jesus, source of love, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** For all married couples who are struggling, that they might seek out the help they need, and in a spirit of forgiveness and desire to love, work to heal their relationship.

**All:** Jesus, source of love, hear our prayer.

**Reader 4:** For all families throughout the world, especially those families who are experiencing difficulties due to natural disasters, unemployment, and addiction.

**All:** Jesus, source of love, hear our prayer.

*Litany*

**Leader:** Over the 2,000 years of the Church, many married men and women have been raised to the level of a saint. May their good and holy witness inspire each of us to lives of holiness. As we close our time of prayer, let us ask these saints for their intercession for all married couples, that as Christian spouses they may lead each other to heaven.

**Leader:** Lord have mercy,

**All:** Lord have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ have mercy,

**All:** Christ have mercy.

**Leader:** Christ hear us,

**All:** Christ graciously hear us.

**Leader:** Holy Mary, Mother of God,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** All holy angels and archangels,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Joseph,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Sts. Zechariah and Elizabeth,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Sts. Joachim and Anne,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Monica,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Margaret of Scotland,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Isidore and Bl. Maria de la Cabeza,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Elizabeth of Hungary,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Rita,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Sts. Louis and Zelig,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Bls. Luigi and Maria Bettrame,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Bl. Franz Jagerstatter,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Bl. Odoardo Focherini,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** St. Gianna,

**All:** Pray for us.

**Leader:** Bl. Peter to Rot,

**All:** Pray for us.

*Closing Prayer*

**Leader:** O God, who in creating the human race desired that man and wife should be one, we ask you to keep all those who are united in the Sacrament of Marriage in your love. We ask that you provide the grace to make their love always faithful, indissoluble, and fruitful. May they, through their witness of married love, be a witness to others of your own Divine love. We ask this in your name.

**All:** Amen.