

Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary at Home

Celebrating a wedding anniversary allows you to mark a significant time in your lives. As a couple, you may wish to celebrate alone, with friends, or with extended family. Whatever you decide, it is important and good to honor your memories.

You may look forward and backward to understand things from a different perspective. You may choose to focus on how your marriage affects current relationships with your family and friends, or take time to refocus your marriage and work some things through.

Some ways to celebrate include:

- ✂ Taking the time to reminisce about “the good old days.”
- ✂ Assembling a booklet with sections including headings such as “Memories,” “Changes,” “Good Times,” “Hard Times,” “What We’ve Learned Through the Years.” You may wish to use writings, drawings, and photographs with captions to record your memories.
- ✂ Planning a second honeymoon (revisiting the honeymoon spot, if you’d like).
- ✂ Planning a special meal together.
- ✂ Utilizing the following prayer service as a couple or with family and friends.

Prayer Service

Call to Prayer

Couple: Blessed be God who has been good to us in so many ways. Blessed be God now and forever.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Scripture Reading

Corinthians 13:4-8

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interests, it is not quick-tempered, it does not rejoice over wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Have two partially-filled glasses and a third glass, which is empty.

Husband: Holy Creator of Love, we celebrate and renew our commitment to a life that is lived as one. We ask your divine protection from the daily troubles and selfishness that tend to separate us from each other. We ask your help so that we may always be awake to the needs of each other - needs both spoken and unspoken.

Wife: We ask for an abundance of your grace that we may always be devoted to each other and to our life of shared dreams, thoughts and feelings. May our path lead us to the fullness of life and to you. May our love give you glory.

Couple: We thank you for the gifts of past years as we place our hope in the confidence that whatever is begun here on earth will flower to fullness in heaven. As a sign of our desire to be united today and in the days to follow, we join our glasses as one now, and share a common cup of our covenant with each other and with you, our Lord and God. Amen.

Each partner now pours from an individual glass into a third, empty glass. (The couple may choose to share special memories at this time).

Renewal of the Vows of the Sacrament of Marriage

The couple joins hands and each says:

I, _____, renew my marriage vows. I promise to continue to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Closing Prayer

The couple prays the following:

Loving and gracious God, over and over again you show us that you are a God of love. At all times, you are friend and companion to us. Your joy is ever with us. In your generosity you invite us to partake in the banquet of life. You bless us in our day-to-day living. You balance our afflictions with joy and fill us with love for one another. We are grateful to you: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

If a family member or friends present, he/she may add the following prayer:

God our Father, you created man and woman to love each other in the bond of the sacrament of marriage. _____ and _____ praise you for your goodness, and thank you for the affection of family and friends. They pray for the gift of a long and happy marriage. Bless their lives with the fullness of your love for them. May they enjoy many more years of each other's companionship, in happiness and good health. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.