

THE ORDER OF BLESSING MARRIED COUPLES WITHIN MASS ON OTHER OCCASIONS

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
14 FEBRUARY 2021

INVITATION TO PRAYER

After the homily, the priest stands and says:

All married couples present are invited to please stand.

Today's observance of World Marriage Day reminds us that the covenant of marriage is a real sign and experience of God's love for us. As we thank you for answering the call to the vocation of marriage and pray that God may bless you and strengthen your witness, I invite you to pray in silence and renew before God your sacred matrimonial commitment to each other.

A brief period of silence is observed.

The priest continues:

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 these and all married couples, 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.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

With hands outstretched, the celebrant concludes the Universal Prayer saying:

Almighty and eternal God, you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage that it has become the sacramental sign of your Son's union with the Church as his spouse.

Look with favor on your servants whom you have united in marriage, as they ask for your help and the protection of the Virgin Mary.

They pray that in good times and in bad they will grow in love for each other; that they will resolve to be of one heart in the bond of peace.

Lord, in their struggles let them rejoice that you are near to help them; in their needs let them know that you are there to rescue them; in their joys let them see that you are the source and completion of every happiness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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 forth 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.)*