



JUBILANT MARRIAGES



Office of Marriage
and Family Life

AUGUST 2025

DISCIPLE-MAKING FAMILIES - FULL OF HOPE



PRIEST & PARISH TOOL KIT

MONTHLY RESOURCES & IDEAS

www.ARCHSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages

Jubilant Marriages Theme For AUGUST

*Fuel HOPE in Marriage
with JOY & Laughter*



Married couples with children face a unique challenge - to prioritize their marriage relationship FIRST in order to be better parents to their children.

The Jubilant Marriages Initiative focus for AUGUST encourages couples, priests and parishes to be mindful of the way that healthy marriage relationships are the best soil to cultivate discipleship in children.

With all the responsibilities of raising children, parents can feel like they are barely able to keep up. This month's Tool Kit offers resources and reminders for married couples to build a healthy family lifestyle in which young disciples of Christ grow strong in faith, HOPE and love!

Visit and share the link to the webpage: www.ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages with everyone in your parish. The page offers resource links to cultivate HEALTHY and resilient marriages powered with sacramental grace.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Jubilant Marriages Theme
- Scripture Reflection: 8/10 & 8/24
- August Intercessions
- Jubilant Marriages Prayer
- Gratitude Couple: the Halfmans
- Recommended Resources
- Events, Links, and More
- Ideas for Parents & Educators
- Hispanic Resources
- Helpful Contacts

Jubilant Marriages Accelerator Parishes

Parishes can actively participate as a Jubilant Marriages "Accelerator" to fortify and energize couples in an intentional way. There is no cost to the parish to participate.

Parishes can become a Jubilant Marriages Accelerator Parish at any time.

Contact Paul Duker at the Office of Marriage and Family Life: 314.792.7178 (Cell: 314.303.5060) to register and get started as a Jubilant Marriages Accelerator Parish.

Sunday Scriptures: 8/10

Homily Hints for Sunday, August 10, 2025



The readings for the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time contain key themes in the lives of all Christians and married couples – faith, hope, trust, awareness, and generosity. These are great touchpoints also for parents to embrace their role as “disciples making disciples” with their children.

These Homily Hints 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

Wisdom 18: 6-9

First Reading - Trust the Future to God

The Israelites knew God had chosen them when they took the risk to flee their oppression in Egypt and they placed their trust in God's promises. We are all faced with difficulties and challenges at times in our lives. The reading reminds us to remember God's past action in our lives and trust that God will continue to guide us in the present and future. Married couples can face various difficulties in their relationship, especially in raising children. At such times couples can benefit from: 1) spending time recalling how God has journeyed with them over the years and place their trust in God's continued presence in their relationship going forward and 2) sharing that confidence with their children.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 33: 1, 12, 18-19, 20-22

Second Reading - Trusting the Journey to God

Abraham did not understand God's call to leave his homeland and travel to a foreign country but he placed his faith and trust in God. Husbands and wives may have many dreams and many plans for how they want their careers, marriages, and family life to play out. Along the way, however, challenging opportunities or difficulties can present themselves. One or both spouses may have to make sacrifices, for the sake of the family. Confusion fear and doubt can shake a marriage when serious challenges arise. Life-threatening illnesses, disabilities, or behavior problems can be overwhelming for parents. Together, in prayer, couples can place their trust in God, like Abraham and Sarah, and move forward in faith with the strength they need, and at the same time set a powerful example for their children.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11: 1-2, 8-19 or 11: 1-2, 8-12

Gospel - Kingdom Living

Jesus tells his disciples that there is no need for fear for “God is pleased to give you the kingdom.” God invites us to build the kingdom on earth by living a “kingdom” life of sharing our lives and resources with others. We know if we are living a kingdom life by looking at what is most important to us. “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” In married life, couples who live God-centered lives put their marriage relationship first, and find greater strength for all their other relationships. The ever-present graces of the marriage sacrament gives them the wisdom and courage needed to make the most loving choices in their role as “disciple makers” to their children, extended family, friends, and acquaintances.

Gospel

Luke 12: 32-48

Sunday Scripture 8/24

Homily Hints for Sunday August 24, 2025



The readings for the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time remind us that we do not make our discipleship journey alone. Our family and parish community relationships help form us and can deepen our relationship with Christ. Married couples are encouraged to get equipped as disciple-makers in their families through enrichment opportunities such as Marriage Encounter and other marriage enrichment retreats and programming recommended through the Jubilant Marriages Initiative.

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

Isaiah 66: 18 - 21

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 117: 1, 2

"Go out to all the world and tell the good news!"

Second Reading

Hebrews 12: 5-7, 11-13

Gospel

Luke 13: 22-30

First Reading - Signs of God's Glory in People from Every Nation

The scene in the first reading is a great gathering of people from every nation. Gathered by God, God's glory will be revealed to them. They will become a living sign of God's presence to all the nations. We are all responsible for being living signs of God's glory through lives that embody forgiveness, compassion and love. In a particular way, married couples live out this mission by being witnesses of God's love in their love for each other and through their family and children. The grace of the sacrament of marriage makes God's love visible and tangible in the world.

Second Reading - The Blessings of Discipline

In the second reading, the author uses the word 'discipline' which often evokes the notion of punishment. The Greek word translated as 'discipline' actually refers to the process of teaching and formation. This is a more accurate way to understand discipleship. The passage encourages the hearers to regard the hardships and sufferings of life as teachable moments that open their eyes to new possibilities for growth. Each of us can acquire wisdom and confidence in God as we move through life. Married husbands and wives are in a unique position to remind one another, particularly in challenging times, that God has been and is with them in all situations. Each experience forms them and continues to prepare them for what lies ahead in their family and with their children.

Gospel - The Shared Journey of Salvation

In the gospel, someone from the crowd gathered to hear Jesus asks him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" Jesus' reply, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate" rejects the exclusivity implied in the question. The kingdom of God exists beyond simple membership in a particular group or church. Our faith is rooted in a person – Jesus the Christ. Discipleship with Jesus calls us to relationship. Our prayer, worship, sacraments and community of believers are all here to help us grow in our relationship with Christ. Marriage and family, like all meaningful relationships, requires effort. There are no shortcuts. There are no points in time to sit back on autopilot. Married couples are encouraged not to take their relationships for

Prayers of the Faithful For August

01

Married Couples

We pray that married couples with children will find strength and confidence from the power of Matrimonial grace to be effective as disciples making disciples within their home and family.

02

Youth Vocations and Marriage

We pray that young people will learn to discern, to know how and desire to, choose holy paths of life, and reject everything that leads away from Christ and the joy of the Gospel.

03

Parenting Holy Families

We pray that parents will choose to make family prayer together a daily priority, and anchor prayers of adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and intercession as habits in their children's lives.



SHARABLE IMAGES & LINKS:

These sample images and post content can be shared on parish social media. Build matrimonial culture by encouraging couples to explore these valuable resource options.



Discover the ROOTS app.

Couples who are iPhone users, reclaim your life and set positive boundaries for yourselves and for your kids with cell phones.

Visit: www.GetRoots.app



DADS... Are you ready to tame the CHAOS of family life?



Well-Ordered
Family



As a father of a BIG family and CEO of multiple businesses, Conor Gallagher knows what it takes to bring order to chaos. By adapting proven business tools to family life, he has created a system that works. There's a reason businesses run smoothly while family life feels overwhelming—it's time to change that. This unique system helps Catholic couples bring clarity, order, and joy back into the home.

Visit: Well-Ordered Family.com

The Catholic HOM app

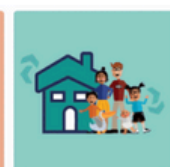
Catholic marriage and parenting experts, Greg and Lisa Popcack have created a unique app-based resource to help couples flourish with sacramental grace and experience joy and cohesion in family life.

Discover more:

<https://www.catholichom.com/>



Get Started



Foundations of Domestic Church Life



Bulletin Content and Links

Short Bullet and longer Bulletin Insert samples below offer options to add Matrimony-focused content in your parish bulletin during the month of August. Help couples find Marriage enriching events, links, and information to help their marriages, or the marriages of couples they care about to be...JUBILANT!

LINK



The Jubilant Marriages Initiative spotlights great ways for Priests, Parishes, Couples, and Singles to help Marriages be HAPPY and strong.

Visit Archstl.org/Jubilant-Marriages and look under the HAPPY category for links to resources and ideas that empower couples in the disciple-making process of raising happy and holy kids!

Upcoming Events



"God Chose You for Me" is mini-retreat experience designed to deepen the spiritual connection between married couples. Increase the JOY of marriage by deepening relationship through shared prayer.

Upcoming dates and locations for "God Chose You for Me" are:

- **Saturday, August 16 - Sacred Heart Parish in Valley Park, MO - [Register](#)**
- **Saturday, September 20 - St. Peter's Cathedral in Belleville, IL - [Register](#)**

Mark your calendar:

The next **Marriage on Tap STL** is **Wednesday, September 24, 2025** at Syberg's on Dorsett. The speaker will be Father Charlie Archer, and his talk is titled "Speaking the Language of Faith in Ordinary Family Life."



Jubilant Marriage Inspiration:

" 'Don't sweat the PETTY things, and don't pet the sweaty things.' A good rule for marriage and family relationships."

– George Carlin quote, via Dr. Ray Guarendi.



JULY Matrimony Gratitude Couple: Paul & Kay Halfmann



Why do I thank God for my Spouse?

From Paul: Why do I thank God for my wife, Kay?

I thank God for Kay everyday. She has so many gifts and talents. She inspires me with her love for others and her generosity towards others. She selflessly gives of herself and serves our family, parish, and the community. She makes me a better person. She stole my heart 38 years ago, and I love her more today than when we were married. Kay is God's greatest gift and blessing in my life.

From Kay: Why do I thank God for my husband, Paul?

If you've ever heard the saying opposites attract - that would explain why Paul and I are married. Paul is strong and fierce and will fight for justice. I am more gentle and tend to go with the flow. He is a homebody. I love to socialize. And yet we have so many similarities as well. We both love God deeply. We love our Catholic church. And we value our deep roots with our children (and their spouses) and grandchildren. I thank God for Paul because he helps me to see other points of views. He is a defender of our Catholic faith and of our family. Paul's prayer life has always been an attraction for me. He has a deep abiding love for God and he shares that with me and with other people. He is truly the spiritual leader of our family. Paul embodies Christ to me as he sees, knows, and loves me. He does not shame me nor leaves me behind. And after 37 years he still loves me very well.

Paul and Kay Halfmann are the leadership team behind D:6 Ministries

Inspired by the scripture passage: *Deuteronomy 6: "Take to heart these words which I command you today. Keep repeating them to your children. Recite them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you get up..."*

D:6 Ministries is a ministry of evangelization, encouragement, and empowerment for parents, offering keys to help parents pass on their faith to their children. Paul and Kay share practical and engaging presentations at parishes with personal examples how to create a culture of prayer and forgiveness in the family, empowered by the Sacraments. Parents are strengthened in their primary role to prepare young disciples with strong faith within the domestic church. **Plan an event with Paul and Kay at: <https://d6ministries.org/>**



YESTERDAY

Paul & Kay



TODAY

Why do I thank God for my Marriage?

Paul: Why do I Thank God for my marriage?

I am so thankful for our marriage together. We each have different strengths and weaknesses. Through our marriage we each become more whole and more complete. She has gifts that I do not -- but she challenges me to grow toward them. Kay completes me. Together, through our marriage, we have been able to accomplish so many things. Things not possible to complete alone. Raising our children, starting and leading in multiple ministries (Jeffco Life Teen program and D:6 Ministries), would simply not have been possible if we were not united in faith and in marriage. We need each other to do these things well. Together through the Grace of God we have been able to touch many lives.

Kay: Why do I Thank God for my marriage?

I thank God for our marriage because it is truly God who brought us together. We knew each other from a prayer group years ago. Paul and I were friends long before we dated. We have been able to instill in our children their deep Catholic roots, teaching them their dignity as children of God given to them at Baptism. I see our marriage as an example of offering Mercy when needed and still choosing love everyday. I thank God for our marriage because I believe all of our years together -- raising children, appreciating victories, losing jobs, grieving miscarriages and deaths of parents and grandparents, celebrating weddings and births, and... just living in the trenches of raising children -- have brought us to this point in our lives where we can help support and encourage other young families to build their families as domestic churches with joy and resilience.

Couple Gratitude Challenge:

Take a few moments to think of
why you thank God for your SPOUSE and
why you thank God for your MARRIAGE.
PRAY your thanks to God!
Then **TELL** your spouse too!

Weekly Matrimony Mindset



Text-only content for weekly insertions in the parish BULLETIN in August to cultivate matrimonial culture, offering encouragement and joy for married couples and all parishioners. Include the Jubilant Marriages logo and **ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages** webpage URL with each post for consistency and recognition.

WEEK 1 - Building a Domestic Church

ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages

Matrimony Quote from Bible: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Marriage Motivation Tip: Your home is a sacred space where faith is nurtured. By praying together and sharing stories of Jesus with your children, you create a foundation for their lifelong discipleship.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, bless our family as we strive to make our home a domestic church. Guide us to lead our children to Your Son, Jesus, through our words and actions. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: How can we incorporate daily prayer or Scripture reading into our family routine to help our children grow closer to Jesus?

WEEK 2 - Modeling Christ's Love

ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages

Matrimony Quote from Bible: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25)

Marriage Motivation Tip: Your love for each other reflects Christ's love. Show your children what discipleship looks like by serving one another selflessly, teaching them to follow Jesus' example.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us love each other with Your sacrificial love. May our marriage be a witness to our children, inspiring them to follow You as disciples. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: What is one way we can demonstrate Christ-like love to each other this week in front of our children?

WEEK 3 - Guiding with Faith

ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages

Matrimony Quote from Bible: "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children." (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)

Marriage Motivation Tip: Share your faith openly with your children through conversations about God's presence in your lives. Your guidance helps them see Jesus as their ultimate teacher.

Prayer: God of wisdom, grant us the grace to teach our children Your commandments. May our words and deeds lead them to become faithful disciples of Jesus. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: How can we share a personal story of faith with our children to help them understand what it means to follow Jesus?

WEEK 4 - Living as a Holy Family

ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages

Matrimony Quote from Bible: "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." (Psalm 127:3)

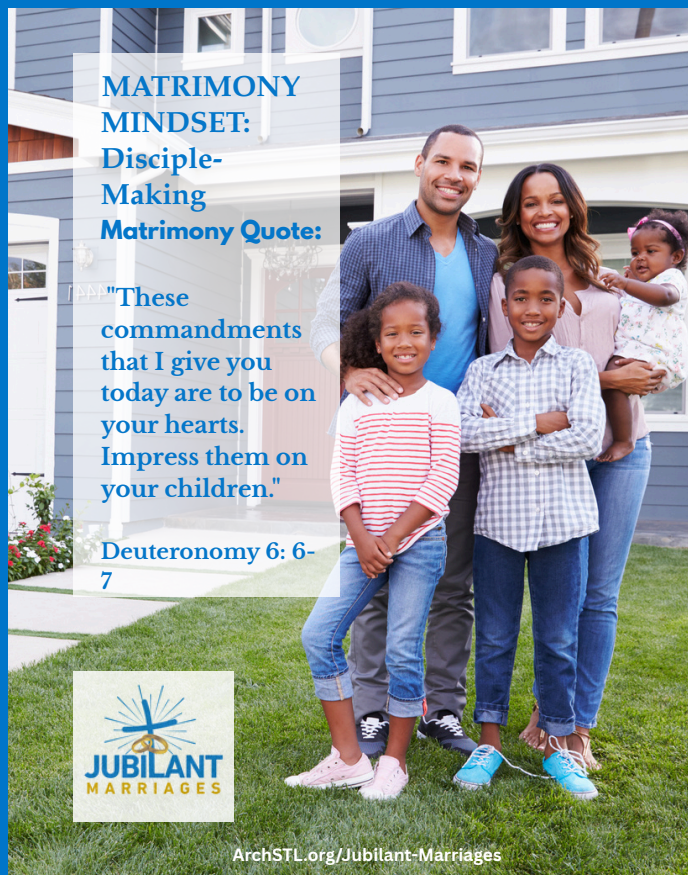
Marriage Motivation Tip: Embrace your role as stewards of God's gift—your children. By fostering a home filled with love and prayer, you prepare them to carry Christ's mission into the world.

Prayer: Holy Family of Nazareth, guide us to raise our children as disciples of Jesus. Help us create a home where Your love reigns and faith flourishes. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: What family tradition can we start to strengthen our children's connection to Jesus and His Church?

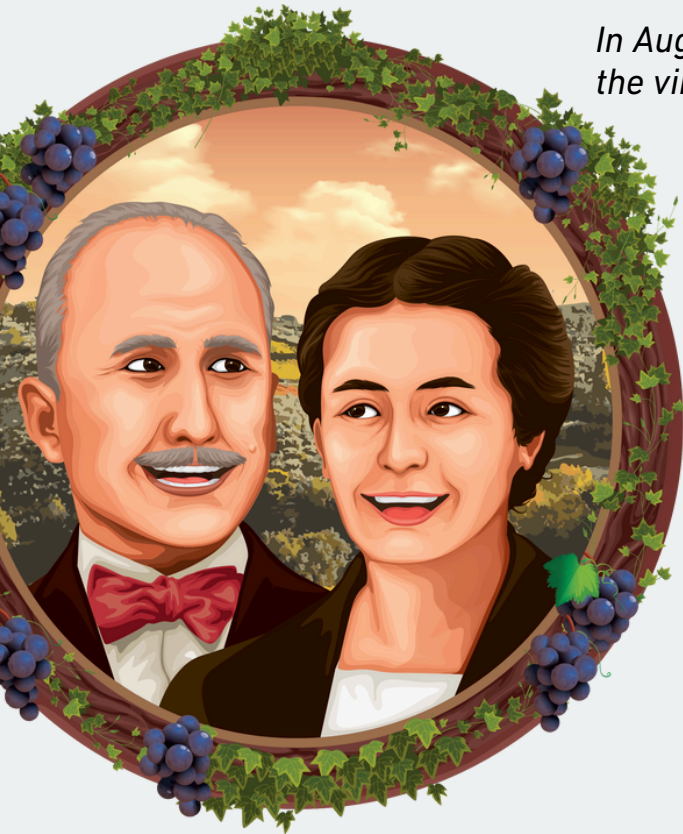
Contact the ARCHSTL Office of Marriage and Family Life with Questions or Suggestions for the Monthly Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit

Matrimony Mindset graphics that can be shared on social media, parish newsletter, or bulletin.



Ideas for Parents & Educators

In August, we focus on the way married couples can CHOOSE the virtue of WISDOM in marriage and family life.



Holy Matrimony Role Models: Luigi & Maria Quattrocchi

This loving married couple's family was like a team of adventurers -- learning, praying, and helping others -- on the path to heaven. What made Luigi and Maria so wise? They listened to God with their whole hearts. Every day, they went to church and fed their souls with Jesus in the Eucharist. They also prayed the Rosary as a family together each night, asking Mary, Jesus' mom, to guide them. Luigi and Maria also showed wisdom by helping others during tough times. During a time of war, they turned their home into a secret hideout for people who needed safety. They taught their kids to be brave and kind, and two of their sons became priests and one daughter became a nun, wisely helping others, just like their parents did.

For LITTLES



Invite little children to discover the virtue of WISDOM

- Talk about what it means to be wise -- Using what we KNOW to DO what is right.
- Think of times when someone made a wise choice and talk it over...what made it wise?

For MIDDLES



Maria and Luigi prayed the Rosary as a family each evening. Wise choices often flow from our hearts when we are spiritually strong. Try to pray a Rosary, or even start with one decade, a day - to ask for wisdom in making both small and big choices for a week.

Perhaps pray a World Mission Rosary and pray for people all over the world to become spiritually wise, healthy, and strong!

Here is a link to get instructions how to pray a **World Mission Rosary: [LINK](#)**



For TEENS



Maria and Luigi seemed like an ordinary married couple. Their family appeared like an ordinary family. Pope Saint John Paul II said in his October 2001 homily about the holy couple, "the blessed couple lived an ordinary life in an extraordinary way."

Read more about their not so very "ordinary" life [HERE](#). Discuss with teens the value of their spiritual wisdom to embrace heroism and danger to help political refugees, sickly strangers, and wounded people as a family during the Second World War.

JUBILANT MARRIAGES PRAYER & BLESSINGS

Blessing for Married or Engaged Couples

This prayer can be used by Priests or Deacons individually with couples or with groups (omitting the individual names) at a Jubilant Marriages Mass

Loving God, You have blessed us as your people and have called us to serve you in love. Listen to our prayers for (insert her name) and (insert his name) and bless them in their marriage.

Keep them holy and pure in their lives, deepen their spirit of prayer and love, and lead them in perfect joy on their daily sacramental journey of Matrimony. Guard them from evil and guide them in your light, so that they may embrace the bond of Matrimonial love and serve you faithfully at all times. Bless the parents, extended family and friends of (insert her name) and (insert his name) and inspire them to support this couple by prayer and example.

May almighty God bless you, (insert her name) and (insert his name). May God grant you love and happiness, peace and joy, and strength in every trial, all the days of your life together. May you hold fast to the strength of God's love and always be open to receive the power of God's grace.

May the union of your lives shine as a bright sign of God's love in the world.
We ask this in Christ's name and in the unity of the Holy Spirit, Forever and ever. Amen.



Jubilant Marriages Parish Prayer

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.

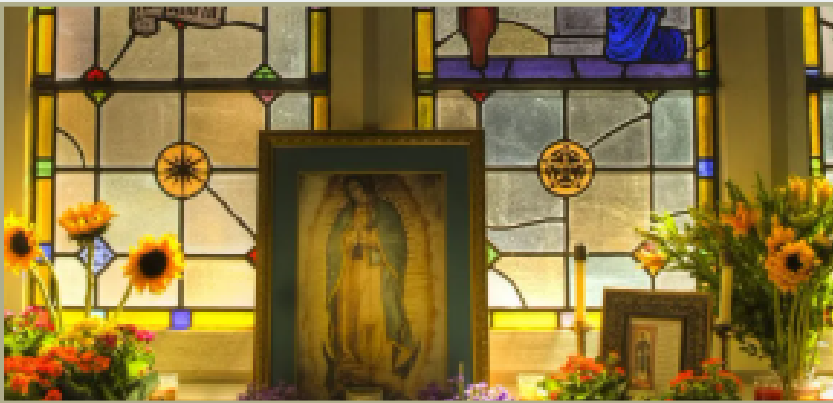
Inspire us to cherish the extraordinary value of the Sacrament of Matrimony in our families and communities to renew familial love among all people. Enable us to build a Culture of Matrimonial Love in our parish – to energize couples who are stable, support couples in distress, empower couples who carry 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.

This prayer can be used on Jubilant Marriage Sunday or anytime in the home
Prayer Cards are available from the Office of Marriage & Family Life

RECURSOS HISPANOS

Descubre eventos e información especialmente para parejas y familias hispanas casadas.



[ARCHSTL Hispanic Ministry](#)

Visita la página del Ministerio Hispano en el sitio web de la Arquidiócesis para obtener información sobre preparación matrimonial, además de otros recursos y eventos en español.

Viviendo en el Espíritu – Renovación Carismática Católica (\”RCC\”)

6120 Pebble Hill Dr, St. Louis, MO 63123, USA

Reunión de oración de Renovación Carismática Católica St. Louis es un momento de alabanza y adoración con una breve charla y testimonio.



Que Brille El Amor

Recursos Gratuitos en Español del Consejo de Obispos de California:

ENLACE: Excelentes ideas e inspiración para parejas y familias hispanas.

[Que Brille El Amor](#)

Share the Jubilant Marriages AUGUST Tool Kit for Parishioners with your flock.



Use the link below to share a customized version of the Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit with your parishioners.

This Tool Kit can add a simple yet powerful matrimonial emphasis to your parish monthly newsletter or to ONE of your weekly flocknote eblasts each month

We want to make it simple and effortless for you to build a ***Culture of Matrimony*** in your parish community!

Here is the graphic and link for the AUGUST Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit for Parishioners:

<https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/1b1a7080-15b4-4111-963a-bf64c22220a0?FU=1753293158>

Who Can Help?



This handy contact page gives you at-a-glance ease to get help to implement Jubilant Marriages recommended resources or ideas in your own life or in your parish.

Description	Phone	Email Address
Paul Duker <i>Manager - Office of Marriage & Family Life</i>	314-792-7178	paulduker@archstl.org
Cathy Gilmore <i>Jubilant Marriages Coordinator</i>	636-391-3999	cathygilmore@archstl.org
Sr. Maureen Martin, ACSJ <i>Family Life</i>	314-792-7612	srmaureenmartin@archstl.org
Amy Buehrle <i>Pastoral Associate - Northern Vicariate</i>	314-792-6512	amybuehrle@archstl.org
Tammy Chumley <i>Pastoral Associate - Western Vicariate</i>	314-792-6456	TammyChumley@archstl.org
Jennifer Meehan <i>Pastoral Associate - Southern Vicariate</i>	(314) 363-6945	jmeehan@archstl.org
Paul & Kay Halfmann <i>For more information about D6 Ministries</i>	(636) 399-1806	raisingstrongfaithkids@gmail.com

✦ Get the Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit
sent to your inbox each month. Sign up at:
<https://archstl.flocknote.com/jubilantmarriage>



About Jubilant Marriages

Guided under the leadership of Archbishop Mitchell Rozanski, Jubilant Marriages offers a new vision for couples and parishes in the Saint Louis Archdiocese to tap into the MATRIMONIAL POWER of Catholic Marriages. This initiative will enable Catholic Matrimony to be embraced as a daily lived sacrament and a powerful sign of God's presence.

*"The vision of Jubilant Marriages is to establish a
Catholic Culture of Holy Matrimony; anchored in the truth
that the loving relationship of a couple
is a powerful sacramental Presence of God."*

- Father Rosy Rosebrough

Starting in spring 2025, the Jubilee Year of HOPE, monthly Jubilant Marriages themes will spotlight important ways each marriage can be holy, healthy, and happy - and provide practical information that helps married couples and parishes to thrive.

