



JUBILANT MARRIAGES



Office of Marriage
and Family Life

AUGUST 2025

DISCIPLE-MAKING FAMILIES - FULL OF HOPE



PARISHIONER TOOL KIT

MONTHLY RESOURCES & IDEAS

Jubilant Marriages Theme For AUGUST

***Disciple-Making Families
Shine Brightly With HOPE***



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- [Jubilant Marriages Theme](#)
- [Scripture Reflection: 8/10 & 8/24](#)
- [August Intercessions](#)
- [Jubilant Marriages Prayer](#)
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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 HAPPY marriages and families, powered with sacramental grace.

Jubilant Marriages Accelerator Parishes

You and your spouse are invited to work with your pastor to build a Jubilant Marriages team at your parish - to fortify and energize couples in an intentional way.

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

Reflection 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 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

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

Reflection 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.

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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 granted or minimize the value of those who love and support them.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions 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 to 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, with prayers of adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and intercession anchored as habits in their children's lives.





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

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!

FEATURED RESOURCES:

Discover ways to enrich and strengthen your marriage and the marriages of others you care about - through resources and events that can power-up your relationship with JOY!



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

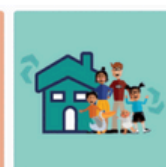
Catholic marriage and parenting experts, Greg and Lisa Popcack have created a unique app-based resource to help couples flourish with sacramental grace and experience joy and cohesion in family life.

Discover more:

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



Get Started



Foundations of Domestic Church Life



Events, Links, and More

Find Marriage enriching events, links, and information to help your marriage, or the marriage of someone you 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!

Events & Info.



"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:

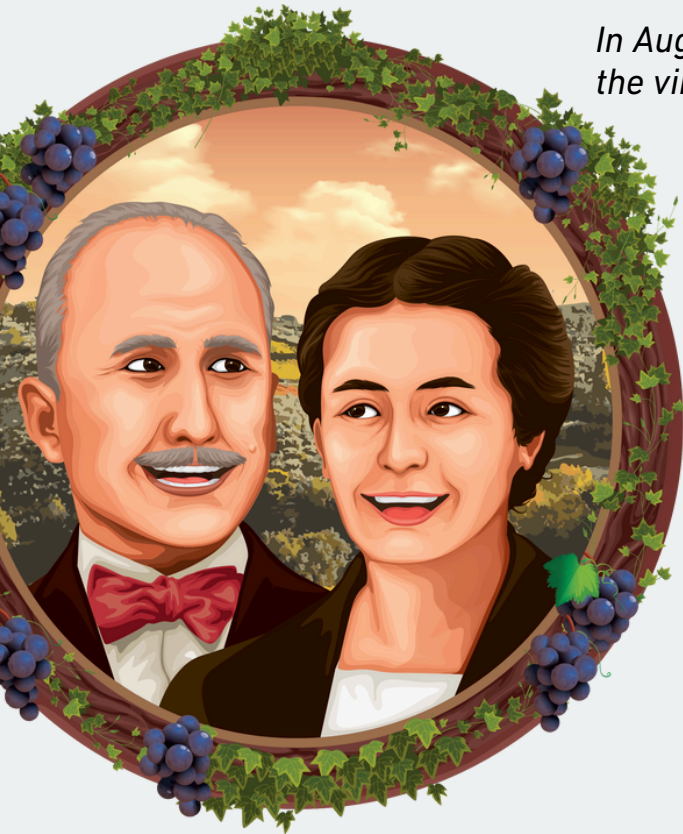
" 'Don't sweat the PETTY things, and don't pet the sweaty things.' A good rule for marriage and family relationships."

– George Carlin quote, via Dr. Ray Guarendi.



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

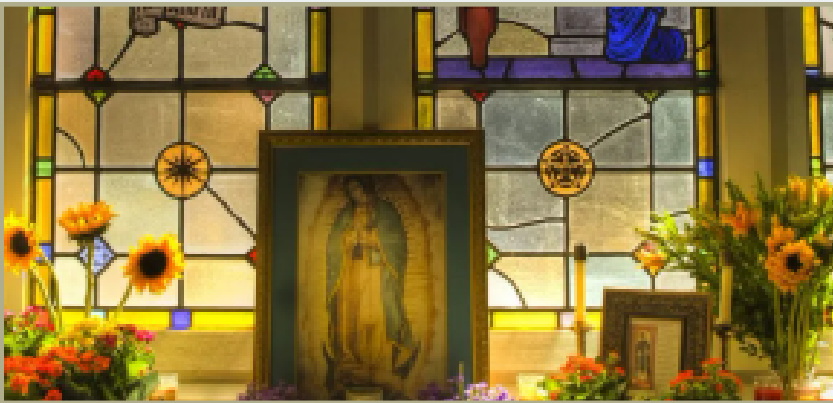


Maria and Luigi seemed like an ordinary married couple. Their family appeared like an ordinary family. Pope Saint John Paul II said in his October 2001 homily about the holy couple, "the blessed couple lived an ordinary life in an extraordinary way."

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.

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](#)



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.

