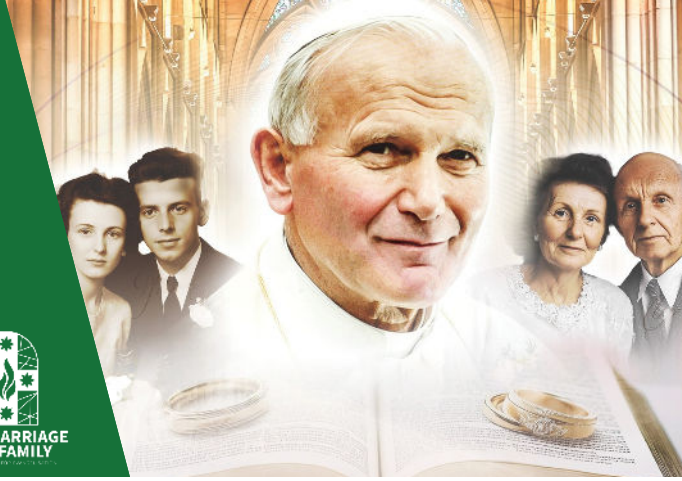


LMF Sunday

The Order of Celebrating a married couple within Mass on the anniversary of Matrimony.



THE ORDER OF BLESSING A MARRIED COUPLE WITHIN MASS ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF MATRIMONY

The order of blessing a married couple within Mass on the anniversary of matrimony is a resource that has been used in previous Life, Marriage and Family Sunday Masses held at St Mary's Cathedral. Parishes are welcome to include the order in the Twenty Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Life Marriage and Family Sunday Mass). The rite is from the Order of Celebrating Matrimony.

BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES

After the Homily, the priest invites the married couples to stand and face each another or to turn to one another while sitting if they are elderly,

On the anniversary of that celebration
at which you joined your lives in an unbreakable bond
through the Sacrament of Matrimony,
you now intend to renew before the Lord
the promises you made to one another.
Turn to the Lord in prayer,
that these vows may be strengthened by divine grace.

The couple renews their commitment in the following words.

The husband:

Blessed are you, Lord,
for by your goodness I took **N.** as my wife.

The wife:

Blessed are you, Lord,
for by your goodness I took **N.** as my husband.

Both:

Blessed are you, Lord,
for in the good and the bad times of our life
you have stood lovingly by our side.
Help us, we pray,
to remain faithful in our love for one another,
so that we may be true witnesses
to the covenant you have made with humankind.

The Priest:

May the Lord keep you safe all the days of your life.
May he be your comfort in adversity
and your support in prosperity.
May he fill your home with his blessings.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

280. Then follows the Universal Prayer or Prayer of the Faithful in the form usual at Mass, or prayer in common in the form provided here:

Priest:

Let us call upon the mercy of God the almighty Father,
who in his most provident plan
willed that the history of salvation
be signified in marital love and fidelity.
(marital love, fidelity and fruitfulness.)

Response: Renew the fidelity of your servants or Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader:

Holy Father, who are called faithful,
requiring and rewarding the observance of your covenant,
be pleased to fill with your blessings these your servants
who celebrate the (twenty-fifth, fiftieth, sixtieth) anniversary
of their Marriage. **R.**

Holy Father, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit
enjoy from eternity
perfect oneness of life and communion of love,
grant that these your servants
may always remember and faithfully keep
the covenant of love they made in the Sacrament. **R.**

Holy Father, who in your providence
order all the experiences of human life
so as to lead the faithful to share in the mystery of Christ,
grant that these your servants,
serenely accepting both good times and bad,
may strive to cling to Christ and live for him alone. **R.**

Holy Father, who willed that the partnership of Marriage
should be an example of Christian living,
grant that all married couples
may be witnesses in the world
to the mystery of your Son's love. **R.**

281. **The Priest concludes the prayer:**

O God, in whose plan
family life has its firm foundation,
hear with compassion the prayers of your servants
and grant that,
following the example of the Holy Family,
they may praise you without end
in the joy of your house.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

If appropriate, at the Presentation of the Gifts the husband and wife may bring the bread, wine, and water to the altar.

FINAL BLESSING

286. At the end of Mass, the Priest blesses the couple and those present either in the usual manner or with a more solemn formula, for example, in the following way:

The priest/deacon invites those present to stand to receive the blessing:

Bow down for the blessing.

Then the Priest, with hands extended over the couples, says:

May God the all-powerful Father
grant you his joy.

All: Amen.

May the Only Begotten Son of God
stand by you with compassion in good times and in bad.

All: Amen.

May the Holy Spirit
always pour forth his love into your hearts.

All: Amen.

Finally, he blesses all present, adding:

And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered here,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

