

Highlights of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, 2nd ed.

The long-awaited revised ritual for the Sacrament of Marriage has been approved. Use of the rite began September 8, 2016. Beginning December 31, 2016, this becomes the official marriage rite **and no other edition may be used**. A brief overview of its history and notable changes in the rite follows.

- ⊗ The first post-Conciliar Rite of Marriage, the *Ordo Celebrandi Matrimonium*, was issued in 1969.
- ⊗ The second typical edition was issued in 1990; Rome approved an English translation and granted the *recognitio* of the rite in June, 2015.

The basic structure of the rite remains the same. Changes (underlined) include:

- An expanded introduction with a more extensive theological commentary and pastoral instructions on preparing couples for Marriage
- Two forms for the entrance, each with a liturgical procession, and entrance song
- After the sign of the cross and greeting, two choices are offered for an introductory admonition by minister to couple and congregation.
- The Penitential Act is explicitly omitted.
- The Gloria is sung or said (added with the third edition of the Roman Missal.)
- Additional choices of O.T. and N.T Scripture readings;
- One reading that specifically refers to marriage must be used. See asterisks.
- The Consent remains as is with two forms, offered as a declaration or by questions and answers. The Sarum rite form (“for richer or poorer”) is retained.
- Two options for the reception of the consent now are given, followed by a sung acclamation “Let us bless the Lord / Thanks be to God.” Alternate acclamations are allowed.
- Names of husband and wife are commemorated in Eucharistic Prayers I, II and III.) See the Ritual Masses for marriage in the third edition of the Roman Missal.
- A new translation of the three Nuptial Blessings (available with third edition of the Roman Missal) is given. Musical notation of NBs is included in the ritual book.
- Rite for use outside Mass—no significant changes. It is more user-friendly with the inclusion of one option for the Nuptial Blessing reprinted in place as well as the reprinting of the full text of a Communion Rite.
- The rite between a Catholic and a Catechumen or a Non-Christian is largely unchanged. Recitation of the Lord’s Prayer between Prayers of the Faithful and Nuptial Blessing was added.
- Three new appendices:
 - Sample versions of Prayers of the Faithful
 - Rite for Blessing an Engaged Couple
 - Blessing a Married Couple within Mass on the Anniversary of Marriage
- Adaptations for the United States
 - Alternate form of consent formula based on United Kingdom’s Sarum Rite
 - Cultural Adaptations common among Spanish-speaking communities
 - Blessing and giving of coins (arras) between bride and bridegroom.
 - Blessing and imposition of the wedding cord or lasso (lazo) or the veil before the Nuptial Blessing
- NOTE: The Nuptial Blessing remains in its place following the Lord’s Prayer