

Name _____

Date _____

The Wedding Ring

In the Sacrament of Matrimony, the married couple acts as the primary sign. A ring has long been another symbol of marriage, and it has been incorporated into the wedding rite.

Symbolism and History

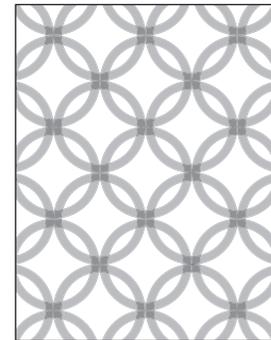
A ring—with its circle shape—is a symbol of eternity, and in a marriage, the ring is a symbol of eternal love. In the Middle Ages, it was the custom in some places for the husband to place the ring first on the bride's thumb, then index finger, then middle finger—where it remained—saying, “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” However, in the 600s, Isidore of Seville said that the wedding ring was to be worn on the fourth finger because it was believed that a vein from that finger carried blood to the heart.

The Gimmel Ring

In Europe during the 15th and 16th centuries, the gimmel ring became popular. It consisted of two interlocking rings. During an engagement period, the man wore one part of the ring, and the woman wore the other. At the wedding the rings were interlocked and then worn by the wife.

The Double Wedding Ring Quilt

The gimmel ring is believed to have inspired a pattern of interlocking rings that found its way to artworks like bed covers, ceramics, and other decorative objects in the early Americas. One such artwork is known as the double wedding ring quilt. The pattern for the quilt is made up of geometric shapes that look like rings linked together.



Make a Pattern

Find pictures of the double wedding ring quilt design. Cut out shapes of rings and circles from construction paper. Glue the pieces together on a separate sheet of construction paper to make your own wedding ring-inspired geometric design.