

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

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
14 FEBRUARY 2021

INVITATION TO PRAYER

After the homily, the priest says:

The married couple(s) of our parish who has (have) indicated that they are celebrating 25, 50, or more years of Marriage this year is (are) invited to please stand.

My friends, in recognition of 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.

RENEWAL OF COMMITMENT

At this time, renew your commitment to one another by repeating after me:

First the husband(s):

Blessed are you, Lord, *(Blessed are you, Lord,)*

for by your goodness *(for by your goodness)*

I took *(I took)*

(say the name of your spouse)

as my wife. *(as my wife.)*

Now, the wife (wives):

Blessed are you, Lord, *(Blessed are you, Lord,)*

for by your goodness *(for by your goodness)*

I took *(I took)*

(say the name of your spouse)

as my husband. *(as my husband.)*

Both together:

Blessed are you, Lord *(Blessed are you, Lord)*

for in the good and the bad times of our life

(for in the good and the bad times of our life)

you have stood lovingly by our side. *(you have stood lovingly by our side.)*

Help us, we pray, *(Help us, we pray,)*

to remain faithful in our love for one another,

(to remain faithful in our love for one another,)

so that we may be true witnesses *(so that we may be true witnesses)*

to the covenant you have made with humankind.

(to the covenant you have made with humankind.)

The priest, with hands extended, concludes:

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 blessing. Through Christ our Lord.

(Amen.)

Let us all stand and profess our faith together.

The Profession of Faith is said.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Priest

God our almighty Father has given married love, its faithfulness, and its fruitfulness, a special significance in the history of salvation. Let us now turn to him in prayer.

Deacon / Lector

For all members of the Church, may the Holy Spirit draw us ever more deeply into the communion for which we are made, let us pray to the Lord.

For an increase in vocations to married life, that young people may not be afraid to enter this sacred covenant, let us pray to the Lord.

For world leaders, may God give them fortitude in upholding his plan for marriage and family, let us pray to the Lord.

For all married couples, especially those celebrating a significant anniversary this year, may their love continue to be a real sign and experience of God's love for us, let us pray to the Lord.

For all who are grieving broken relationships, may God's presence offer comfort and healing, let us pray to the Lord.

For an end to the Coronavirus pandemic and for all those suffering because of it, let us pray to the Lord.

For those who have died, may they rejoice in the communion of heaven with the angels and saints, let us pray to the Lord.

Priest

Loving God, trusting in your saving power, we offer these prayers through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Mass continues in the usual manner until after the Our Father.

BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES

After the Our Father, "Deliver us" is omitted and the following is said:

We praise you, O God,
we bless you, Creator of all things,
who in the beginning made man and woman
that they might form a communion of life and love
We also give you thanks
for graciously blessing the family of your servants
so that it might present an image of Christ's union
with the Church.

Therefore look with kindness upon them today,
and as you have sustained their communion
amid joys and struggles,
renew their Marriage covenant each day,
increase their charity,
and strengthen in them the bond of peace,
so that, (together with the circle of their children
that surrounds them,)
they may forever enjoy your blessing.
Through Christ our Lord. *(Amen.)*

The priest continues with "Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you ..." The Mass continues in the usual manner until the Blessing and Dismissal.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The priest blesses the couple and those present:

Priest

The Lord be with you. *(And with your spirit.)*

Deacon

Bow down for the blessing.

Priest

May God the all-powerful Father grant you his joy. *(Amen.)*

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

May the Holy Spirit always pour fourth his love into your hearts.
(Amen.)

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

Deacon

Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord. *(Thanks be to God.)*