

# JUBILANT MARRIAGES

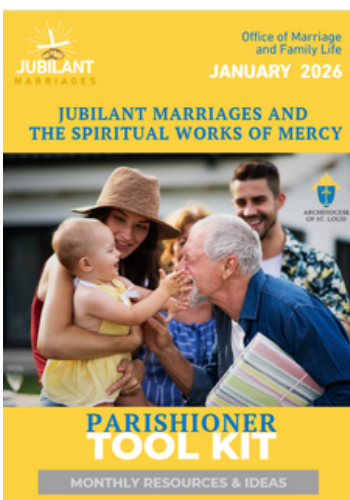
## January Jubilant Marriages for Priests & Deacons

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 speak to married couples in a special way during the 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. **THREE**, add the Matrimony Mindset content as often as you can in the parish Bulletin

### 1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 1/11 & 1/26*

The monthly themed 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 anchors in the life of the Church and society - married couples.

**With JM Prayers of the Faithful** - These Prayers of the Faithful intentions emphasize the need for God to pour His grace on marriage and family in a modern society that arrays powerful forces against both. In January we pray especially that couples and families will seek out ways to embrace the Spiritual Works of Mercy together.



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

The digital JM Toolkit for Parishioners is packed with inspiration and resources for couples and families to enrich their marriages by doing the Spiritual Works of Mercy together.

Use this Tool Kit **COVER IMAGE** and **LINK**:

<https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/73067bb8-9373-4206-82d3-54fbf98fa9b0?FU=1765470280>

and share the valuable content with your parishioners.

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

### 3) *JM Matrimony Mindset Weekly Bulletin Content*

**Share this document 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 for Sunday, January 11, 2026

## Sunday Scriptures: 1/11



*These readings are for the Sunday after Epiphany (Cycle A)*

The readings for this Sunday include: Isaiah's gentle Servant, Peter's vision of Christ's impartial healing goodness, and the Father's delighted blessing over the Son at His baptism. Together these can apply to marriage as a school of the Spiritual Works of Mercy: spouses are called to handle each other with unbreakable tenderness, to go about every day doing good that liberates the other as he or she carries life's burdens. These actions, combined with affirming words that speak life-giving love, echo the Father's pleasure with His Son and unleash graces that kindle the fire of married love. The home thus becomes a radiant sign of God's own merciful heart.

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### First Reading

Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

**First Reading:** *"Behold my servant... a bruised reed he will not break... I have called you... to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from confinement"*

**Reflection:** *In the gentle strength of the Suffering Servant, each of us, and especially married spouses, are reminded that true love refuses to crush the other when they are fragile, but instead becomes the light that patiently leads one another out of darkness and self-imposed prisons of resentment or fear.*

**Application for couples:** *This week, when your spouse feels like a "bruised reed" (tired, discouraged, or hurting), choose one deliberate act of tenderness that reassures them "I will not break you," and gently speak a word of hope that helps free them from whatever confines their heart.*

### Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 29: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10.

"The Lord will bless His people with peace."

**Second Reading:** *"God shows no partiality... he went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil"*

**Reflection:** *Peter's revelation that God has no favorites invites husbands and wives, mothers and fathers, and all of us in God's family to imitate Christ's impartial, overflowing goodness—actively seeking to "do good" and heal the places where the evil one has sown discouragement, bitterness, or division in their shared life.*

**Application for couples:** *Identify one way your spouse feels oppressed (by work, past wounds, anxiety, or even by your own habits), and this week perform one concrete act of selfless service that brings healing and reminds them they are infinitely favored by God through your love.*

### Second Reading

Acts 10:34-38

**Gospel:** *"This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased"*

**Reflection:** *At Jesus' baptism the Father speaks tender, affirming love over his Son before any public ministry begins; so too in marriage and family life, speaking words of delight and blessing over one another—especially in ordinary, non-heroic moments—is a powerful spiritual work of mercy that strengthens the heart for everything that follows.*

**Application for couples:** *Once a day this week, take a moment to look your spouse in the eyes and tell them one specific reason you are pleased with them and thank God out loud for the gift they are to you, echoing the Father's voice at the Jordan.*

### Gospel

Matthew 3:13-17

# Sunday Scripture 1/26



The readings & Gospel for the third Sunday in Ordinary Time ( Cycle A)

Nehemiah's life-giving proclamation of the Word, Paul's vision of the one suffering-and-rejoicing Body, and Jesus' inaugural "today" of Jubilee mercy together paint marriage as a living liturgy: spouses stand side by side to let the Word pierce and then flood them with joy. They bear one another's burdens and honor one another's gifts as members of the same Body, and they are invited to declare a personal Jubilee of forgiveness and liberation. Interwoven Spiritual Works of Mercy make the home a place where the joy of the Lord is the source of their strength and married love burns ever brighter.

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**First Reading:** *"They read plainly from the book of the law... all the people wept... This day is holy to the LORD... the joy of the LORD is your strength"*

**Reflection:** *When the Word of God is proclaimed and internalized in the home, it first can move spouses to honest tears of repentance, which can open floodgates of holy joy that fortifies the strength of the marriage and family.*

**Application for couples:** *This week, choose one evening to read a short passage of Scripture together aloud (perhaps the Sunday Gospel), pause in silence for each of you to name one way it touches your heart or perhaps reveals a fault, then end by thanking God together and sharing one concrete reason the other person brings you joy—letting that joy of the Lord renew your strength together.*

**Second Reading:** *"If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy... You are Christ's body, and individually parts of it"*

**Reflection:** *In the mystery of the one Body, married couples are not two separate bodies but one flesh—one living member of Christ—so the pain of one spouse is the pain of both, and the glory of one is the glory of both. A couple who compassionately bears burdens together and joyful honors each other's gifts – lives the the spiritual works of mercy as a daily rhythm that keeps their love alive.*

**Application for couples:** *When your spouse is struggling this week, intentionally "suffer with" them (sit close, listen without fixing, pray over them); when your spouse does something well (even something small), honor them out loud in front of others or in a note, so the whole "body" of your marriage rejoices together.*

**Gospel:** *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me... to proclaim liberty to captives... Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"*

**Reflection:** *Jesus announces that the Jubilee of God's mercy begins "today," His example invites husbands and wives to live as a continual Jubilee for each other—proclaiming forgiveness, releasing old debts, comforting grief, and setting one another free from the captivity of bitterness or fear.*

**Application:** *Choose one lingering hurt, resentment, or unspoken expectation you are still holding against your spouse; this week, in a quiet moment, explicitly name it and release it, and tell them, "Today I set you free from this; I choose mercy," letting the Spirit-filled "today" of Jesus heal and re-energize your love.*

## First Reading

**Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

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## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5**  
*"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways."*

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## Second Reading

**1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

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## Gospel

**Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**



# Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions For JANUARY

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## 01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will choose lifestyles of spiritual generosity by intentionally making time for and embracing opportunities to do the Spiritual Works of Mercy.

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## 02 Youth & Faith

We pray that young people will be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit to hold no grudges, offer loving encouragement to those who suffer with anguish or doubt, and choose to pray for both the living and the dead.

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## 03 Parenting Holy Families

We pray for God to empower parents with creative and effective means to incorporate the Spiritual Works of Mercy in their home, family and community.



# Matrimony Mindset for JANUARY Parish Bulletins:

Copy and paste the following **CONTENT SECTIONS** and **LOGO IMAGE** as a regular feature in the parish bulletin - as often as space allows. 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 in every season of life. This month we are encouraging couples to embrace the spiritual works of mercy within their marriage and as something they can do together.



Or use this [LINK](#) for a word document download of the same content.

## MATRIMONY MINDSET - INSTRUCT THE IGNORANT

(WEEK #1)

***"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom" (Colossians 3:16).***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** Take turns teaching each other something new about the faith this week—perhaps a saint's story, a point from the Catechism, or the meaning behind a part of the Mass. Patiently sharing knowledge deepens respect and unity.

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, our Divine Teacher, help us to instruct one another with gentleness and love, building up our marriage in truth and wisdom. Amen.

**Couple Conversation Question:** What is one truth of our faith you wish I understood or appreciated more deeply?

## MATRIMONY MINDSET - COUNSEL THE DOUBTFUL

(WEEK #2)

***"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** When one of you feels uncertain—about parenting, finances, or even God—be the first safe place the other turns. Listening without rushing to "fix" it is a profound act of mercy that strengthens trust.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, Comforter and Guide, give us courage to carry each other's doubts and the grace to point one another gently back to You. Amen.

**Couple Conversation Question:** When was the last time you felt unsure or afraid about something big, and how can I better support you when those moments come?

## MATRIMONY MINDSET - COMFORT THE SORROWFUL (PRO-LIFE FOCUS)

(WEEK #3)

***"Blessed be... the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those in any affliction" (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** Together, reach out to a pregnant mother in crisis, a family grieving miscarriage, or a post-abortive parent carrying silent pain. Your united witness as a married couple—open to life and ready to comfort—becomes a living sign of God's mercy and the beauty of every human life.

**Prayer:** God of all life, fill our marriage with Your tender compassion so we may dry the tears of those wounded by the culture of death and joyfully defend the littlest among us. Amen.

**Couple Conversation Question:** How can we concretely support life together this month (e.g., volunteering, donating, praying outside an abortion facility, or simply listening to someone who is hurting)?

## MATRIMONY MINDSET - ADMONISH THE SINNER (WITH GENTLENESS)

(WEEK #4)

***"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone" (Matthew 18:15).***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** Speak the truth in love when needed, but always begin and end with affirmation. A marriage rooted in mercy helps both spouses grow in holiness rather than defensiveness.

**Prayer:** Jesus, meek and humble of heart, teach us to correct one another with the same patience and mercy You show us every day. Amen.

**Couple Conversation Question:** How do you prefer I bring up something that's bothering me so that you feel loved rather than attacked?



# 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*

