



ST. FRANCIS
IN THE FIELDS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Wedding Policies & Guidelines
at St. Francis in the Fields*

Welcome

We are honored that you are choosing to be married at St. Francis in the Fields. The clergy and staff want you to know we are looking forward to sharing this joyful experience with you.

This booklet has been prepared to assist you with planning your wedding at St. Francis. The guidelines are based on the *Book of Common Prayer*, our prayer book, and on the customs of our church. They are designed to offer information as outlined by the canons and customs of the Episcopal Church. Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God.

At St. Francis, the Rector is always the final authority on any question you may have concerning your wedding service. Weddings at St. Francis are available to church members who are in good standing for at least one year, their children, or members of another Episcopal church within the Diocese whose sanctuary is not large enough to accommodate the number of wedding guests anticipated.

All weddings at St. Francis follow the service called *The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage* which is found on pages 423-431 of the *Book of Common Prayer*. A copy of the service may be found at the end of this booklet. Please familiarize yourself with the service so that you may plan accordingly.

Getting Started ~ Setting the Date

As soon as you know your desired wedding date, it is advisable to verify the availability of St. Francis in the Fields by calling Melodie Fridley in the parish office at 502-228-1176. However, you must make an appointment and meet with one of our priests before any other plans are finalized. It is important for both the bride-to-be and the groom-to-be to be present at that meeting. No arrangements, which involve the church, church facilities or the priest who will perform the ceremony, are to be announced until the clergy's approval has been received. You will need to fill out the **Information Form** and return it to the parish administrator as soon as possible. This will ensure that we have all your personal information correct and that dates and times are listed for everyone involved.

While the couple may express their request for a specific priest to officiate, church clergy are often scheduled to officiate at weddings on a rotational basis based on other demands for their time and presence. There may be more than one clergy present, particularly if the Eucharist is to be celebrated.

Upon approval of the Rector of St. Francis in the Fields, clergy from other Episcopal parishes and/or representatives of other faiths or Christian denominations may participate in the service. For reasons of protocol and Canon Law, the officiating clergy always extends the invitation to another minister or faith representative.

Episcopal Church law requires at least 30 days' notice before a wedding takes place. Beyond that, there must be time for premarital counseling, so it is important to call the church office as early as possible to begin discussing marriage and wedding plans. A six-month to one-year period is ideal. If either party has experienced a divorce, permission for the priest to officiate at the ceremony must be obtained from the Bishop of the Diocese of Kentucky 60 days prior to the wedding date. This entails additional paperwork and additional time. In this situation, several months before the anticipated wedding date must be allowed.

At St. Francis, we do not normally have marriage services during the 40 days of Lent, i.e. from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day. While social custom prefers Saturday weddings, there are no theological or liturgical reasons to prefer one day over another. Reception facilities are often more readily available on Fridays, Sundays, and at other times.

Timeline of Wedding Preparations

1. Consult with a priest of St. Francis a minimum of 6 months before your wedding. You may contact the Parish Administrator to check for available dates. Your wedding goes on the St. Francis calendar only with the approval of the priest you are working with.
2. Work with the church wedding liaison. Plan to spend approximately an hour discussing the necessary procedures and policies. (60 days or more before the wedding.)
3. Work with the priest to complete the planning of wedding service details (60 days or more, before the wedding). If you are preparing a wedding bulletin, a copy must be approved by the priest at least two weeks before the wedding.
4. Work with Organist-Choirmaster to discuss music for the service. (60 days or more before the wedding.)
5. Work with the priest to complete four pre-marriage counseling sessions (30 days or more before the wedding), or arrange with the priest to have your counseling completed elsewhere.
6. Turn in all outstanding wedding fees to Parish Administrator (no later than the rehearsal date)

Pre-marital Counseling

All couples are required to receive instruction in the church's teachings concerning Holy Matrimony prior to being married. St Francis in the Fields has determined that couples who engage in a program of counseling supported by a period of guided dialogue with an experienced mentoring couple significantly enhance the success of their marriage. Accordingly, we ask that each couple meet with a member of the clergy and be willing to participate in St. Francis' pre-marriage preparation before a date for the wedding can be scheduled.

Planning the Ceremony

Our church wedding liaison is available to assist our clergy and couples in all phases of their planning connected with the ceremony at St. Francis in the Fields. She will be on hand to answer questions or help in making decisions about the wedding so that the couple and their families can focus on the wedding ceremony instead of the church details.

The liturgy for the solemnization of Holy Matrimony comes from the Book of Common Prayer. When the bride and groom are both baptized Christians, it is highly recommended that a celebration of the Eucharist be included as part of the wedding liturgy. When the Eucharist is included, the bread and wine is offered to all members of the congregation who wish to receive; in the Episcopal Church this includes all baptized Christians.

Rather than enhancing the ceremony, the inclusion of additional symbols (unity candles, family union medallions, etc.) dilutes the power of the marriage liturgy with its intentional focus on the exchanging of vows, symbolized by the giving and receiving of rings. These additional rituals are not part of the Episcopal tradition or liturgy and will not be included.

The congregation should follow the service and be encouraged to participate at the appropriate times. The congregation, as well as the bridal party, stands during much of the service. Standing is the historic posture taken by witnesses at a marriage because the Church acts on the belief that worship is the act of all present.

Marriage License

A marriage license from the state is a prerequisite to the Solemnization of Matrimony. The state of Kentucky requires both the prospective bride and groom to go to the County Clerk's Office with picture ID and proof of your Social Security number to receive a marriage license. A marriage license can be obtained at any Jefferson County Clerk's Office. An appointment is not required, but both parties must appear and provide the required information. There is no waiting period and a blood test is not required in Kentucky. (**NOTE:** The marriage license is only valid for thirty days, including the day it is issued; therefore, do not attempt to obtain the license more than a month in advance of your wedding date.) For further information and current fees, contact the **Jefferson County Clerk's Office at 527 Jefferson Street, Louisville, (502)-574-5700.**

The marriage license should be brought with you to the rehearsal, typically the night before the wedding and given to the priest or church wedding liaison. The appropriate certificates will be signed at the wedding and the marriage license will be mailed to the County Clerk's office after the ceremony.

Music

The church organist/choirmaster, Jim Rightmyer, plays at all weddings, unless he arranges otherwise. He supervises the music, after consultation with the bride and groom. Only sacred music according to the tradition of the church may be used. You should contact Dr. Rightmyer at least 60 days prior to your wedding date.

Flowers

Floral arrangements should enhance, but not dominate, the worship service. The florist will need to cooperate with the church wedding liaison in planning for and placing all flowers. Other than flowers at the altar, no other decorations are permitted inside the altar rail without the express permission of the clergy or church wedding liaison.

Rose petals may not be disbursed down the aisle neither is a runner permitted, as they become a hazard on the hard wood floor. We regret that we cannot permit bird seed or rice for reasons of safety.

Flowers at the altar may be left for the Sunday services. Parishioners of St. Francis in the Fields are given the opportunity to provide the Sunday altar flowers in memory of a loved one. If you wish to gift your flowers to the Church inform the wedding liaison one month prior to your wedding. The flowers will be placed in the Narthex and your gift will be noted in the bulletin.

Because the Episcopal Church follows a liturgical calendar, there will be certain liturgical symbols and decorations present during the course and seasons of the church year (i.e., Advent wreath.) The Church's seasonal environment is not altered for weddings.

Flowers and/or bows are not permitted on the altar railings. Flowers may be placed on the hooks provided on the front, outside doors of the Church and on the wrought-iron railings leading up to the Church entrance.

Florists must retrieve any equipment (urns, pedestals, etc.) immediately following the wedding. The Church will not be responsible beyond that time. If another pickup time is required, prior arrangements must be made with the Wedding Liaison.

The church wedding liaison will have a detail list to give to your florist of what is permitted.

Candles

Candle stands and candelabra are available for placement at the windows and throughout the church. The church will purchase all candles. Please see the fee schedule. The lighting of a unity candle is not part of the Episcopal tradition. Unity candles are not used in St. Francis in the Fields wedding liturgies. The focus of the celebration of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, as stated in scripture, is God's blessing on the man and the woman coming together as one and forming a separate union from their respective families. "But from the beginning of creation *he made them male and female. This is why a man leaves his father and mother, and the two become one flesh.* They are no longer two, therefore, but one flesh". *Mark 10:6-8.*

Photographs

You will need to arrange for photographing and/or videotaping the ceremony well in advance. These professionals must agree to abide by the wishes of the church as to where they may stand. ***No flash pictures are permitted during the ceremony.*** A conversation between the photographer (and/or the videographer) and the church wedding liaison is required before the day of the wedding rehearsal. The church wedding liaison will have a detail list to give to your photographer of what is permitted.

Rehearsal

The purpose of the rehearsal is to acquaint members of the wedding party with their respective roles in the service so that the service itself may be conducted in a relaxed but worshipful manner. The rehearsal is usually a day or two before the wedding. Rehearsals last approximately one hour. All participants in the wedding (attendants, ushers, parents, bridal party, readers) should participate in the rehearsal. Bring the marriage license to the church on the night of the rehearsal; it will be stored for use the following day.

The wedding liaison will be present to assist the clergy in directing the rehearsal and coordinating the order of procession. Please alert them to any special seating arrangements (grandmothers, etc.) and the number of pews needed to be reserved for family.

The priest in charge has final authority over the order of the marriage service and all matters concerning the wedding party once inside the church. It is encouraged to have a professional wedding consultant, but they may not have any say in the order of the rehearsal or the wedding ceremony at St. Francis.

Please remember that the rehearsal takes place in a house of prayer. Ask people to dress appropriately. Cell phones are not to be used in the church and should be turned off so they do not ring during the rehearsal. Absolutely no alcohol is allowed before or during the rehearsal.

Wedding Programs

Some couples desire to have a printed program for the service. Printed programs are not necessary for a St. Francis wedding, but you can have one if you'd like. Samples of programs used in weddings here at St. Francis in the Fields will be available to preview with the church wedding liaison to help you plan the format and layout of your leaflet. This needs to be done a month prior to the wedding. The priest or church wedding liaison must approve leaflets created externally. Leaflets must be available for rehearsal. We ask that you place instructions for the guests to turn off or put on vibrate their cell phones and beepers, and that no flash pictures be taken during this sacred ceremony. Exact wording can be provided.

Dressing Facilities

The bride and her attendants may dress at the church. The groom and ushers customarily dress at home, although arrangements can be made for them at the church. The bride's party should assemble in the Williamson Room two hours or less prior to the ceremony. Alcoholic beverages are absolutely not permitted on the premises prior to the ceremony.

Following the service, the bridal party is responsible for removing all personal articles from these rooms, leaving them neat and arranged as found. These rooms are to be vacated within one hour of the completion of the wedding ceremony.

Light snacks and beverages for the bridal party may be brought into the rooms. Ice can be provided by speaking to the St. Francis Wedding Liaison.

Acolytes

If acolytes and/or other lay liturgical ministers (lectors, chalice bearers) are needed or requested, the choices of these persons may be made by the couple only after consulting with the officiating priest. If desired, the church wedding liaison will arrange for an acolyte. A minimal fee is charged.

The Verger

The Verger opens and prepares the church before the wedding and cleans and secures the church after the service. The Verger's services are provided in the wedding fees. (See the fee schedule.) Normally, the church will be opened three hours before the scheduled wedding time and will be locked one hour following the end of the ceremony. If additional time is needed for the bridal party to access the church facilities, these arrangements must be approved at least thirty days prior to the wedding. An additional fee may be charged for the additional time requiring the sexton's services.

Receptions

Graves Hall is available for wedding receptions. The persons giving the reception must take all responsibility for the reception. All arrangements must be made and paid for by the couple. This includes dishes, silver, tablecloths, table set-up and take-down, caterers, dish washing, clean-up, and removal of food and beverage after the reception. St. Francis in the Fields is a smoke-free facility. See fee schedule.

All receptions at St. Francis will be arranged through our parish administrator, Melodie Fridley. Only professional caterers may be used for wedding receptions at St. Francis. Receptions should be limited to three hours. A member of the St. Francis staff will be present at all receptions for information and security only. They are not responsible for assisting the caterer, serving, or for clean-up purposes. These services must be provided by your caterer. Caterer is responsible for seeing that the kitchen and surrounding areas are left clean and returned to their original setting.

There can be NO OPEN BAR at receptions at St. Francis. Wine, beer and champagne may be served at the discretion of the bride and groom, as long as attractive, clearly-marked, non-alcoholic beverages are also offered. If champagne or wine is served, the caterer must supply the wine glasses. You must provide a bartender to pour wine, beer and Champaign and they must provide a liquor license to assume full liability.

Alcohol Policy

The use of alcohol at any function at St. Francis requires:

- clear and distinct labeling of all beverages and foods which contain alcohol
- availability of food
- attractive, non-alcoholic alternatives are offered as conspicuously as alcoholic beverages
- awareness of all federal, state and local ordinances regarding legal age, serving of obviously intoxicated persons and liability for the actions of intoxicated persons
- **The bride and groom ultimately assume full liability for their event and for their guests.**

Wedding Fees and Charges

Normal fees and charges are listed below but will be finalized after discussion and agreement with the Rector (or another presiding priest). All fees are subject to change. There is not charge for the use of the facility for your wedding ceremony. **All fees must be paid in full by the rehearsal date.**

Organist (The organist fee includes consultation and the service)	\$300
Church wedding liaison	\$100
Verger (The Verger fee includes set-up, clean-up, and vacuuming after a service)	\$150
Acolyte (optional).....	\$15
Window Candles (optional) (\$5 per window).....	\$60
Candelabra (optional) (7 available)	\$30 each
Leaflet (optional - based on 200 copies)	\$50
Altar Guild	\$50

Audio/Video Streaming at a very high quality is available upon request; the price is set by our contract employee depending on the complexity and other considerations. For more info, contact Simmons Falk at 502-387-1727.

Since the planning of the wedding, the rehearsal, and the wedding are not part of his or her normal duties, the priest who presides at your wedding should receive an honorarium of not less than \$300. The exact amount is up to you.

The priests are happy to receive (but do not expect) invitations to attend your rehearsal dinner and wedding reception. If you do wish to invite your priest (and their spouse), please do this at the same time other invitations are issued.

Reception Fees

Graves Hall.....	\$1,000
Verger	\$150
Church Wedding Liaison	\$100

Services include use of the facilities and cost of security. Facility use is for a three-hour period and must end no later than 10:00 p.m. Graves Hall holds 250 people. Verger services include being on property and ensuring the hall is set up and ready for Sunday morning. No clean-up of food/drink service or kitchen facilities is included.

Specific Details for the Sanctuary

- Seating in the sanctuary is 600 maximum (*extra chairs may be placed in side aisles*)
- The length of center aisle is 66'' (*runner **not** permitted*)
- The width of center aisle is 76''
- There are 16 pews on each side of the center aisle (*8 people per pew*)
- The walls and woodwork are white; trim is walnut
- The church is fully air conditioned
- Lighting is controlled by the church wedding coordinator.
- The narthex has walnut tables and chairs that may be used (9'L x 40'' W).

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The Episcopal Wedding Service in the Book of Common Prayer Concerning the Service

Christian marriage is a solemn and public covenant between a man and a woman in the presence of God. In the Episcopal Church it is required that one, at least, of the parties must be a baptized Christian; that the ceremony be attested by at least two witnesses; and that the marriage conform to the laws of the State and the canons of this Church.

A priest or a bishop normally presides at the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, because such ministers alone have the function of pronouncing the nuptial blessing, and of celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

When both a bishop and a priest are present and officiating, the bishop should pronounce the blessing and preside at the Eucharist.

A deacon, or an assisting priest, may deliver the charge, ask for the Declaration of Consent, read the Gospel, and perform other assisting functions at the Eucharist.

Where it is permitted by civil law that deacons may perform marriages, and no priest or bishop is available, a deacon may use the service which follows, omitting the nuptial blessing which follows The Prayers.

It is desirable that the Lessons from the Old Testament and the Epistles be read by lay persons. In the opening exhortation (at the symbol of N.N.), the full names of the persons to be married are declared. Subsequently, only their Christian names are used.

The Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, BCP p.423

At the time appointed, the persons to be married, with their witnesses assemble in the church or some other appropriate place.

During their entrance, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

Then the Celebrant, facing the people and the persons to be married, with the woman to the right and the man to the left, addresses the congregation and says

Dearly beloved: We have come together in the presence of God to witness and bless the joining together of this man and this woman in Holy Matrimony. The bond and covenant of marriage was established by God in creation, and our Lord Jesus Christ adorned this manner of life by his presence and first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee. It signifies to us the mystery of the union between Christ and his Church, and Holy Scripture commends it to be honored among all people.

The union of husband and wife in heart, body, and mind is intended by God for their mutual joy; for the help and comfort given one another in prosperity and adversity; and, when it is God's will, for the procreation of children and their nurture in the knowledge and love of the Lord. Therefore marriage is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by God.

Into this holy union N.N. and N.N. now come to be joined. If any of you can show just cause why they may not lawfully be married, speak now; or else for ever hold your peace.

Then the Celebrant says to the persons to be married

I require and charge you both, here in the presence of God, that if either of you know any reason why you may not be united in marriage lawfully, and in accordance with God's Word, you do now confess it.

The Declaration of Consent

The Celebrant says to the woman

N., will you have this man to be your husband; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love him, comfort him, honor and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to him as long as you both shall live?

The Woman answers

I will.

The Celebrant says to the man

N., will you have this woman to be your wife; to live together in the covenant of marriage? Will you love her, comfort her, honor and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all others, be faithful to her as long as you both shall live?

The Man answers

I will.

The Celebrant then addresses the congregation, saying

Will all of you witnessing these promises do all in your power to uphold these two persons in their marriage?

People We will.

A hymn, psalm, or anthem may follow.

The Ministry of the Word

The Celebrant then says to the people

The Lord be with you. *People* And also with you.

Let us pray.

O gracious and everliving God, you have created us male and female in your image: Look mercifully upon this man and this woman who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and

keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Then one or more of the following passages from Holy Scripture is read. If there is to be a Communion, a passage from the Gospel always concludes the Readings.

Genesis 1:26-28 (Male and female he created them)

Genesis 2:4-9,15-24 (A man cleaves to his wife and they become one flesh) Song of Solomon 2:10-13;8:6-7 (Many waters cannot quench love)

Tobit 8:5b-8 (New English Bible) (That she and I may grow old together)

1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind)

Ephesians 3:14-19 (The Father from whom every family is named) Ephesians 5:1-2,21-33 (Walk in love, as Christ loved us)

Colossians 3:12-17 (Love which binds everything together in harmony) 1 John 4:7-16 (Let us love one another for love is of God)

Between the Readings, a Psalm, hymn, or anthem may be sung or said. Appropriate Psalms are 67, 127, and 128.

When a passage from the Gospel is to be read, all stand, and the Deacon or Minister appointed says

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to _____. *People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Matthew 5:1-10 (The Beatitudes)

Matthew 5:13-16 (You are the light ... Let your light so shine)

Matthew 7:21,24-29 (Like a wise man who built his house upon the rock) Mark 10:6-9,13-16 (They are no longer two but one)

John 15:9-12 (Love one another as I have loved you)

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord. *People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

A homily or other response to the Readings may follow.

The Marriage

The Man, facing the woman and taking her right hand in his, says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my wife, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

Then they lose their hands, and the Woman, still facing the man, takes his right hand in hers, and says

In the Name of God, I, N., take you, N., to be my husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until we are parted by death. This is my solemn vow.

They loose their hands.

The Priest may ask God's blessing on a ring or rings as follows

Bless, O Lord, this ring to be a sign of the vows by which this man and this woman have bound themselves to each other; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The giver places the ring on the ring-finger of the other's hand and says

N., I give you this ring as a symbol of my vow, and with all that I am, and all that I have, I honor you, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (or in the Name of God).

Then the Celebrant joins the right hands of husband and wife and says

Now that N. and N. have given themselves to each other by solemn vows, with the joining of hands and the giving and receiving of a ring, I pronounce that they are husband and wife, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Those whom God has joined together let no one put asunder. *People Amen.*

The Prayers

All standing, the Celebrant says

Let us pray together in the words our Savior taught us.

People and Celebrant

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

If Communion is to follow, the Lord's Prayer may be omitted here.

The Deacon or other person appointed reads the following prayers, to which the People respond, saying, Amen.

If there is not to be a Communion, one or more of the prayers may be omitted.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon this man and this woman whom you make one flesh in Holy Matrimony. *Amen.*

Give them wisdom and devotion in the ordering of their common life, that each may be to the other a strength in need, a counselor in perplexity, a comfort in sorrow, and a companion in joy. *Amen.*

Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their life. *Amen.*

Give them grace, when they hurt each other, to recognize and acknowledge their fault, and to seek each other's forgiveness and yours. *Amen.*

Make their life together a sign of Christ's love to this sinful and broken world, that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy conquer despair. *Amen.*

Bestow on them, if it is your will, the gift and heritage of children, and the grace to bring them up to know you, to love you, and to serve you. *Amen.*

Give them such fulfillment of their mutual affection that they may reach out in love and concern for others. *Amen.*

Grant that all married persons who have witnessed these vows may find their lives strengthened and their loyalties confirmed. *Amen.*

Grant that the bonds of our common humanity, by which all your children are united one to another, and the living to the dead, may be so transformed by your grace, that your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven; where, O Father, with your Son and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign in perfect unity, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Blessing of the Marriage

The people remain standing. The husband and wife kneel, and the Priest says one of the following prayers

Most gracious God, we give you thanks for your tender love in sending Jesus Christ to come among us, to be born of a human mother, and to make the way of the cross to be the way of life. We thank you, also, for consecrating the union of man and woman in his Name. By the power of your Holy Spirit, pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this man and this woman. Defend them from every enemy. Lead them into all peace. Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts, a mantle about their shoulders, and a crown upon their foreheads. Bless them in their work and in their companionship; in their sleeping and in their waking; in their joys and in their sorrows; in their life and in their death. Finally, in your mercy, bring them to that table where your saints feast for ever in your heavenly home; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

or this

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The husband and wife still kneeling, the Priest adds this blessing

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favor look upon you, and fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace; that you may faithfully live together in this life, and in the age to come have life everlasting. *Amen.*

The Peace

The Celebrant may say to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you. *People* And also with you.

The newly married couple then greet each other, after which greetings may be exchanged throughout the congregation.

When Communion is not to follow, the wedding party leaves the church. A hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung, or instrumental music may be played.

At the Eucharist

The liturgy continues with the Offertory, at which the newly married couple may present the offerings of bread and wine.

Preface of Marriage

At the Communion, it is appropriate that the newly married couple receive Communion first, after the ministers.

In place of the usual post-communion prayer, the following is said

O God, the giver of all that is true and lovely and gracious: We give you thanks for binding us together in these holy mysteries of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that by your Holy Spirit, N. and N., now joined in Holy Matrimony, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love you; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

As the wedding party leaves the church, a hymn, psalm, or anthem may be sung; or instrumental music may be played.