

**Homily Outline for the Wedding of  
Scott Wheat and Mikaela Kalaskie  
Blessed Sacrament Church  
Springfield, Illinois  
November 30, 2024**

**† Most Reverend Thomas John Paprocki  
Bishop of Springfield in Illinois**

- I. Share background information about Mikaela and Scott.
  - A. Scott Wheat was born in Springfield, was raised by his uncle and aunt, and went to grade school and high school in Auburn.
    1. After high school, Scott went to welding school in Troy, Ohio, near Dayton for a little over a year. When he finished that, he entered the union iron workers and is now working in Decatur.
    2. I met Scott when he played hockey as a co-op player for Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, where I help coach the hockey team. After he graduated, Scott also served as an assistant coach for the hockey team for a couple of years, so it is a privilege for me to celebrate this Wedding Mass for one of my former players and a fellow coach.
  - B. Mikaela Kalaskie was born in Chatham. Her parents are Michael and Shauna, and she has one younger sister, Sophie.
    1. Mikaela went to Glenwood for high school and attended Illinois College in Jacksonville, where she majored in biology with a minor in kinesiology and psychology.
    2. She is working now as a nurse at a plasma donation center and is a volunteer fire fighter in Auburn.
  - C. Scott and Mikaela met through his best friend and her sister.
    1. They both have been going to Mass here at Blessed Sacrament Church for the past year and a half.

2. Father Michael Friedel, the Pastor here at Blessed Sacrament Parish, had Scott and Mikaela do an exercise where they answer a few questions in order to reflect on the sacrament they will soon receive.
3. In answer to the question, "Why are you doing this? Why this person? What makes you want to devote your whole life to this vocation?", Scott answered, "The reason I'm doing this is because I have truly found the woman I am ready to spend the rest of my life with, I've never been this happy, this free, this confident, before. Mikaela . . . really feels like she was made for me, and I was made for her. Everything from hunting to fishing to even going to pumpkin patches with her sister and seeing who could make it out of the corn maze the fastest, all of these things has made me realize that she is the one. . . . I now know what love is, I now know how God has made His plan for every person, I now understand the true meaning of 'I do, forever and always, I love you, thank you,' and so much more. I am devoting myself to Mikaela because from the second I met her I told her I loved her, I told her I was going to marry her, and I knew it from the start. For me it was a true love at first sight."
4. Mikaela answered this question saying, "I am devoting the rest of my life to Scott because he is my other half. Growing up it was always my sister and I and she was my person, however, after meeting Scott, I understood what it meant to have a perfect match. I did not believe I was ready to fall in love when Scott and I met, however, God always has a bigger plan than what any of us can ever imagine. God brought us together when both Scott and I lost our grandfathers and showed me that even in dark times there is light. I am marrying Scott because he supports my dreams even though we have very different passions and career goals. With our differences, he has also introduced me to so many experiences such as hunting and just enjoying nature. I once heard a quote that went along the lines of when something in marriage or life gets [difficult], will you quit or move on? Thinking back on that, I cannot imagine nor do I want to face any struggles in life without Scott by my side. He is truly the man of my dreams as he makes me smile and laugh every day."
5. In answer to the question, "When did you know this was the person with whom you wanted to spend the rest of your life?", Scott answered, "For me it truly was love at first sight. The first day I met her I told my friends this is the one I will marry, and here we are today as I make that

dream come true. I would have never guessed how strongly our love for each other and for God would grow and grow so quickly. It's hard to explain but I truly had a gut feeling that she was the one. It almost felt like God reached down and placed her in front of me and said here, this is your perfect person; hold her, cherish her, and love her from now to forever. I honestly feel that it was the biggest blessing I have ever received in my life. I am so thankful for her and who she's made me become."

6. Mikaela answered, "I knew Scott was the person I wanted to spend the rest of my life with when we were at the farm watching the sun set. The sun was still pretty high in the air, and it was kind of cloudy. However, the sun rays were shining through the clouds. I have always been told that that was heaven shining down. So as I was sitting there watching, Scott came over and sat down. We didn't really say anything, but we just sat there in each other's presence watching the sky. It was then that I realized that I did not want to go through life with anyone else. I wanted to watch the rest of our days' sunsets together and drink morning coffee together and decorate family Christmas trees together until we grow old. I want to be that old couple that still acts like teenagers together who have just fallen in puppy dog love together. And I truly believe that Scott and I have this never-ending love together."

II. Mikaela and Scott have set the tone for their wedding with the readings they selected for this Nuptial Mass.

A. In our first reading from the Book of Tobit (Tobit 8:4-8), we heard about the example of Tobiah and his wife Sarah praying on their wedding night.

1. We are here in church for the wedding of Mikaela and Scott because they want God to be part of their marriage and prayer to be part of their married life.
2. As Mikaela and Scott wrote in the welcome message in their wedding booklet for this Nuptial Mass, "At Mass, although it may not be self-evident, God through the Eucharist, brings together in His Church the entirety of Heaven. Jesus is present in the Word of God, the priest *in Persona Christi*, in the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of the Eucharist, and in the people gathered here today. He is calling us closer to Him in this very moment."

- B. In our second reading, St. Paul wrote of the “excellent way” of love, saying that love “never fails” because it “bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, [and] endures all things” (1 *Corinthians* 12:31 - 13:8)
  - C. In the Gospel from St. Mark (10:6-9), Jesus teaches that “what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”
  - D. What is love? It is “more than a feeling,” it is a decision to act in a certain way.
  - E. St. Thomas Aquinas says love is to will the best for the other person.
    - 1. The best that we can hope for someone is to get to heaven.
    - 2. Because you love each other, your primary vocation now will be to help each other get to heaven and, if you are blessed with children, to help them get to heaven.
- III. Example of holy marriage lived by the Holy Family: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.
- A. St. Joseph showed his love by his actions, not words.
    - 1. Notice that Joseph never says a word in the Bible.
    - 2. Joseph listens to the message of God delivered by an angel and always does the right thing.
  - B. Mary showed her love for Jesus in both good times and bad, e.g., she was with Him at the Wedding at Cana and at the foot of the cross.
  - C. Jesus is at the center of the Holy Family, and should be at the center of our lives.
    - 1. Story of the man who was having marital difficulties because he loved his wife too much.
    - 2. If you love your spouse as a god or goddess, you expect perfection!
    - 3. God must come first, and then everyone and everything else.

IV. "You must be strong with love, which is stronger than death."  
 - Pope St. John Paul II (June 10, 1979)

A. When he was elected Pope, he said two things we should especially remember: "Be not afraid" and "Open Wide the Doors to Christ."

V. Song by Martin Doman, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ"<sup>1</sup>

*Two thousand years ago, You came into our lives.*

*You came to bring our hearts back to the warmth of your love.*

*So we celebrate, we evangelize, we reconcile our hearts to you;*

*we celebrate, we evangelize, we reconcile our hearts to you.*

*Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.*

*Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.*

*For unto us a child was born to you and me.*

*He came to show that life could be life abundantly.*

*So we lift His name on high, we praise Him as we sing:*

*Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.*

*Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.*

*Jesus comes to us today, He's present in this place.*

*This Eucharistic meal is our life, our hope, our grace.*

*So we humbly come receive, we worship, we believe.*

*Open wide the doors to Christ, let Him come into your heart.*

*Open wide, receive His life, we have hope anew in Christ.*

May God give us this grace. Amen.

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Doman, "Open Wide the Doors to Christ," Compact Disk, *God's Goodness So Far* 1996-2000.