

10 gifts with heart

Papal blessing

You might not be able to send the newlyweds to Rome to meet the pope, but you can have his greetings sent to the couple. Order an ornate papal blessing on parchment from the Vatican's Office of Papal Charities. It's a reminder of the role of prayer in a successful marriage. It takes at least a month to receive, so order early.



Skip the registry and add some personality.

By **ASHLEIGH BUYERS**
Catholic Herald Multimedia Designer

Sometimes a person's creativity cannot be contained in the confines of a gift registry. It's important to pick out essential items, like flatware and blenders, but deviations from the list are OK and even welcome.

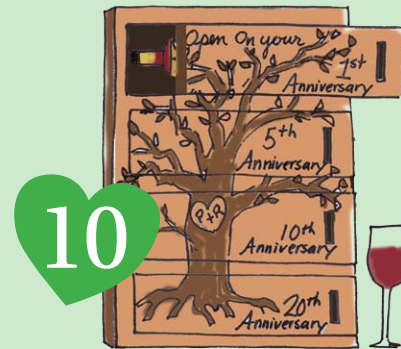
For their wedding, Rita and Peter Gudan decided on a potluck theme. In lieu of gifts, friends and family helped out with the photography, music and catering. While they did register at Amazon, they received many gifts not on their list.

"We were deeply grateful for everything, but the most meaningful gifts were definitely the help we received, the handmade and sentimental items," said Rita.

To inspire you for the upcoming wedding season, here are 10 gift ideas sure to delight your soon-to-be-married-loved-ones as they feather their nest.

Anniversary wine box

Biblically speaking, wine plays an important part in weddings. Make a wine box with a bottle for each special anniversary so the couple can celebrate one, five or 50 years of marital bliss, and if you choose wisely, this gift can have a long shelf life.



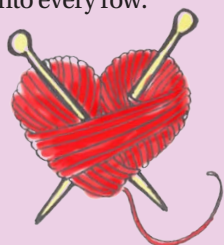
Religious art

If it's too late to order a papal blessing but you like the religious theme, visit one of the religious bookstores in the diocese for beautiful crucifixes or statues. If you paint, try refurbishing an old thrift shop statue or paint a religious scene on canvas.



Knits

What's more fitting for two people about to get hitched than something that fits and is made entirely out of knots? Your friends will recognize the love and effort that went into every row.



Rosaries for two

A family that prays together stays together. Whether it is a store-bought rosary or a handmade one, if it comes from you it will mean that much more.



For more information

Check out the *Catholic Herald's* "Wedding gifts with heart" board on Pinterest.

Buyers can be reached at
abuyers@catholicherald.com.

Birthday calendar

If you're the crafty type, make a birthday calendar for the couple's home. Marriage usually means more relatives and a lot of birthdays and anniversaries to remember. Do some sleuthing and find out some of the important dates for moms, dads, grandparents or siblings. A reminder can be a beautiful thing.



A year of dates

You've probably heard it said that it's important to keep dating after marriage. Pack a box with instructions and supplies for 12 fun dates the couple can enjoy through their first year of marriage.



Ingredients gift basket

Consider a culinary gift of a favorite recipe on a card and purchase everything they need to make it.



Recipe subscription

A gift subscription for a recipe site, such as cooksmarts.com, makes preparing weekly meals less of a hassle. The site provides meal options with overlapping ingredients so one grocery store run can keep them cooking all week.

Protect each other for better and for worse.



A marriage is a new beginning: a new beginning of love, a new beginning of family, and a new beginning of financial responsibility and obligation. Protect yourself and your spouse with life insurance from one of the World's Most Ethical Companies.

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Stamps

If you're looking for something personal and practical, check out personalized postage stamps, such as zazzle.com. The newlyweds will appreciate it when they start their thank you notes.

