

MASS OR LITURGY OF THE WORD?

A wedding celebrated as part of the Mass would consist of the Liturgy of the Word (scripture readings and homily), the Rite of Marriage and the Eucharist. You may also choose to celebrate your wedding without a Mass, which then consist of the Liturgy of the Word, the Rite of Marriage and the blessing. In making your decision, you will want to consider the following questions:

1. *What is your relationship to the Sunday Eucharist?*

Are we faithful to the Church's Sunday prayer?

Have we committed ourselves to be part of that Sunday worship?

In light of the answers to these questions, is a Mass or a Liturgy of the Word the better context for the celebration of Marriage?

2. If one of you is not in communion with Roman Catholic Church (and so is not able to share Holy Communion if the Mass is celebrated), you may want to consider having only the Liturgy of the Word.

3. *Who will your guests be?*

Is the celebration of the Eucharist the best way to help them to be with you and pray with you at your wedding? If many of your guests are from outside the Catholic community, you may want to consider celebrating the your wedding in a Liturgy of the Word.

Some people think that a couple as not really married unless the wedding takes place at Mass. This is simply not true. Be open and honest with the staff member with whom you will be preparing your wedding and make the decision which will provide the best context for prayer and celebration.