



JULY 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 May. **THREE**, add the Sunday Matrimony Moments content as often as you can in the parish Bulletin.

1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 7/12 & 7/26*

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 emphasize the need for couples, families and the parish community to support the relationships of married couples and help them prioritize the the intimacy, joy, and health of their relationship in the midst of life's demands. Try to include these intercessions or something similar at a Sunday Mass this month.



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

The digital Jubilant Marriages Toolkit magazine is packed with great ideas to add warmth and sparkle to the relationships of married couples - to help them be intentional about planning time for one-on-one connection and dates.

Use this Tool Kit **COVER IMAGE** and [LINK](#):

to easily share the valuable content with your parishioners.

Sharing options include: Parish e-newsletter, website, Flocknote, and/or a post on social media.

3) *Sunday “Matrimony Moments” Weekly Bulletin Content*

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](#)

Homily Hints: 7/12

For Sunday, July 12, 2026



*These reflections are for July 12, the 15th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
Try reading and discussing these before, or after, Sunday Mass*

The readings this week inspire reflection on how, as we increase and deepen our intimacy with God, it can produce the fruit of greater intimacy in our relationships, especially between married husbands and wives.

These Sunday Scripture thoughts to ponder are offered by Marriage Ministry team at the St. Louis Archdiocese Office of Marriage and Family Life.

First Reading

Isaiah 55:10-11

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Just as rain and snow descend from heaven to water the earth and accomplish God's life-giving purpose, so His word never returns empty but transforms every heart that receives it. In marriage, spouses can become like gentle rain for one another—speaking words of encouragement and truth that soften hearts, deepen trust, and cultivate the warm intimacy God intends for their union.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14

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God lavishly waters the earth, preparing it with care so that it bursts forth with abundance and joy. Married couples are invited to nurture their shared life with attentive love and generosity, creating a fertile home where affection grows freely and the warmth of mutual care produces a harvest of lasting intimacy.

Second Reading

Romans 8:18-23

2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Present sufferings are as nothing compared to the future glory God will reveal in us, as all creation groans in eager hope for redemption. For married couples, the ordinary trials and longings of life together become part of this hopeful labor—through patient love and shared vulnerability, they foster deeper emotional and spiritual closeness that anticipates the fullness of joy in Christ.

Gospel

Gospel: Matthew
13:1-23

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

The seed of God's word bears abundant fruit only in hearts that are open, receptive, and free from distraction, yielding a rich harvest for the Kingdom. In marriage, spouses can till the soil of each other's hearts through listening, prayer, and tender presence, helping God's word take deep root so their love grows strong, fruitful, and filled with warm intimacy.

Homily Hints 7/26

For Sunday, July 26, 2026



The readings & Gospel for the 17th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
Try reading and discussing these before, or after, Sunday Mass.

The readings this week inspire reflection on how, as we increase and deepen our intimacy with God, it can produce the fruit of greater intimacy in our relationships, especially between married husbands and wives.

These Sunday Scripture thoughts to ponder are offered by Marriage Ministry team at the St. Louis Archdiocese Office of Marriage and Family Life.

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

God delights in granting wisdom to those who humbly seek it above all else, guiding our daily decisions with clarity and justice. Married couples, ask the Lord for a discerning heart together so that your shared conversations and choices deepen your intimacy and fill your home with loving warmth.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 89: 2-3, 17-17, 18-19 (2a)

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130

The Lord and His commands are our greatest treasure, more precious than gold and the source of true delight and life. Husbands and wives, treasure God's Word side by side; let it kindle compassion and affection that warm your marriage with ever-deepening intimacy.

Second Reading

Romans 8:28-30

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

In every circumstance, God works for the good of those who love Him, shaping us to reflect the image of His Son. For married couples, trust that God uses both joys and trials to conform your hearts more closely to Christ, forging a tender, intimate bond radiant with His loving warmth.

Gospel

Matthew 13:44-52

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

The Kingdom of Heaven is of such surpassing value that we joyfully give everything to possess it. Spouses are encouraged to pursue Christ's Kingdom as your greatest shared treasure; in this pursuit your love grows richer, cultivating profound intimacy and joyful warmth in your marriage.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions JULY

01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will grow in intimacy and lifelong friendship that shines bright - so their relationship is a tangible sign of God's love to the world.

02 Parents & Families

We pray for moms and dads to find courage and strength to set strong family intentions - making prayer and family time a first priority in their homes.

03 Parish Community

We pray that married couples in our parish, are blessed with strong and resilient relationships, so that their joy and generosity -- empowered with God's grace -- continues to enrich our community and beyond.



Sunday Matrimony Moments for JULY:



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 a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation.

Parish Bulletins: Copy and paste the 4 **CONTENT SECTIONS** and **LOGO IMAGE** as a regular feature in the **parish bulletin** - as often as space allows.

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

(Use this [LINK](#) for a document to download of the content for each week in June.)

Themes for July 2026: Building Intimacy in Marriage

WEEK #1 - THEME: FINDING REST AND GENTLENESS IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS

WEEK #2 - THEME: SOWING SEEDS OF LOVE AND UNDERSTANDING

WEEK #3 - THEME: PATIENTLY CULTIVATING PEACE AND UNITY

WEEK #4 - THEME: TREASURING WISDOM AND GOD'S PLAN TOGETHER

These weekly words of inspiration and encouragement are part of the Archdiocese Jubilant Marriages Initiative with the goal to fortify and energize Catholic Married couples to be Holy, Healthy and Happy and experience Matrimony as a daily lived Sacrament.

Questions? Contact the Office of Marriage And Family Life:

Paul Duker - Program Manager Paulduker@archstl.org

Cathy Gilmore - Jubilant Marriages Coordinator cathygilmore@archstl.org

Sunday Matrimony Moments content for JULY:

Sunday Matrimony Moments offer married couples a simple opportunity to grow in unity and holiness. This content can be a springboard for couples to use as a conversation starter as they establish a habit to take time each week to talk and connect about what matters most in their marriage



WEEK #1 - Theme: Finding Rest and Gentleness in Each Other's Arms

July 5 - Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."
(Matthew 11:28-30)

Couple Prayer: Lord Jesus, You invite us to come to You when we are weary. Help us as husband and wife to be gentle with one another, to carry each other's burdens with meekness and love. May our home be a place of rest and joy in Your presence. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Practice "soft starts" when discussing challenges—begin with affection or appreciation. This builds emotional safety and deepens intimacy, mirroring Christ's gentle heart.

Couple Conversation Question: When do you feel most rested and loved in our marriage? What small thing can I do this week to help you feel lighter and closer to me?

WEEK #2 - Theme: Sowing Seeds of Love and Understanding

July 12 - Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth... so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty." (Isaiah 55:10-11, adapted)

Couple Prayer: Heavenly Father, let Your Word fall like gentle rain on our marriage. Help us sow seeds of kindness, patience, and encouragement daily so that our love may grow fruitful and bring joy to You and to each other. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Intentionally "water" your spouse's strengths and dreams with words of affirmation and attentive listening. Consistent small acts of love yield abundant intimacy and shared joy over time.

Couple Conversation Question: What "seeds" (habits, words, or gestures) have helped our marriage grow the most? What new seed of love would you like us to plant together this week?

WEEK #3 - Theme: Patiently Cultivating Peace and Unity

July 19 - Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

"The Lord is good and forgiving, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." (Psalm 86:5, adapted/ Responsorial)

Couple Prayer: Merciful God, You are patient with us. Grant us the grace to be patient and forgiving with one another. Help us weed out resentment and cultivate peace, so our marriage reflects Your steadfast love and grows in joyful unity. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: When conflict arises, pause to pray together briefly before responding. This fosters empathy, reduces defensiveness, and strengthens emotional and spiritual intimacy.

Couple Conversation Question: In what areas do we need more patience with each other right now? How can we better support one another to experience more peace and joy in our daily life?

WEEK #4 - Theme: Treasuring Wisdom and God's Plan Together

July 26 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle A)

"Give your servant an understanding heart to judge your people and to discern between good and evil." (1 Kings 3:9, adapted)

Couple Prayer: Wise and loving God, grant us hearts of understanding like Solomon's. Help us treasure each other as Your gift and seek Your will together. May wisdom guide our decisions so our marriage overflows with intimacy and joy. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Regularly pray for and discuss God's wisdom for your shared future—finances, family, intimacy, and vocation. Aligning hearts on His priorities deepens trust and lasting joy.

Couple Conversation Question: What is one area of our life or marriage where we most need God's wisdom right now? How can we better treasure and support each other as we seek His plan together?

*These weekly words of inspiration and encouragement are part of the Archdiocese Jubilant Marriages Initiative
Questions? Contact the Office of Marriage And Family Life:*

Cathy Gilmore - Jubilant Marriages Coordinator - cathygilmore@archstl.org - 636-391-3999



Pray

THE JUBILANT MARRIAGES PRAYER WITH YOUR PARISHIONERS

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.

*Prayer Cards are available from
the Office of Marriage & Family Life*



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