Reading Selections

In the Scripture Readings heard during Catholic Weddings, we hear of God's steadfast love for his people and of the call to make the whole of our lives a response to that love. Take some quiet time with your loved one to read through each Scripture passage, reflecting together on the message of each Reading, and select which readings you most identify with.

Also consider 2 family members, friends, or loved ones who would be able to serve as Readers at your Wedding. These loved ones should be comfortable speaking in public, as they will be memorable participants in your Wedding Day.

FIRST READING

Please select one reading from the Old Testament:

- 1. Genesis 1:26-28, 31a
- 2. Genesis 2: 18-24
- 3. Genesis 24: 48-51-58-67
- 4. Tobit 8:4b-8
- 5. Proverbs 31: 10-13,19-20,30-31
- 6. Song of Songs 2: 8-10,14,16a, 8:6-7a
- 7. Sirach 26: 1-4,13-16
- 8. Jeremiah 31:31-32a,33-34a

SECOND READING

Please select one reading from the New Testament:

- 1. Romans 8:31b-35,37-39
- 2. Romans 12: 1-2
- 3. Romans 15: 1b-3a,5-7,13
- 4. 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
- 5. 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a
- 6. Philippians 4:4-9
- 7. Colossians 3:12-17
- 8. Hebrews 13:1-4a,5-6b
- 9. 1 John 3:18-24
- 10. 1 John 4:7-12
- 11. Revelation 19: 1,5-9a

GOSPEL READING

This is read by the Priest. You may request one from the following:

- 1. Matthew 5:1-12a
- 2. Matthew 5:13-16
- 3. Matthew 7:21, 24-29
- 4. Matthew 19: 3-6
- 5. Matthew 22:35-50
- 6. Mark 10:6-9
- 7. John 2:1-11
- 8. John 15: 9-12
- 9. John 15: 12-16
- 10. John 17: 20-26

Wedding Readings

First Reading

Please select one reading from the Old Testament:

- 1. Genesis 1:26-28, 31a
- 2. Genesis 2: 18-24
- 3. Genesis 24: 48-51-58-67
- 4. Tobit 8:4b-8
- 5. Proverbs 31: 10-13,19-20,30-31
- 6. Song of Songs 2: 8-10,14,16a, 8:6-7a
- 7. Sirach 26: 1-4,13-16
- 8. Jeremiah 31:31-32a,33-34a

Second Reading

Please select one reading from the New Testament:

- 1. Romans 8:31b-35,37-39
- 2. Romans 12: 1-2
- 3. Romans 15: 1b-3a,5-7,13
- 4. 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20
- 5. 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a
- 6. Philipians 4:4-9
- 7. Colossians 3:12-17
- 8. Hebrews 13:1-4a,5-6b
- 9. 1 John 3:18-24
- 10. 1 John 4:7-12
- 11. Revelation 19: 1,5-9a

Gospel Reading

This is read by the Priest. You may request one from the following:

- 1. Matthew 5:1-12a
- 2. Matthew 5:13-16
- 3. Matthew 7:21, 24-29
- 4. Matthew 19: 3-6
- 5. Matthew 22:35-50
- 6. Mark 10:6-9
- 7. John 2:1-11
- 8. John 15: 9-12
- 9. John 15: 12-16
- 10. John 17: 20-26

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a "Male and Female he created them."

Reader: A reading from the book of Genesis.

Then God said:

"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea,
the birds of the air, the cattle,
and over all the wild animals
and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

God created man in his image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, saying:

"Be fertile and multiply;
fill the earth and subdue it.
Have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things that move on earth."
God looked at everything he made, and he found it very good.

The word of the Lord

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

The Lord God said:

"It is not good for the man to be alone.

I will make a suitable partner for him."

So the lord god formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air,

And he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; Whatever the man called each of them would be its name.

The man gave names to all the cattle, all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals;

but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the Lord God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep,

he took our one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.

The Lord God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man.

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 'her 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

Genesis 24: 48–51,58–67 First Reading #3 "In his love for Rebekah, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother"

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

The servant of Abraham said to Laban:

"I bowed down in worship to the Lord,
blessing the Lord, the God of my master Abraham,
who had led be on the right road
to obtain the daughter of my master's kinsman for his son.

If, therefore, you have in mind to show true loyalty to my master,
let me know;

but if not, let me know that, too.
I can then proceed accordingly."

Laban and his household said in reply:

"This thing comes from the Lord; we can say nothing to you either for or against it. Here is Rebekah, ready for you; take her with you, that she may become the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has said."

So they called Rebekah and asked her,
"Do you wish to go to this man?"
She answered, "I do."
At this they allowed their sister Rebekah and her nurse to take leave, along with Abraham's servant and his men.
Invoking a blessing on Rebekah, they said:

"Sister, may you grow into thousands of myriads; and may your descendants gain possession of the gates of their enemies!"

Then Rebekah and her maids started out;

they mounted their camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and went on his way.

Meanwhile, Isaac had gone from Beer-lahai-roi and was living in the region of the Negeb.

One day toward evening he went out in the field, and as he was looking around, he noticed that camels were approaching.

Rebekah, too, was looking about, and when she saw him, she alighted from her camel and asked the servant, "Who is the man our there, walking through the fields toward us?" "That is my master," replied the servant.

Then she covered herself with her veil.

The served recounted to Isaac all the things he had done.

Then Isaac took Rebekah into his tent;
he married her, and thus she became his wife.

In his love for her, Isaac found solace after the death of his mother, Sarah.

The word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God.

Tobit 8:4b-8 First Reading #4 "Allow us to live together to a happy old age."

Reader: A reading from the Book of Tobit.

On their wedding night, Tobiah arose from bed and said to his wife, "Sister, get up. Let us pray and beg our Lord to have mercy on us and to grant us deliverance."

Sarah got up, and they started to pray and beg that deliverance might be theirs. They began with these words:

"Blessed are you, O God of our fathers; praise be your name forever and ever.

Let the heavens and all your creation praise you forever. You made Adam and you gave him his wife Eve to be his help and support;

And from these two the human race descended.

You said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone; let us make him a partner like himself.'

Now, Lord, you know that I take this wife of mine not because of lust,

But for a noble purpose.

Call down your mercy on me and her, and allow us to live together to a happy old age."

They said together, "Amen, amen."

The word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God

Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31 "Those who fears the Lord are to be praised"

Reader: A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife, her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her, has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil, all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax, and makes cloth with skillful hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff, and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor, and extends her arms to the needy. Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting; the woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
Give her a reward of her labors, and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a "Set me as a seal upon your heart."

Reader: A reading from Song of Songs

Hark! My lover- here he comes springing across the mountains, leaping across the hills.

My lover is like a gazelle or a young stag.

Here he stands behind our wall, gazing through the windows, peering through the lattices.

My lover speaks; he says to me,

"Arise, my beloved, my dove, my beautiful one, and come!"

"O my dove in the clefts of the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, let me see you, let me hear your voice, for your voice is sweet, and you are lovely."

My lover belongs to me and I to him. He says to me:

"Set me as a seal on your heart,
as a seal on your arm;
For stern as death is love,
relentless as the nether-world is devotion;
its flames are a blazing fire.
Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away."

The word of the Lord

Sirach 26 1-4,13-16

"Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens,

The beauty of a virtuous wife is the radice of her home."

Reader: A reading from the Book of Sirach

Blessed the husband of a good wife, twice-lengthened are his days; A worthy wife brings joy to her husband, peaceful and full is his life.

A good wife is a generous gift bestowed upon him who fears the Lord; Be he rich or poor, his heart is content, and a smile is ever on his face.

A gracious wife delights her husband, her thoughtfulness puts flesh on his bones;

A gift from the Lord is her governed speech, and her firm virtue is of surpassing worth.

Choicest of blessings is a modest wife, priceless her chaste soul.

A holy and decent woman adds grace upon grace; indeed, no price is worthy of her temperate soul.

Like the sun rising in the Lord's heavens, the beauty of a virtuous wife is the radiance of her home.

The word of the Lord

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a "I will make a new covenant"

First Reading #8

Reader: A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

The days are coming, says the Lord,

when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers:

the day I took them by the hand

to lead them forth from the land of Egypt.

But this is the covenant I will make

with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord:

I will place my law within them, and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer will they have the need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord.

All, from the least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord

Reader: A reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us.

Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised, who also is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things, we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord

Romans 12:1-2,9-13 "Let love be sincere"

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans.

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, Holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

Let love be sincere;

Hate what is evil,
Hold on to what is good;
Love one another with mutual affection;
Anticipate one another in showing honor.

Do not grow slack in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

Rejoice in hope, endure in affliction, persevere in prayer.

Contribute to the needs of the holy ones, exercise hospitality.

The word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

We ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not please ourselves;
Let each of us please our neighbor for the good, for building up.
For Christ did not please himself.

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to think in harmony with one another, in keeping with Christ Jesus, that with one accord you may with one voice glory the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, then, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 "Your body is a temple of the Spirit"

Second Reading #4

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body;

God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you know that your bodies are members of Christ? Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Avoid immorality.

Every other sin a person commits outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you know that your body

is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore, glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a "Love is patient, love is kind"

Reader: A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

Strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts.

But I shall show you a still more excellent way.

If I speak in human and angelic tongues

but do not have love,

I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal.

And if I have the gift of prophecy

and comprehend all mystery and all knowledge;

If I have all faith so as to move mountains,

but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give away everything I own,

and if I hand my body over so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind.

It is not jealous, it is not pompous,

It is not inflated, it is not rude,

it does not seek its own interests,

it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury,

it does not rejoice over wrongdoing

but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

The word of the Lord

Philippians 4:4-9 "The God of peace will be with you."

Reader: a reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians

Brothers and sisters:

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.

Then peace of God that surpasses all

understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters,

whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Keep on doing what you have learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me.

Then the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord

Colossians 3:12-17 "And over all these put on love"

Reader: A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Colossians

Brothers and sisters:

Put on, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.

And over all these put on love,

that is, the bond of perfection.

And let the peace of Christ control your hearts, the peace into which you were also called into one Body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

And whatever you do, in word or in deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of the Lord

Hebrews 13: 1-4a, 5-6b "Let marriage be held in honor by all"

Reader: A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do no neglect hospitality,

for through it some have unknowingly entertained angels.

Be mindful of prisoners as if sharing their imprisonment, and of the ill-treated as of yourselves, for you also are in the body.

Let marriage be honored among all, and the marriage bed be kept undefiled.

Let your life be free from love of money,

but be content with what you have,

for he has said, "I will never forsake you or abandon you."

Thus we may say with confidence:

"The Lord is my helper, and I will not be afraid."

The word of the Lord

1 John 3:18-24 "Love in deed and in truth"

Reader: a reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Now this is how we shall know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts before him in whatever our hearts condemn, for God is greater than our hearts and knows everything.

Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us,
we have confidence in God
and receive from him whatever we ask,
because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him.
And his commandment is this:

we should believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ and love one another just as he commanded us.

Those who keep his commandments remain in him, and he in them, and the way we know that he remains in us is from the Spirit that he gave us.

The Word of the Lord

1 John 4:7-12 "God is Love"

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Saint John

Beloved, let us love one another,

because love is of God;

Everyone who loves is begotten byGod, for God is love. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.

In this way the love of God was revealed to us:

God sent his only begotten Son into the world so that we might have life through him.

In this is love:

Not that we have loved God, but that he has loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God.

Yet, if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brother to perfection in us.

The Word of the Lord

Revelations 19:1, 5-9a

Second Reading #11

"Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb"

Reader: A reading from the Book of Revelation

I, John, heard what sounded like the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying:

"Alleluia! Salvation, glory, and might belong to our God."

A voice coming from the throne said:

"Praise our God, all you his servants,
and you who revere him, small and great."

Then I heard something like a song of a great multitude, or the sound of rushing water or mighty peals of thunder, as they said:

"Alleluia! The Lord has established his reign,
our God, the almighty.

Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory.

For the wedding day of the Lamb has come,
his bride has made herself ready.

She was allowed to wear a bright, clean linen garment."

The angel said to me,

"Write this:

blessed are those who have been called
to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

The word of the Lord

Matthew 5:1-12a Gospel Reading #1 "Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the kingdom of God"

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up to the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,

for they will inherit the land.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you, and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me.

Rejoice and be glad,

For your reward will be great in heaven."

Jesus said to his disciples:

"You are the salt of the earth.

But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?

It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

You are the light of the world.

A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand,
where it gives light to all in the house.

Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds
and glory your heavenly Father."

Matthew 7:21-29 "A wise man built his house on rock"

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord'
will enter the kingdom of heaven,
but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven.

"Everyone who listens to these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock.

The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house.

But it did not collapse; it had been set solidly on rock.

And everyone who listens to these words of mine but does not act on them will be like a fool who built his house on sand.

The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and buffeted the house. And it collapsed and was completely ruined."

When Jesus finished these words, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.

Gospel Reading #4

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatsoever?"

He said in reply,

"Have you not read that from the beginning
The Creator made them male and female and said,
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
And be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?

So they are no longer two, but one flesh.

Therefore, what God has joined together, man must not separate."

One of the Pharisees, a scholar of the law, tested Jesus by asking, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

He said to him,

"You shall love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.

This is the greatest and the first commandment.

The second is like it:

You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

The whole law and the prophets depended on these two commandments"

Jesus said:

"From the beginning of creation,
God made them male and female.
For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother
and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.
So they are no longer two but one flesh.
Therefore, what God has joined together,
no human being must separate."

John 2:1-11 "The Wedding Feast in Cana"

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 the Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons.

Jesus said to the,

"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 servants who had drawn the water knew),

the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,

"Everyone serves the good wine first,

and then when the people have drunk freely, and 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.

John 15: 9-12 "Remain in my love."

Jesus said to his disciples:

"As the Father loves me, so I also love you.

Remain in my love.

If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy might be in you and your joy might be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you."

John 15: 12-16 "This is my commandment: love one another"

Gospel Reading #9

Jesus said to his disciples:

"This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

No one has greater love than this,

to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you.

I no longer call you slaves,

because a slave does not know what his master is doing.

I have called you friends,

because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father.

It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you."

John 17:20-23 "That they may be brought to perfection as one." Gospel Reading #10

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

"Holy Father, I pray not only for these, But also for those who will believe in me through their word,

> So that they may all be one, and you, Father, are in me and I in you, that they also may be in us, that the world may believe that you sent me.

And I have given them the glory you gave me, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may be brought to perfection as one, that the world may know that you sent me, and that you loved them even as you loved me."

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