

Gospel Reading for a Catholic Wedding

The third reading in a Catholic wedding is always chosen from one of the four gospels. These books of the Bible were recorded during the latter half of the first century A.D. Each tells the story of Jesus through the memory of a distinct Christian community, presenting a unique picture of his early life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Many of the gospel readings for Catholic weddings are not explicitly about marriage but about the love of Christians for one another and about the call to discipleship. The passages remind us that Christian marriage is a particular way of living out one's discipleship in Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL READINGS

MATTHEW 5:1-12a

F1

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.

MATTHEW 5:13-16

F2

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.

MATTHEW 7:21, 24-29

F3 - longer

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.

MATTHEW 7:21, 24-25

F3 - shorter

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.

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.

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

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 servers 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.

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

I have told you this so that my joy may be in you

and your joy may be complete.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

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.

JOHN 17:20-26

F10 - longer

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

" 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 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.

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.

JOHN 17:20-23

F10 - shorter

A reading from the holy gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

"Holy Father, 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 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.