

Wedding Liturgy FAQs for Priests

- When is a wedding allowed to be done within Mass?
 - When two baptized Catholics are marrying each other, it can be done within Mass
 - When it's two Catholics, it is normally within Mass, but the pastor can decide whether or not Mass is appropriate for a particular couple's circumstances
 - When one party is not a baptized Catholic, it cannot be done within Mass.
- Does going to a Wedding Mass on Saturday night count for the Sunday obligation?
 - Yes, any mass after 4pm satisfies that requirement.
- When is a wedding not allowed?
 - Sundays, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, or Holy Saturday
 - Pastors can restrict other dates or feasts as needed (e.g. Holy Days of Obligation)
- Which Mass & Readings do I use?
 - Unless it is a Solemnity, you use the Nuptial Mass and the readings for a wedding as chosen by the couple (even for wedding Masses on Saturday night)
 - If the day is a Solemnity, use the Mass of the day and readings of the day
 - You can replace one (1) reading of the day with a wedding reading
 - Non-Sunday Solemnities to watch out for:
 - January 1 – Mary, Mother of God
 - March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of Mary
 - March 25 – Annunciation
 - Easter Octave – the whole week after Easter
 - Friday after Corpus Christi Sunday – Sacred Heart of Jesus
 - June 24 – Nativity of John the Baptist
 - June 29 – Saints Peter and Paul
 - August 15 – Assumption of Mary
 - November 1 – All Saints Day
 - December 8 – Immaculate Conception of Mary
 - December 25 – Christmas
 - Watch out for proper vigils – **when there is a proper “vigil” (8x/year), a wedding on the night *before* the solemnity has to use the vigil Mass & readings**
 - A “vigil” is not the same thing as an “anticipated Mass,” which is the more accurate term for most Saturday evening Masses in a parish.

- Nuptial Masses are not allowed when there is a proper vigil
 - Saturday before Epiphany Sunday (between Jan 2-8) – If a wedding Mass is scheduled the Saturday night before Epiphany Sunday, you have to use the Mass and readings for Epiphany
 - Holy Saturday – No weddings of any kind are allowed
 - Saturday before Ascension – In Louisiana, Ascension is transferred from Thursday to the 7th Sunday of Easter. If a wedding Mass is scheduled the Saturday night before Ascension, you have to use the Mass and readings for Ascension
 - Saturday before Pentecost Sunday - If a wedding Mass is scheduled the Saturday night before Pentecost, you have to use the Mass and readings for Pentecost
 - June 23 – The night before the Nativity of John the Baptist - If a wedding Mass is scheduled the night before this Solemnity, you have to use the Mass and readings of the Solemnity, regardless of what day of the week it is
 - June 28 – the night before Saints Peter and Paul - If a wedding Mass is scheduled the night before this Solemnity, you have to use the Mass and readings of the Solemnity regardless of what day of the week it is
 - August 14 – the night before Assumption of Mary - If a wedding Mass is scheduled the night before this Solemnity, you have to use the Mass and readings of the Solemnity regardless of what day of the week it is
 - Dec 24- Christmas Eve
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- Do I use the Gloria for a wedding Mass in Lent and Advent?
 - Yes, wedding Masses *always* use the Gloria

 - Who is supposed to stand for the exchange of vows?
 - The entire congregation should stand before the exchange of vows.
(Cf. nos. 59, 93, 124 in the Order of Celebrating Matrimony)

 - Can a deacon witness the vows for a couple married during Mass?
 - No. The priest celebrant should witness the vows of the couple married during Mass.
 - If the deacon is an *immediate relative* of one of the parties, he can [request special permission](#) from the bishop.

 - Are the Universal Prayer (Prayer of the Faithful) after the vows required at a wedding?
 - Yes. The content of those prayers can be adapted and changed as appropriate for the couple and circumstances, but the ritual does not indicate that they can be omitted
 - What if it's not a Mass?

- The Universal Prayer is part of the wedding ritual, regardless of whether there is a Mass. Omitting the Universal Prayer tends to eliminate the Our Father, which should not be missed.
- Outside of Mass, the usual sequence of events is (see rubric 103A in the ritual):
 - Homily → Vows → Rings → Universal Prayer → Our Father → Nuptial Blessing → Blessing & Dismissal
 - When communion is given outside of Mass, the sequence is:

Homily → Vows → Rings → Universal Prayer → Nuptial Blessing → Our Father → Communion → Closing Prayer → Blessing & Dismissal

➤ Should I give communion at a wedding done outside of Mass?

- If both bride and groom are Catholic and request communion, they should have a Mass with their wedding
 - If there is a good reason that a Mass is not possible, then yes, communion can be distributed
- If either party is not Catholic communion should not be distributed because it acts as a countersign to the unity of the couple to have one receive and the other not.

➤ Should I distribute communion under both kinds for a wedding Mass?

- It is not required but it is specifically permitted by the ritual book for the couple, their relatives, and the witnesses