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## GUIDE FOR THE ORDER OF CELEBRATING MATRIMONY [OCM] ON A SATURDAY EVENING

The following are the liturgical implications for scheduling the Order of Celebrating Matrimony with Mass on a Saturday evening. The basic answer is in OCM 32, 34.

1. If the Nuptial Mass is scheduled on a Saturday evening *after* the anticipated vigil Mass in Ordinary Time, then the Ritual Mass for Matrimony and its ritual readings are used.
2. If the OCM is scheduled *during* a regularly scheduled Saturday evening parish Mass in Ordinary Time, then the Mass of that Sunday and its accompanying readings are used.
3. A Wedding Mass on a Saturday evening in Advent, Lent or Easter uses the Sunday Mass Propers and Readings. The First Reading is from the Old Testament, except during the fifty days of the Easter Season, when it is taken from the Book of Revelation [OCM 55]. At least one reading, which explicitly speaks of Marriage, must always be chosen [OCM 55].
4. If the date for the wedding Mass is on one of the Universal Holy Days, the Mass Propers of that day must be used, [NOT the Ritual Mass for Matrimony] as well as the readings from the Lectionary for that day. One reading which explicitly speaks of Marriage may be substituted from the Lectionary for Mass, Volume IV #801-805.
5. Weddings outside of Mass may always make use of the Ritual Readings without prejudice to the liturgical day.
6. There are certain days during the liturgical year when the Ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage may not be used. These days are holy to the worldwide church. The Church observes them with greater solemnity. Other rites, including the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, are secondary to what we are universally observing that day. Thus, the Mass of that Day is celebrated, with the addition of the Nuptial Blessing and, if appropriate, the proper formula for the Final Blessing. The ritual Mass for Matrimony may not be celebrated, and the readings are taken from the Lectionary for Mass as prescribed for that day. However, one reading which explicitly speaks of Marriage must be substituted.

## **LITURGICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN ADVENT AND LENT**

- The liturgical season also governs the celebration: If a Marriage is celebrated on a day having a penitential character, especially during Lent, the celebrant is to counsel the spouses to take into account the special nature of that day [OCM 32]
- When the ritual Mass for the Celebration of Marriage is selected, some other liturgical elements may be impacted in privileged seasons. For instance, if a nuptial Mass is on a weekday (inclusive of Saturday prior to 4pm) in Advent or Lent, the *Glory to God* would be sung or said and the color of vestments would be white, not violet.
- However, if a Mass on a Saturday evening in Advent or Lent, the *Glory to God* would NOT be sung or said, and the color of vestments would be violet, not white.

## **NOTE ON THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION**

Canon 1248.1 of the Code of Canon Law states: The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day. Therefore, if a wedding Mass is celebrated after the time allowed in a diocese for anticipated Masses of Sunday, one's Sunday obligation is fulfilled.