

The Filipino Wedding Traditions

The Candles call us to be enlightened by Christ and remind us of God's presence in our lives and in the lives of the couple who are about to be married. Beginning at Baptism, the light of Christ was to be kept burning brightly in us by faith, worship, prayer, and living in accord with the Gospel. As the couple now enters into Marriage with trust in God and as each day they freely die to their self, and live for love of the other, they become the loving heart of a new family, founded by faith in God and his love for them, and open to all the children God will entrust to them and with whom He will bless them.

The coins show the couple's hope for a prosperous future and an abundance of God's joy in their life together. They believe that all good things are gifts from God and they daily entrust themselves to the holy will of God our Father. Respectfully and generously they will share responsibility for their family.

The ceremonial veil placed over the groom's shoulders and the bride's head shows the unity of the two families now joined as one. It is also a prayer for health and protection during all their married life. Their love is daily caught up into the very mystery of God's love in the Holy Trinity; thus their union must be wrapped in honor and respect. Their intimacy is to be healthy and holy; that by grace God may find his delight in them as Jesus' disciples.

The *Yugal*, a cord of silk or flowers, is entwined loosely around the necks of the bride and the groom in the form of a figure eight, symbolizing the infinity of the bond of marriage, a union designed by God for a lifetime. Their mutual fidelity in marriage is a living sign of God's divine mercy and infinite love for them and for his children. The Lord watches over all married couples out of jealous love and defends faithful families with a just and mighty hand.