



JUBILANT MARRIAGES

SEPTEMBER Jubilant Marriages for Priests & Deacons

This simple set of monthly resources are designed to help you as a Priest or Deacon to fortify the marriages of couples in your parish. It's as easy as 1, 2, 3. Choose **ONE** Sunday to encourage married couples in a special way in a Homily. On that Sunday, add the Prayers of the Faithful intentions provided here, that are specific to marriage and family to your liturgy plans. **TWO**, add the Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit link and image to your digital communication sometime during the month of SEPTEMBER. **THREE**, add the Sunday Matrimony Moments content as often as you can in the parish Bulletin.

1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 9/12 & 9/27*

The monthly Homily Hints give you homily prep help to choose one Sunday to orient your preaching toward the health of married couples. Options are provided for 2 Sundays. Pick one, and strengthen the most important anchor in the life of the Church and society - married couples.

JM Prayers of the Faithful - These Prayers of the Faithful intentions support the relationships of married couples to help build a matrimony mindset in the next generation. Try to include these intercessions or something similar at a Sunday Mass this month.



2) *SEPTEMBER Digital Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit for Parishioners*

The digital Jubilant Marriages Toolkit magazine is packed with great content to equip marriages to be strong and inspire youth and young adults to embrace the power of sacramental Matrimony.

Use this Tool Kit COVER IMAGE and [LINK](#) to easily share the valuable content with your parishioners. Sharing options include: Parish e-newsletter, etc.

3) *Sunday “Matrimony Moments” for Bulletins*

Share this document download link with your parish Bulletin Editor. Four short **marriage-strengthening** content blocks are included for you to offer as a regular feature in the parish bulletin. Use one or all four each month, or simply as space allows. [LINK](#)

PLUS - Jubilant Marriages Week

The September Toolkit includes a special invitation for couples to try out new ways to PLAY & PRAY together during the first Jubilant Marriages Week.

Information is included below for parishes and clergy to support couples during Jubilant Marriages week!

JUBILANT MARRIAGES WEEK

Jubilant Marriages Week 2026

Sunday, September 27 through Saturday, October 3

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Louis - Office of Marriage & Family Life



Play together!



and

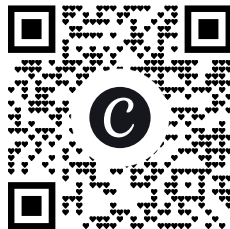
Pray together!



Married and engaged couples, you are invited to spend seven days with seven simple ways to PRAY & PLAY as a couple and grow more *JUBILANT* in your marriage!

Enjoy daily ways to PLAY together along with daily ways to PRAY together that are anchored in Scripture.

Visit www.Marriageandfamilystl.org/JMWeek for all the details.



Office of Marriage and Family Life - Archdiocese of St. Louis - MarriageandFamilystl.org

(Reproducible flyer for use in parish bulletins, newsletters, and more)



Jubilant Marriages Sunday

Praying for Married Couples September 27, 2026

Jubilant Marriages Week 2026 begins with Jubilant Marriages Sunday, September 27 and each parish in the St. Louis Archdiocese is invited to pray with a Matrimony-focus at each of their Masses that weekend.

(In this way, parishes across the Archdiocese can pray in solidarity with the Archbishop who will be offering the "Jubilee Mass for Married Couples" at the Cathedral that same Sunday.)

Below are the elements that can be included as part of a Jubilant Marriages Sunday Mass:

Introduction to Jubilant Marriages Sunday

Invite the congregation to join the parish in praying in a special way for married couples this weekend.

We pray with the intention for each couple in our parish to have a marriage that is holy and strong - jubilant - with the love of God shining in their lives together. This is the start of Jubilant Marriages Week, a time in which couples are encouraged to spend time **pray & play** daily to fortify their marriage with faith, hope and love.

Homily

Incorporate marriage-themed content in the Sunday homilies at each Mass. Help everyone reflect on the value of Matrimony as a daily lived Sacrament and not just a one-day ceremony and celebration.

Prayers of the Faithful

Add two petitions to the standard petitions for this Sunday. (Sample examples below)

- 1) For currently married couples to be fortified and energized with God's grace to sustain them in their lives together.
- 2) For all individuals who have suffered the loss of a spouse through death or divorce, that God will strengthen and heal them as they continue their journey forward.

Blessing of all Couples

Have all married and engaged couples stand for a blessing.

Pray that each couple is blessed and strengthened with matrimonial grace in the daily sacrament of their lives. Let couples know that the Archdiocese is inviting couples to take time to pray and play together each day this week. Encourage them to visit **MarriageandFamilySTL/JMWeek** for resources to help them do so.

Applause for Milestone Anniversaries

Invite couples with a special anniversary to stay standing to be honored. Invite applause for married couples who are celebrating a "decade" anniversary in 2026 and affirm the grace and faith, perseverance and resilience that got them through.

Pray Jubilant Marriages Parish Prayer

Invite everyone to pray the Jubilant Marriages Prayer before the final song and dismissal.

(Prayer cards are available from the Office of Marriage and Family Life)

Jesus, Your life, death, and resurrection was the greatest act of love of all time, pouring forth streams of life-giving grace in the Sacraments. Today, we ask you to renew our HOPE - through the daily lived Sacrament of Matrimony. Inspire us to cherish the extraordinary value of the Sacrament of Matrimony in our families and communities to renew familial love among all people. Enable us to build a Culture of Matrimonial Love in our parish - to energize couples who are stable, support couples in distress, empower couples who carry heavy burdens, and rekindle a matrimony mindset in our youth. Unleash the power of Matrimonial Grace in our parish - through the leadership of our clergy, the faithfulness of married couples, and the wisdom of the widowed, to inspire each parishioner to live as a joy-filled daily sign of the sacrificial love of God. Amen.

Invite couples to visit MarriageandFamilySTL.org/JMWeek for downloads, encouragement, prayer and more.

Office of Marriage and Family Life - Archdiocese of St. Louis - MarriageandFamilySTL.org



Jubilant Marriages Week in Parishes

Jubilant Marriages Week 2026 is Sunday, September 27 through Saturday, October 3. This special week offers married couples in your parish ideas and encouragement to enkindle their marriages with more faith and love! Below are some ways that parishes can help couples Play & Pray together during Jubilant Marriages Week. Parishes can also set up a Jubilant Marriages Week Table in the Narthex for the week with resources to help couples make the most of Jubilant Marriages Week.

Link to print the **JM Pray Together Page**. Link to the **JM Play Together Page**.

Sunday: Pray for Couples at each Mass.

Encourage couples during the homily that Matrimony is a powerful and living sacrament through their lives. Include marriage-themed petitions with the Prayers of the Faithful. Close the Mass with the Jubilant Marriages Prayer. Pray a blessing over couples and applause for milestone (10, 25, 50) anniversaries before dismissal. Have printed copies of the JM Week Play & Pray Together pages available for couples on the Jubilant Marriages Week table.

Monday: Prayer Walk for Parish Couples & Families

Invite singles, widows/widowers in the parish to meet up and walk around the parish grounds praying a Rosary for the married couples of the parish to be happy, healthy and holy.

Tuesday: The Power of Music

In solidarity with couples who are emphasizing life-long love songs this day, the parish facilities coordinator can arrange to play music in the parish office, or in a bell sequence (with automated church bells) outdoors, of a song or several songs that celebrate lifelong married love. Spotify Playlist example:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/40YPqqSHh9phdCULTz1nvh?si=NVQlvSTFSSGzSsx3cz2KCw>

Wednesday: Service Opportunities

To encourage couples as they reflect this day on ways to serve others - as a couple - create a flyer for the Jubilant Marriages Week Table that includes various parish and local Catholic service ministries with contact information for couples to discover new ways to serve those in need as a couple and/or as a family.

Thursday: Unplug and Read

Empower couples to strengthen their marriages during Jubilant Marriages Week by taking time to unplug from technology. Options include: reading a chapter from a book aloud and talking about the content together, or writing each other a love letter to read aloud and have a cozy conversation. Parishes can fuel the process by offering a selection of marriage-strengthening books for couples to borrow from the Jubilant Marriages Week table in the Church narthex.

Friday: Date Night Babysitting

Gather a couple of older singles to manage a team of young teens in need of service hours to provide babysitting for married couples with school-age children to go out on a date. Perhaps offer a room nearby for couples to bring beverages and board games for a fun and inexpensive date night together with other couples.

Saturday: REFRESH: Pardon, Picnic, and Prayer - "Adoration Under the Stars"

Plan for an extra confessor for Reconciliation before the Vigil Mass. Invite couples and families to have an informal picnic on parish grounds after Mass - BYO blankets, food and drink. Parish provides Spotify music "Celebrate Catholic Marriage playlist" with a Bluetooth speaker and bathroom access.

(Weather permitting) Close evening with outdoor "Adoration Under the Stars" with a simple altar, monstrance and candles for 30 minutes once the sun sets. (See more details on the following page.)

Encourage couples to visit **MarriageandFamilySTL.org/JMWeek** for conversation starters, prayers movie ideas, recipes, music links, and more great ways to make their marriages jubilant!

Office of Marriage and Family Life - Archdiocese of St. Louis - **MarriageandFamilySTL.org**



Adoration Under the Stars

Picnic & Prayer for Couples and Families

The team behind the Jubilant Marriages Initiative encourages parishes in the STL Archdiocese to consider planning a uniquely engaging time of prayer and community. On a Saturday, following the Vigil Mass, invite parishioners of all ages, including young families to Experience Adoration Under the Stars.

(This experience can be planned during Jubilant Marriages Week or at another time.)

Location

Find a grassy spot with plenty of room to spread out for picnicing and prayer.

This is the time to remind families to be intentional about **praying & playing** together daily to fortify their relationships with faith, hope and love. It may be optimal not to have to move people for the Adoration. Have the altar area partly set from the start, and then let families set their picnic and then also pray at their spot.

Picnic Food and Drink

Families bring their own food and drink, chairs and blankets and (optional) simple lawn games.

The parish supplies bathroom facilities and a first aid kit in case of any boo-boos.

Music

Use the LINK: "Celebrate Catholic Marriage" music playlist of lifelong love songs on Spotify for the picnic portion of the event. Use 1-2 Bluetooth speakers to keep set-up simple.

Then, when Adoration begins, switch to a sacred music playlist.

Evangelization Opportunity

This low-stress, yet beautiful

Having a simple yet beautiful prayer experience with families in a public space outdoors is a perfect opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to come for a really special twist on "bedtime prayers."

Adoration Altar

Shortly after sunset, adorn a temporary altar table with white linens, candles, and Monstrance. Play sacred music on a Bluetooth speaker. make sure it sounds VERY different from the music played earlier so that children notice this is a holy time of prayer. Add 1-2 spotlights and shine them directly at the monstrance.

Pray Jubilant Marriages Parish Prayer

Invite everyone to pray the Jubilant Marriages Prayer to begin the time of Adoration and Benediction (Prayer cards are available from the Office of Marriage and Family Life)

Jesus, Your life, death, and resurrection was the greatest act of love of all time, pouring forth streams of life-giving grace in the Sacraments. Today, we ask you to renew our HOPE - through the daily lived Sacrament of Matrimony. Inspire us to cherish the extraordinary value of the Sacrament of Matrimony in our families and communities to renew familial love among all people. Enable us to build a Culture of Matrimonial Love in our parish - to energize couples who are stable, support couples in distress, empower couples who carry heavy burdens, and rekindle a matrimony mindset in our youth. Unleash the power of Matrimonial Grace in our parish - through the leadership of our clergy, the faithfulness of married couples, and the wisdom of the widowed, to inspire each parishioner to live as a joy-filled daily sign of the sacrificial love of God . Amen.

Invite couples to visit MarriageandFamilySTL.org for downloads, encouragement, prayer and more.

Prayers of the Faithful & Matrimony Moments

Married Couples

We pray that married couples will foster a matrimony mindset by sharing candidly with their teen and young adult children about the blessings of their sacramental marriage that God empowers with Matrimonial grace.

Vocations

We pray that young adults will grow a renewed desire to build their lives on the foundation of faith and generosity - and follow God's call to the Sacrament of Matrimony or to a religious vocation.



Sunday Matrimony Moments

Sunday Matrimony Moments can help the married couples in your parish in a simple and practical way. These can reach the parishioners who might not come out for an event, but might try this simple little Sunday exercise to strengthen their marriage one-on-one at home. Couples can use them one-on-one to start a conversation over coffee on a Sunday morning and/or parish-based couple small groups can use them as well.

Parish Bulletin: Copy and paste each weekly CONTENT SECTION and LOGO IMAGE as a regular feature in the parish bulletin - as often as space allows. (See following page to use.)

Couples and/or Couple Small Groups: Offer copies or the download link to couples and parish-based couple small groups as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation.

Sunday Matrimony Moments include the following four elements each week:

- **Scripture from one of the Sunday readings**
- **Simple Couple Prayer based on a weekly theme**
- **Marriage Motivation Tip for couples to improve their marriage**
- **Conversation Question to fuel a conversation about the topic that week**

Sunday Matrimony Moments for SEPTEMBER, 2026

Sunday Matrimony Moments offer married couples a simple opportunity to grow in unity and holiness. Couples can use this content one-on-one for conversations on Sundays and build a habit of choosing heart-to-heart time together as a priority each week.

Parish-based couple small groups can also use these as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation. (Parishes can include these in the Sunday parish bulletin.)



Sunday Matrimony Moments

Couples, use this simple content to enrich your marriage one-on-one each Sunday

9/6 : Love That Unites

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." (Matthew 18:15-20)

Couple Prayer: Lord Jesus, You are present whenever we come together in Your name. Give us the courage to speak truth in love and the humility to listen when corrected. Strengthen our bond so that our home becomes a place where Your presence is felt. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Commit to approach difficult conversations privately and gently first. A soft word spoken in private often restores more than public confrontation ever could.

Couple Conversation Question: When was a time one of us "won the other over" through honest, loving dialogue, and how did it draw us closer to Christ?

Find more ways to make your marriage JUBILANT at www.MarriageandFamilySTL.org

9/13 : Forgiveness Without Limits

"I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times ... forgive your brother from your heart." (Matthew 18:22, 35)

Couple Prayer: Merciful Father, You have forgiven us an unpayable debt. Soften our hearts to forgive each other freely and completely. May the mercy we receive from You overflow into every ordinary moment of our marriage. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Keep short accounts. Forgive quickly, specifically, and from the heart—before resentment can take root.

Couple Conversation Question: What makes forgiveness hardest for us right now, and how can we better mirror the Father's mercy toward each other?

Find more ways to make your marriage JUBILANT at www.MarriageandFamilySTL.org

9/20 : God's Generous Ways

"Are you envious because I am generous? ... For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD." (Matthew 20:15; Isaiah 55:8)

Couple Prayer: Generous God, free us from comparison and envy. Teach us to rejoice in Your unique gifts to each of us and to celebrate Your abundant care in our life together. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Celebrate your spouse's successes and blessings as if they were your own. Generosity of spirit strengthens the marriage more than keeping score.

Couple Conversation Question: Where do we sometimes compare our marriage or circumstances to others, and how can we choose gratitude and trust in God's different timing for us instead?

Find more ways to make your marriage JUBILANT at www.MarriageandFamilySTL.org

9/27 : United in Mind and Heart – A Witness of Hope

"Complete my joy by being of the same mind, with the same love, united in heart ... Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vainglory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves."

(Philippians 2:2, 3)

Couple Prayer: Lord Jesus, You emptied Yourself in love. Help us put each other first and grow ever more united in mind and heart. May our marriage shine as a hopeful sign that inspires youth and young adults to embrace the beautiful Sacrament of Matrimony with courage and joy. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Daily choose small acts of humility—letting the other go first, listening without interrupting, or serving generously. These build the unity that draws others to the vocation of marriage.

Couple Conversation Question: How can our daily unity and mutual self-gift become a living invitation for the young people in our lives to see Matrimony as a joyful, grace-filled path worth pursuing?

Find more ways to make your marriage JUBILANT at www.MarriageandFamilySTL.org

Homily Hints: 9/12

For Sunday, September 12, 2026



The readings for the Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) inspires us to anchor our lives in forgiveness and in trusting the faithful love of God. Married couples need only to look to the generous forgiveness of God for the example of forgiveness to offer each other.

These Scripture reflections are the fruit of reflections by Allen and Marian Love, and their 54 years of marriage. Allen is a Permanent Deacon. Marian is a Spiritual Director, who gives days of reflection and is an adjunct instructor at Aquinas Institute. The Loves are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Valley Park.

First Reading

Sirach 27:30-28:7

First Reading - Forgive as We've Been Forgiven

This passage from Sirach points to our need for God's forgiveness as the motivation to forgive others whether or not they have earned our forgiveness, or have forgiven us. Life is too short to carry grudges or be mean spirited. We are called to extend the same compassion and mercy to others as God has bestowed on us.

Advice to married couples has been long standing – "Never go to bed angry with one another." Rather we should remember the grace of God's compassion and mercy that flows through us as sacramental gift. Life is too short not to give this to one another at every opportunity.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12

Responsorial Psalm - Praise God for His Generous Love

The Psalmist calls us to praise God for all of the blessings we have received: mercy, forgiveness, healing. God's generosity is greater than we can understand or imagine. Married couples who become more aware and grateful for God's generous love flowing into them, will embody their role and+ baptismal calling They become more generous and merciful towards one another as well as family, friends and coworkers.

Second Reading

Romans 14:7-9

Second Reading – Nothing Separates us From Christ

In this passage, Paul stresses that Christ, by his incarnation, death and resurrection, holds the same power over life and death. Therefore, we are joined to Christ permanently – nothing, not even death – can separate us from the love of Christ.

God's indwelling in husband and wife also dwells within the married relationship forever. Assured of that presence and love, we are secure. This awareness can help the couple see the interconnectedness of all people – all secure in God's love.

Gospel

Matthew 18:21-35

Gospel – Forgiveness Without Limits

In Matthew's Gospel today Jesus insists that there is no limit to how often we must be willing to forgive those who have offended us. He makes a connection between the generosity of the king for forgiving the servant's debts to God's forgiveness towards us.

Forgiveness is an ongoing need in human life. The adage, "Love means never having to say you are sorry" does not apply. As married couples the statements "I am sorry", "I forgive you", "Please forgive me" can never be exhausted.

Homily Hints 9/27

For Sunday September 27, 2026



The Readings for the Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) urge us to choose the virtue-rich path that leads to life, selflessly, through generous discipleship.

These Scripture reflections are the fruit of reflections by Allen and Marian Love, and their 54 years of marriage. Allen is a Permanent Deacon. Marian is a Spiritual Director, gives days of reflection, and is an adjunct instructor at Aquinas Institute.

The Loves are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Valley Park.

First Reading

Ezekiel 18: 25-28

First Reading – Choose the Path of Life

Using the contrasting images of a virtuous person who turns away from virtue and “dies” with another, a sinner who repents and “lives”, Ezekiel emphasizes how a change in behavior affects our relationship with God leading us to either death or life.

Married couples are called to be steadfast in their relationship of love to avoid the “death” of their marriage. The passage highlights that even if we fail in living fully our sacrament, the relationship can be restored to “life” if the partners are willing to work on the relationship together with the help of God’s healing grace.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 25: 4-5,6-7,8-9

Responsorial Psalm –

The Psalmist seeks God’s guidance in discerning God’s will for living in accordance with God’s truth. The Psalmist acknowledges God’s covenant and the Psalmist’s transgressions and seeks God’s mercy and direction for the path of life.

Married couples, while they retain their individual identities after marriage, have entered into a new relationship with God and each other in marriage. This relationship has its own dynamic that calls the couple to seek and discern God’s direction for their marriage and family as a couple. Couple prayer, in addition to individual prayer, will help couples discover God’s “path” for their marriage.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-11

Second Reading - Unity Through Selflessness

Paul exhorts the Philippians to live in a unity modeled on Christ that will be evidenced by their common outlook, selflessness and regarding others as more important than themselves.

The unity of the married relationship that is modeled on Christ is evident when their marriage is rooted in the love of Christ, when they share hopes and dreams for the future, when they support the other, and when the partners are willing to sacrifice personal interests for the sake of the relationship.

Gospel

Matthew 21:28-32

Gospel – Choose Generous Discipleship

Using a story of two siblings asked by their father to work in the vineyard, Jesus paints a picture of the call to discipleship, and the choice disciples are given in responding to the call to build God’s kingdom on earth.

Married couples face my choices in their married relationship. Choices for their family that are rooted in their relationship with Christ will be blessed with the grace they need to grow in faith as a couple and witness to their children the call to discipleship that they too receive