

ENTRANCE RITE:

The entrance song is played while the processional takes place. The bridal party enters in procession usually with the ministers and the priest at the head. When the entrance song finishes, the priest leads everyone in the sign of the cross.

GREETING:

The priest greets the congregation, and the people respond.

OPENING PRAYER:

The priest makes the opening prayer, after which the congregation is seated for the Liturgy of the Word.

FIRST READING:

The first reading is made, usually from the Old Testament, after which there is a responsorial psalm led by the cantor or the choir.

SECOND READING:

The second reading follows from the New Testament, and then the cantor leads the congregation in singing the Gospel Acclamation.

GOSPEL:

The congregation sits as the priest proclaims the gospel. After this he offers a homily drawn from the reading of the scriptures, on the topic of marriage.

STATEMENT OF INTENTIONS & EXCHANGE OF CONSENT:

The priest ask the couple to state their intentions towards each other, which they do. This is followed by the exchange of consent in which they declare their consent to be married, while exchanging their marriage vows.

BLESSING AND GIVING OF RINGS:

The wedding rings are blessed through prayer and the sprinkling of holy water. This is followed by the exchange of rings by the couple.

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER:

Often referred to as the Prayer of the Faithful or General Intercessions, the Universal Prayer is read by the cantor or lector and the congregation responds appropriately.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

The priest then offers the Eucharist prayer. This is followed by the Communion Rite and then a recital of The Lord's Prayer.

NUPTIAL BLESSING:

The couple kneels while the priest invites the congregation to join in prayer over them as he offers the nuptial blessings.

LAMB OF GOD:

The priest breaks the Eucharist bread while the congregation sings the "Lamb of God".

COMMUNION:

The Body and Blood of Christ is offered to the couple and distributed among the congregation.

BLESSING & RECESION:

The priest says a blessing over the couple after which they sign the marriage license and he dismisses everyone with a phrase like, "Go in peace to glorify the Lord with your life" and everyone present respond, "Thanks be to God."

**WEDDING MUSIC BEGINS TO PLAY,
AND THE RECESSIONAL FOLLOWS.**