LITURGICAL GUIDANCE FOR NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK
AND WORLD MARRIAGE DAY
FEBRUARY 7-14, 2016

OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Archbishop Charles Chaput, in his recent January 28 letter, invited all priests in the parishes and institutions where they serve to observe National Marriage Week and World Day of Marriage this February 7-14, 2016. Most Catholics will encounter their pastors and priests with the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy as an occasion to promote the dignity of Christian Marriage. What follows is liturgical guidance for your consideration.

- **Sample intentions for the Universal Prayer from Sunday, February 7-14, 2016:**

  For all engaged couples preparing for Marriage,
  that they may look to Christ and his Church
  for an understanding of this Sacrament
  and help each other mature in fidelity to the Gospel and the Christian way of life.
  *Let us pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer.*

  For all married couples,
  that they may mirror more fully the union between Christ and his Church
  and have the blessings of fruitful, faithful and permanent love for one another.
  *Let us pray to the Lord./Lord, hear our prayer.*

- **Consider the blessing of married couples** within or outside of Mass on either Sunday, February 7 or 14, or some convenient time during week. See the Order for the Blessing of a Married Couple, *Book of Blessings*, Chapter One, III. Also,
consider the blessing of engaged couples in a similar way. See the Order for the Blessing of an Engaged Couple, Book of Blessings, Chapter One, VI.

- Announce in the Parish Bulletin that the Friday after Ash Wednesday, February 12, 2016, a Lenten day of penance and abstinence might also be the occasion to pray and sacrifice for the benefit of Marriage. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Call to Pray initiative provides more information on making this connection, see http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/take-action-now/call-to-prayer/index.cfm.

World Day of Prayer for Marriage on February 7, 2016


- Include Saint Valentine in the Third Eucharistic Prayer, if this is the Eucharistic Prayer that will be used for Sunday’s Mass.

- See Worldwide Marriage Encounter for additional resources for this Sunday observance, see http://wmd.wwme.org/.


Pastors and priests, might consider inviting parishioners and parish groups to place the intention to pray for the protection of the dignity of Christian Marriage in their personal prayers, during periods of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, as they pray the Holy Rosary, and with prayers that begin meetings or classes and with grace before meals, especially during this upcoming National Marriage Week and the World Day of Prayer for Marriage 2016.