



The Rite of Marriage

A small covered table should be set up before the Cross and Gospel table at the foot of the sanctuary. On it should be placed the blessing Cross, crowns, the chalice of blessing, the cruets of a little wine and water (each separately), as well as the Khnana. Two candles may also be placed on the table.

The rings and the neck Cross for the Bride should also be made ready before hand and the marriage commitment to be signed by both parties.

The Bride stands to the right of the Bridegroom, the Best man to his left, and the Matron of Honor to the right of the Bride. There is no celebration of the Rite of Marriage during all of Holy Lent.

The Betrothal

After the entire bridal party has processed to the altar, the priest asks the bridegroom:

Priest: Our brother (name of groom), you have come with a good will, pure heart and undivided love, to take for yourself (name of bride) as a wife and helper, according to the Christian law, Gospel teachings and Apostolic commandments. You are aware that marriage is the union of Christians who have received Holy Baptism, confessed Jesus Christ as their Lord and has no separation until death. Do you promise to keep and stand by her in health and in sickness, and during any trials and hardship except that of adultery? Just as the Apostle Paul commands, "Husbands love your wives just as Christ loved His Church, and gave Himself for her" and again he says, "A wife is bound to her husband as the body is to the spirit and as flesh is to the bones." Again he writes, "Let the husband provide his wife the affection due her." It is also written in the Old and the New Testaments, "a man shall leave his mother and father and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." Do you (name of



Deacon: Amen.

Priest: May Christ perfect this work in you, and make his peace and tranquility abide among you and grant you success; may he bless and preserve you, and give you the blessing of sons and daughters. May he save you from oppressive men, evil demons and from sinful passions. May you remain in love and harmony all the days of your life, by the prayers of Our Lady Mary the Blessed, St. John the Baptist, and by the prayers of the prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors all the Saints of our Lord. Amen.

Deacon: Amen.

The Priest blesses the ring(s) with this prayer:

Priest: Bless, our Lord and God, this/these ring(s) with divine benediction. Complete their fellowship with heavenly blessings and perfect this work that they have lawfully begun, in the compassion of your grace, you who gladdens his worshippers with his gifts, Lord of all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit forever. (+)

Deacon: Amen.

The Rite of the Blessing of the Cup of Betrothal

Priest: Glory to God in the highest, glory to God in the highest, glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good hope to humanity, now and forever. Amen.

Priest: Amen. Bless my Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father in Heaven, holy is your name. Your Kingdom come. Holy, holy, holy are you, our Father in Heaven. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Angels and men cry to you,



Deacon: My tongue is the pen of a skilled scribe; He is fairer in his appearance than the children of men.

Priest: Mercies are poured out upon your lips; wherefore God has blessed you forever.

Deacon: Gird the sword upon your thigh, O mighty one; Your majesty and your glory shall triumph.

Priest: Ride upon the word of truth and the meekness of righteousness; your law is in the fear of your right hand.

Deacon: Your arrows are sharp, and the heathen shall fall under you; in the very heart of the King's enemies.

Priest: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a right scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

Deacon: You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Therefore, God your God has anointed you.

Priest: With the oil of gladness above your fellows; myrrh, cassia and stacte.

Deacon: All your garments are sweet-smelling; out of the principal palace and from my house they have made you glad.

Priest: The King's daughter has stood up in glory; and the Queen is on your right hand.

Deacon: Vested in clothing of the gold of Ophir. Listen, O my daughter, and consider and incline your ear.

Priest: Forget your own people and your father's house. That the King may greatly desire your beauty.

Deacon: For he is your Lord, worship him. And the daughter of Tyre shall worship him.



Priest: And the rich, also, among your people will seek your face with offerings. All the glory of the daughter of the King is from within.

Deacon: And her clothing is adorned with fine gold. With offerings shall she come to the King.

Priest: And after her shall they bring the virgins her companions; and they shall go forth with joy and gladness.

Deacon: And they shall enter the palace of the King; instead of your fathers shall be your children.

Priest: Make them rulers in all the earth; that your name might be remembered throughout all the generations.

Deacon: That your name might be remembered throughout all the generations. Therefore shall the heathen praise you forever and ever.

Speak, speak, O Church of our Savior, Bride of the King, for your beauty is fair and comely.

Priest: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; from everlasting to everlasting, Amen and Amen.

God is the Existent One from everlasting, he in whose love betrothed to himself a Bride.

Deacon: My heart is overflowing with good matters; and I will speak of the things which I have made touching the King.

God is the Existent One from everlasting, he in whose love betrothed to himself a Bride.

Deacon: Let us pray. Peace be with us.

Priest: Build up, O my Lord by your word, and bring to completion by your Good News. Make a foundation in your loving-kindness for this deed which your servants have begun.



Deacon: Amen.

Priest: May your health be two-fold, equally in body and soul; may your wealth be doubled, in heaven and on earth.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: May the shadow of the illustrious Cross keep you by night and by day; may your house prosper and advance so that you may rejoice with it at all times.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: When you stretch forth your right hand, may the fist of the Lord be with you; and when you stretch out your left hand, may his help accompany you.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: May our prayers be accepted and our petitions be granted on your behalf; may you be a father of great children, and may a priest come forth from them.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: May the glorious Trinity grant us every blessing; and may God be glorified in you and let us all say Amen. (+)

Deacon: Amen.

The Priest then removes the crown from the head of the Bridegroom.

Blessing of the Bride

The Priest places his right hand upon the head of the Bride and recites these blessings.



Priest: God who blessed the righteous, bless this bride who has been crowned; adorn her inwardly with loveliness and outwardly beautify her with excellence.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Look down from heaven Righteous One and bless your handmaid and her husband; by your right hand she was created, may she be kept by your grace evermore.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Grant her goodness, life, and health from your treasures; grant her requests in fullness by your mercy.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Make her as lovely as Rachel and may her seed be as Joseph; bless her womb as that of Leah, that she may mother many.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Fill her soul with righteous hope like Elizabeth and Aaron; and may her children be like Eleazar and Ithamar.

Deacon: Amen.

Priest: Let your handmaid, Lord, be blessed with words of benediction and by the prayers of your saints all the days of her life; that she may ascribe praise and glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen. (+)

Deacon: Amen.

The Priest then removes the crown from the head of the Bride.

**Blessing of the Groomsman
Blessing of the Bride's Maid**



The Final Sealing (Khutama)

The Priest then takes up the blessing Cross and recites this final sealing prayer upon the Groom, Bride, Best Man and the Matron of Honor, as well as upon the congregation:

Priest: Bless, Oh my Lord. By your commandment.

Deacon: The commandment of Christ our Lord, glory be to his holy name.

Priest: Upon you glorious bridegroom, you detectable rose wreathed in the crown of the heavenly Bridegroom. Upon you beautiful and pure bride, who are adorned with the grace of the Church. Upon you honorable best man, who depicts the type of John the Baptist. Upon you lovely and revered bridesmaid and upon this assembly in its entirety, may the Lord bless you and enrich you with his grace. May the peace and mercy of our God and Savior Jesus Christ rest upon you at all times, now and forever. Amen. (+)

All: Amen.