

Lectio Divina



Lectio Divina for February 13, 2025 Thursday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time National Marriage Week

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God, Creator of all things,
who in the beginning made man and woman
that they might form the marriage bond,
bless and strengthen the union of your servants,
that they may show forth an ever more perfect image
of the union of Christ with his Church.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, On Anniversaries of Marriage)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Genesis 2:18-25

The LORD God said: "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him." So the LORD God formed out of the ground various wild animals and various birds of the air, and he brought them to the man to see what he would call them; whatever the man called each of them would be its name. The man gave names to all the cattle,

all the birds of the air, and all the wild animals; but none proved to be the suitable partner for the man.

So the LORD God cast a deep sleep on the man, and while he was asleep, he took out one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. The LORD God then built up into a woman the rib that he had taken from the man. When he brought her to the man, the man said:

"This one, at last, is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called 'woman,'
for out of 'her man' this one
has been taken."

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh.

The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame.

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?



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If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Prayer (*Oratio*)

Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

Contemplation (*Contemplatio*)

Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

It is not good for the man to be alone. When have I felt most lonely? Who is most in need of my loving attention and concern?

I will make a suitable partner for him. How do I show respect for my spouse? How can I become a better partner to my spouse?

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and clings to his wife, and the two of them become one flesh. How do I show reverence for God's gift of human sexuality? What can I do to build and sustain unity in my marriage and family?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

Blessed are you who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways!

For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
blessed shall you be, and favored.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants
around your table.

Behold, thus is the man blessed
who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

(From Psalm 128)

Living the Word This Week

How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?

Learn more about God's plan for your marriage by reading *Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan* (<https://www.usccb.org/resources/pastoral-letter-marriage-love-and-life-in-the-divine-plan.pdf>).

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