

# Readings

Please choose **one** of each:

Old Testament [first reading] Pages 2-10

New Testament [second reading] Pages 11-21

Gospel Pages 22-28

Please email your reading choices to  
**[lperry@assumptionsp.org](mailto:lperry@assumptionsp.org)**

# Intercessions

Couples are invited to craft their own Intercessions.  
See Pages 29-31 for information and instructions.

Please email your completed Intercessions to  
**[mweyandt@assumptionsp.org](mailto:mweyandt@assumptionsp.org)**

# Old Testament Readings

## O1

Genesis 1:26-28, 31a

**Male and female he created them.**

### 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, and 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 the earth.”

God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good.

The word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God.)

## O2

Genesis 2:18-24

**The two of them become one body.**

### 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 out 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.  
(Thanks be to God.)

### O3

Ruth 1:16

**Wherever you go, there I will go.**

#### **A reading from the Book of Ruth.**

Ruth said to Naomi:

Entreat me not to leave you.  
And to turn back from following you.  
Wherever you go, there I will go.  
Wherever you stay, there I will stay.  
Your people shall be my people and your God shall be my God.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**O4****Allow us to live together to a happy old age.**

Tobit 8:4b-8

**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;  
praised 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 on her,  
and allow us to live together to a happy old age."

They said together, "Amen, amen."

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**O5****The woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.**

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

**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.  
(Thanks be to God.)

## O6

Ecclesiastes 4:9-11

### A reading from the Book of Ecclesiastes

Two are better than one,  
because they have a good reward for their toil.  
For if they fall,  
one will lift up the other;  
But woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.

Again, if two lie together,  
they keep warm;  
But how can one keep warm alone?  
And though one might prevail against another,  
two will withstand one.  
A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**Two are better than one.**

**O7**

Song of Songs 2:8-10, 14, 16a; 8:6-7a

**Stern as death is love.**

**A reading from the 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.  
(Thanks be to God.)





The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**O11 I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.**

Jeremiah 31:31-32a, 33-34a

**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 which 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 need to teach their friends and relatives  
how to know the Lord.  
All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**O12**

Hosea 2:18-20

**I will take you for my wife forever.**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea**

On the Day of the Lord, I will make for you a covenant  
with the wild animals,  
The birds of the air,  
and the creeping things of the ground.  
I will abolish the bow, the sword, and war from the land;  
I will make you lie down in safety.

I will take you for my wife forever;  
I will take you for my wife in righteousness and in justice,  
In steadfast love and in mercy.

I will take you for my wife in faithfulness;  
And we shall know the Lord.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

# New Testament Readings

**N1**

**What will separate us from the love of Christ?**

Romans 8:31b-35, 37-39

## **A reading from the Letter of Saint 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.

(Thanks be to God.)

**N2 Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.**

Romans 12:1-2, 9-18 or 12:1-2, 9-13

*For the short form, omit bracketed text.*

**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.

[Bless those who persecute you,  
bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice,  
weep with those who weep.

Have the same regard for one another;  
do not be haughty but associate with the lowly;  
do not be wise in your own estimation.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil;  
be concerned for what is noble in the sight of all.

If possible, on your part, live at peace with all.]

The word of the Lord.

(Thanks be to God.)

**N3**

**Welcome one another as Christ welcomed you.**

Romans 15:1b-3a, 5-7, 13

**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 to 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  
glorify 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.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**N4**

**Your body is a temple of the Spirit.**

1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

**A reading from the first 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 not know that your bodies are members of Christ?  
Whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit in him.  
Avoid immorality.  
Every other sin a person commits is outside the body,

but the immortal person sins against his own body.  
 Do you not 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.  
 (Thanks be to God.)

## N5

## If I do not have love, I gain nothing.

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:8a

### 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 mysteries 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, 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 with the truth.  
 It bears all things, believes all things,

hopes all things, endures all things.  
Love never fails.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

## **N6**

Ephesians 4:1-6

## **One Body and one Spirit**

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,  
urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,  
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,  
bearing with one another through love,  
striving to preserve the unity of the Spirit  
through the bond of peace: one Body and one Spirit,  
as you were also called to the one hope of your call;  
one Lord, one faith, one baptism;  
one God and Father of all,  
who is over all and through all and in all.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

## **N7            This is a great mystery, but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.**

Ephesians 5:2a, 21-33 or 5:2a, 25-32

*For the short form, omit the bracketed text.*

### **A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians**

Brothers and sisters:

Live in love, as Christ loved us  
and handed himself over for us.

[Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.  
 For the husband is head of his wife  
   just as Christ is head of the Church,  
   he himself the savior of the body.  
 As the Church is subordinate to Christ,  
   so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.]

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church  
 and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,  
 cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,  
 that he might present to himself the Church in splendor,  
 without spot or wrinkle or any such thing,  
 that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

For no one hates his own flesh  
 but rather nourishes and cherishes it,  
 even as Christ does the Church,  
 because we are members of his Body.

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother  
 and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

This is a great mystery,  
 but I speak in reference to Christ and the Church.

[In any case, each one of you should love his wife as himself,  
 and the wife should respect her husband.]

The word of the Lord.  
 (Thanks be to God.)

## **N8**

Philippians 4:4-9

**The God of peace will be with you.**

**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!



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.  
(Thanks be to God.)

## **N10**

Hebrews 13:1-4a, 5-6b

**Let marriage be held in honor by all.**

### **A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Brothers and sisters:

Let mutual love continue.

Do not 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.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**N11**

**Love in deed and in truth.**

1 John 3:18-24

**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.  
(Thanks be to God.)

**N12**

**God is love.**

1 John 4:7-12

**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 by God and knows God.  
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 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 brought to perfection in us.

The word of the Lord.  
(Thanks be to God.)

### **N13          Blessed are those who have been called to the wedding feast of the Lamb.**

Revelation 19:1, 5-9a

#### **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 the sound 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 linen represents the righteous deeds of the holy ones.)

Then 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.

(Thanks be to God.)

# Gospel Readings

**G1**

**Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.**

Matthew 5:1-12a

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**G2**

Matthew 5:13-16

**You are the light of the world.****A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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 lamp stand,

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 glorify your heavenly Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**G3**

Matthew 7:21, 24-29 or 7:21, 24-25

*For the short form, omit bracketed text.***A wise man built his house on rock.****A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### **G4**

**What God has united, man must not separate.**

Matthew 19:3-6

#### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Some Pharisees approached Jesus, and tested him, saying,  
 “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any cause whatever?”  
 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

#### **G5**

**This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it.**

Matthew 22:35-40

#### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

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 depend on these two commandments.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **G6**

**They are no longer two, but one flesh.**

Mark 10:6-9

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **G7**

**Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee.**

John 2:1-11

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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 Jewish ceremonial  
washings,  
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.  
Jesus told them,  
“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 good wine first,  
and then when people have drunk freely, an 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

## **G8**

John 15:9-12

### **A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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,

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**G9**

**This is my commandment: love one another.**

John 15:12-16

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

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 that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**G10****That they may be brought to perfection as one.**

John 17:20-26 or 17:20-23

*For the short form, omit bracketed text.***A reading from the holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

“I pray not only for my disciples,  
but also for those who will believe in me through their word,  
so that they may all be one,  
as 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, 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.

[Father, they are your gift to me.

I wish that where I am they also may be with me,  
that they may see my glory that you gave me,  
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Righteous Father, the world also does not know you,  
but I know you, and they know that you sent me.

I made known to them your name and I will make it known,  
that the love with which you loved me  
may be in them and I in them.”]

The Gospel of the Lord.

# Composing Intercessions for Your Wedding

Also known as the “Prayers of the Faithful” or the “Universal Prayers,” the Intercessions will constitute your first act of Christian service as a married couple as you pray for those in need of Christ’s love and healing. The liturgical norms of the Catholic Church say that these petitions “should be sober, be composed with a wise liberty and in few words, and they should be expressive of the prayer of the entire community (General Instruction of The Roman Missal, #71).”

Engaged couples at Assumption Church write the intercessions or petitions for their wedding. The intercessions should follow a simple three-part pattern that begins with an announcement of the people, institutions, or needs for which the assembly is invited to pray. A second statement identifies the specific request the community places before God. Last is the invitation to prayer. For example:

1. For peace in our world:
2. May all lands that suffer violence and injustice find peace and reconciliation.
3. We pray to the Lord (the Assembly then responds: “Lord, hear our prayer.”).

The intercessions should resemble each other in length and in wording.

Prepare four or five intercessions (petitions). The sequence of the intercessions usually progresses from larger issues to smaller issues. The first petition might be for a world issue or an issue with the global Christian community. The second petition could be for the Catholic Church or for a local community issue or something related to national government, work or education. The third petition might be for loved ones who have died or who are sick. The final petition is usually for the couple getting married.

Here are some examples of petitions:

**For the communion of all Christian churches: May all who follow Christ live in unity, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).**

**For the Church throughout the world. May our faith in the love God has for us be expressed in our love for one another, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).**

For the world in which we live: May all people live in safety and peace, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For the poor, the homeless, and for those who are unemployed. May our care and concern for those in need be a sign of God's love, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For the families and friends of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ gather here today and for those unable to be with us: May we support one another in times of need as we rejoice with one another today, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For all who are present here this afternoon: may we always be a source of support and encouragement to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ through lasting friendships and continued prayers, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For all committed couples: that they may continue to give, be able to forgive, and find happiness deepening with each passing day, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For all that are present: that we may savor the joy of being together, warm love, a long life, and loving friends, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For farmers: May the crops they grow continue to nourish us all, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For those in the military (or police): May their work promote a more peaceful and just world, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For teachers: May the work they do support and inspire the growth and development of children, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For our relatives and friends who are here with us today and for those who have gone before us: we remember in a special way our friends and family who could not join us today. May

we cherish every moment we have together, and be thankful for God's gifts all our lives, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For friends and family members who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith (especially \_\_\_\_\_): May our prayers today be joined to theirs, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, now beginning their married life together, that they may have divine assistance at every moment, the constant support of friends, the rich blessing of children, a warm love reaching out to others, and a lifetime of health and happiness, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: May the Lord bless them with many years together, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).

For \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_: May the love they share today continue to grow throughout their lives, we pray to the Lord (Lord, hear our prayer).