

Blessing for an Engaged Couple

The following introduction is an excerpt from the second appendix of *The Order of Celebrating Matrimony*, the official liturgical text used for celebrating Catholic weddings. We encourage use of this blessing in parishes or in homes of engaged couples soon after a couple decides to marry.

The Order of Blessing an Engaged Couple

Among the responsibilities of Christian spouses and the ways in which their apostolate is exercised, in addition to the upbringing of children, the assistance offered to engaged couples, so that they may better prepare themselves for Marriage, is clearly of considerable importance. The honorable betrothal of Christians, therefore, is a special occasion for two families, appropriately celebrated with some ceremony and with common prayer, so that, upon receiving the divine blessing, what is joyfully begun may in its own time be joyfully completed.

This celebration must be adapted to suit particular circumstances.

When the engagement is celebrated within the confines of the two families, one of the parents may appropriately preside at the rite of blessing. If a Priest or a Deacon is present, however, then the office of presiding more appropriately belongs to him, provided that it is clear to those present that the rite is not a celebration of Marriage itself.

The order supplied here, therefore, may be used either by the parents, or by a Priest, a Deacon, or another layperson, who, while maintaining the chief elements and structure of the rite, should adapt the individual parts to the circumstances.

If the engagement has already taken place, this order of celebration may also be used when couples are brought together for catechetical preparation for Marriage. A betrothal or a special blessing of an engaged couple, however, is never to be combined with the celebration of Mass.

This Order of Blessing is comprised of
The Introductory Rites
Reading of the Word of God
Prayers (Intercessions)
Prayer of Blessing
Conclusion of the Rite