

Liturgy of the Word

In the scripture readings proclaimed during Catholic weddings, we hear of God's steadfast love for his people and of our call to make the whole of our lives a response to that love. It is a love story that began at creation and culminated in the death and resurrection of Jesus, God's only beloved Son. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, the love of God poured out for us is made visible in the world. It is a love to which you will bear witness through the love you share as husband and wife.

After the scripture readings are proclaimed, the priest or deacon will deliver a homily based on the readings and on the Church's theology of marriage. The purpose of the homily is to help everyone present better understand the Word of God in the context of the celebration of marriage.

Choosing Your Readings



It is customary for the bride and groom to choose one reading from the Old Testament, a Responsorial Psalm, a reading from the New Testament, and a reading from the Gospels. Before the Gospel is read, an Alleluia or Gospel Verse is sung. For the Psalm and Alleluia, you will likely work with your parish music director to learn which settings are available to you. To assist you in better understanding and selecting your readings, each scripture passage is followed in this booklet by a brief commentary called "The Word Brought Home."

Read through these selections and the commentaries that follow them. Choose one that you want used for your wedding and indicate your choice on the selection form, using the letter-number combination that appears in the heading for the reading. Also record the page number.

The number you see in parentheses is the lectionary number for that reading. The lectionary is the book of scripture readings we use for liturgical celebrations. This number will help your presider or his delegate mark the lectionary for your rehearsal and wedding.