



Office of Marriage
and Family Life

NOVEMBER 2025

GENEROUS MATRIMONY & CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY



ARCHDIOCESE
OF ST. LOUIS

PARISHIONER TOOL KIT

MONTHLY RESOURCES & IDEAS

Jubilant Marriages Theme For NOVEMBER

Generous Matrimony and the Corporal Works of Mercy

Catholic couples can enrich their marriages by looking for opportunities to do acts of service **together**. It can be very rewarding to do acts of service individually...but teaming up as a couple to do so can strengthen the marriage bond, build treasured memories, and set a powerful example for children, even if they don't accompany you in the process.

The Jubilant Marriages Initiative focus for NOVEMBER encourages couples, priests and parishes to find ways for married couples to do acts of service together. Cultivating generosity in marriage is a boomerang of blessings for both givers and receivers. To refresh, here is the list of each Corporal Work of Mercy recommended by the Church with an example how to put it in action.



WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- [Jubilant Marriages Theme](#)
- [Scripture Reflection: 11/9 & 11/23](#)
- [November Intercessions](#)
- [Jubilant Marriages Prayer](#)
- [Recommended Resources](#)
- [Events, Links, and More](#)
- [Ideas for Parents & Educators](#)
- [Hispanic Resources](#)
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1. **Feed the hungry:** Donate to a food pantry, or bring the Eucharist to someone who is homebound.
2. **Give drink to the thirsty:** Offer a cool drink to someone working hard, whether you know them or not.
3. **Clothe the naked:** Donate clothes or clothe a stranger in dignity with kindness and respect.
4. **Shelter the homeless:** Offer someone in crisis a place to stay where they feel warmly loved and safe.
5. **Visit the imprisoned:** Spend time with those in prison or in a nursing home.
6. **Care for the sick:** Visit those who are ill and/or look for ways to help those who suffer.
7. **Bury the dead:** Ensure the deceased are laid to rest. Pray at a grave site for souls in Purgatory. (FYI: Plenary Indulgence Nov 1 - 8).

Jubilant Marriages Parish Teams

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.

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: 11/9

Reflection for Sunday, November 9, 2025



These readings are for the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome (Cycle C) The readings for this Sunday offer powerful images of grace to refresh our souls and inspire zeal in our actions. The gift of grace is always meant to be shared – to bring refreshment and transformation, not just to us, but to every person God brings into our lives.

These scripture meditations are the fruit of reflections of Scott and Karen Seaborn, whose thoughts are based on years of practical experience as a married couple and diligent faith-focused study as a Catholic Married Couple.

First Reading

Ezekiel 47: 1-2, 8-9, 12.

First Reading - Abundant Grace

"Wherever the water flows, there will be abundant fish... wherever this water comes the sea shall be made fresh." Do you hear it? Grace! Grace! Abundant grace! The grace that indwells each and every one of us in Baptism is the living water of Christ flowing through us and making us fresh! This abundant grace is multiplied in married couples as Christ's presence flows not only into and through each husband or wife individually... Christ's presence, this living water of grace also flows into and through each couple who are joined together in Christian marriage... a two-fer if you will!

This abundant grace is always available to us. It is not for any individual alone. This living presence of Christ is to be shared generously with family, with community and with the world. Count on this abundant grace. Draw from this abundant grace. Live in this abundant grace. Share this abundant grace.

One tangible way to bring the living waters of Christ to the world is through the Corporal Works of mercy: feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, bury the dead. Each time we address the needs of others, we are pouring Christ's abundant grace upon them and into the world.

Responsorial Psalm:

The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High.

Again, the waters... God is in our midst! God dwells in our very beings... and in a special and unique way through the shared lives of married couples.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 46: 2-3, 5-6, 8-9.

"The waters of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High!"

Second Reading

First Corinthians 3: 9c-11, 16-17.

Gospel: Zeal for Your House

When Jesus took action to "clean house" in the temple, he showed us that the power of grace is not timid. Zeal for the Lord is bold and courageous. In each relationship, whether with a spouse, son or daughter, a friend or neighbor, we can choose zeal to clean house in our own hearts to cast out selfishness. Allow bold habits of generosity upend the tables of self-centered routine inside us, and grace will flow in ways that enrich our marriages, families, parish, and community life.

Gospel

John 2: 13-22.

Sunday Scripture 11/23

Reflection for Sunday, November 23, 2025



First Reading

Second Samuel 5: 1-3.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 122: 1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5.

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Second Reading

Colossians 1: 12-20

Gospel

Luke 23: 35-43.

The readings and Gospel for the 34th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle C) Solemnity of Christ the King are a portrait of the unique kind of kingly dignity that Christ exemplifies, and that He calls us to embrace.

These scripture meditations are the fruit of reflections of Scott and Karen Seaborn, whose thoughts are based on years of practical experience as a married couple and diligent faith-focused study as Catholics.

Second Reading - Called to be Shepherd Kings

In today's reading from 2 Samuel, the Lord called forth David to be king of Israel. It is sometimes hard for us to grasp this kind of royalty. We do not have kings in America. And even the King of England is more of a figurehead than one who resembles the kings of old. Yet, in our baptism, we are each called to enter into Christ's three-fold mission as priest, prophet, and, yes, even king. So what does being king look like for us today? We can look to David, and ultimately to Jesus, for that answer. Our first reading today tells us that the Lord called David to "shepherd God's people of Israel..." And David was anointed to do just that.

Doesn't that sound strikingly similar to Jesus, who Scripture tells us is the "Good Shepherd?" That is the kind of king we are all called to be: shepherd kings... shepherd leaders! And in a very important way, married couples are called to shepherd God's people. Not only to shepherd their own children, but also to shepherd others as God places opportunities before them. As shepherd leaders, we center on the well-being of those we are called to care for. We deeply commit to providing, protecting, and guiding them. As shepherd leaders, we are present with our "flock," understand the needs of others, and help them grow through our selfless service. As shepherd leaders, we protect our flock from danger, and ensure they are fed with nourishment, guidance, and resources.

Like David, the Lord has anointed us as shepherd kings in Baptism. And so we must ask ourselves, who are we anointed to shepherd, feed, and protect? With whom are we called to share our resources? Who are the hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, homeless, sick members of our society today in need of shepherd leadership in their lives?

Responsorial Psalm - "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Yes! Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord! Let us go rejoicing to where God lives, which we know, of course, is within each one of us. Yes! God indwells each of us... so each of us is the house of the Lord. Let us go, then, rejoicing to the temples where our Lord lives! Let us go as shepherd kings! Let us go rejoicing to generously and lovingly serve our spouses, our families, and all the people of God.

Gospel - Jesus, the Shepherd King of Mercy

Jesus showed us that the shepherd king lays down His life for His sheep. At the Crucifixion, Jesus showed dramatically that His kingdom was nothing like any kingdom on earth. The suffering King on the cross crowned with thorns, is also the king of Mercy who told Dismas, a lost sheep, that, "Today you will be with Me in paradise." The Shepherd King calls us to continue building His kingdom by choosing to imitate His leadership. His love and guidance empowers us to choose actions of self-sacrifice and generous mercy. Self-sacrifice, generosity, and mercy have the power to bring new life into all our relationships - our marriages, our families, our friendships, and our communities.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions For NOVEMBER

01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will strengthen their marriages through shared generosity and seek out ways to enrich the lives of others through the corporal works of mercy.

02 Youth Vocations

We pray that teens and young adults will build habits of generosity while they are young, and choose to help those who are in physical, spiritual, or emotional need.

03 Parenting Holy Families

We pray that parents will be intentional to provide their children opportunities to show generosity as part of their family culture, building on and going beyond school or group service projects.



FEATURED RESOURCES:

Discover ways to enrich and strengthen your marriage through experiences and opportunities to show generosity - that you can do together.



Catholic Charities of Saint Louis

Catholic Charities of St. Louis brings the healing, help, and hope of Jesus Christ to those in need - through a compassionate, caring presence. Each of the Catholic Charities ministries offers community renewal and acts as a catalyst for social outreach - connecting people, parishes, and ministries through community-building care for those in need across every square mile of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Couples are invited to consider volunteering with Catholic Charities:

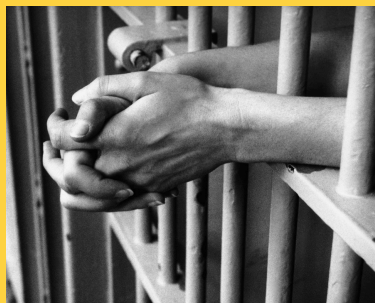
<https://ccstl.org/volunteer>

Discover the many ministries of Catholic Charities: <https://ccstl.org/services>

Help through the St. Vincent de Paul Society

The Saint Vincent De Paul Society (SVDP) is a lay-run charitable ministry of Catholics helping neighbors in need. Many STL Parishes have a local council of Vincentian volunteers who help respond to the needs of people in their local community. Get information about the many ways to help through SVDP: <https://svdpstlouis.org/>

Find local SVDP Council contact info. with this MAP: <https://svdp.online/>



Visit the Imprisoned: Prison Ministry

Couples are encouraged to pray about playing a role in prison ministry through which they can provide hope to those who are incarcerated. **Find out more at [Catholic Prison Ministry.org](https://www.catholicprisonministries.org)** Get information about training for Prison Ministry: <https://www.catholicprisonministries.org/foundational-training>

Or get connected with the work of **Eric Genuis and his Concerts for Hope** through which prison inmates experience faith and hope through ministry and music. <https://www.patreon.com/concertsforhope/about>

Help Trafficking Victims Build New Lives

The Alliance to End Human Trafficking is a collaborative, faith-based national network that offers education, supports access to survivor services, and engages in advocacy to end human trafficking. Alliance members include 200+ congregations of Catholic Sisters. Prepare for holiday shopping by visiting the **Fair Trade Survivor Made Products shopping page** and help those in need by the purchase of products on their site.

<https://alliancetoendhumantrafficking.org/support-fair-trade-and-survivor-made-products/>



Care for the Sick or Shut-Ins

A powerful way that Catholic couples choose to do acts of service together is by bringing Holy Communion to the homebound or sick. Contact your parish office to learn the steps in the process to become an Extraordinary Minister, and find out who in the parish would appreciate a short friendly visit that includes receiving Jesus in Communion, and a few minutes shared in prayer.

Contact your local parish office to get started.

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 HOLY and strong.

Visit [Archstl.org/Jubilant-Marriages](https://www.Archstl.org/Jubilant-Marriages) and look under the HOLY category for links to resources and ideas that empower couples in ways to cultivate an openness in their family to whatever vocation God calls their children.

Events & Info.

Becoming Missionaries of Hope in the Footsteps of St. Phillipine Duchesne

Couples, make a date to get inspired as a "missionary of hope"

November 20 @ 6:30 pm [Register Here](#)

Enjoy an evening on with Msgr. Roger Landry National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies, USA. Join us in celebrating and learning from the missionary witness of St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, co-patron of the Archdiocese of St. Louis, whose feast day is November 18th.

Discover more ways to help locally and globally at: www.Archstl.org/missions



Jubilant Marriage Inspiration:

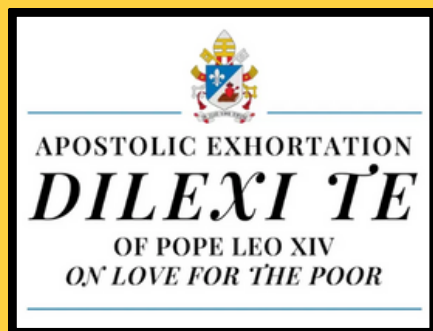
**"To get the full value of joy
you must have someone to divide it with."**

—Mark Twain



Recommended Reading:

Discover the power of generous matrimony. Get inspired by Pope Leo XIV "On Love For The Poor". Plus, discover the life and marriage of the founder of the Saint Vincent De Paul Society: Fredric Ozanam and his wife, Amelia. Their love and their passion to help the poor has made a generational impact on the lives of men and women, children and families all over the world for nearly 200 years.



DILEXI TE - On Love For the Poor

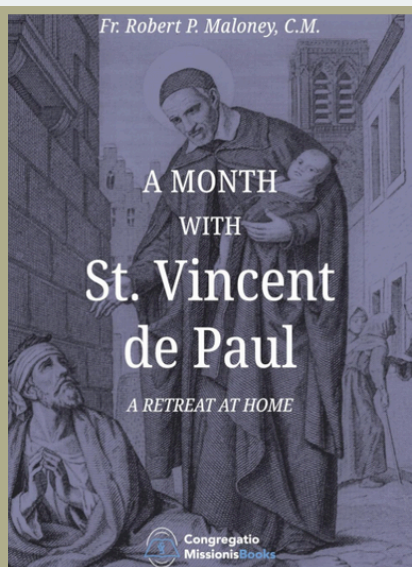
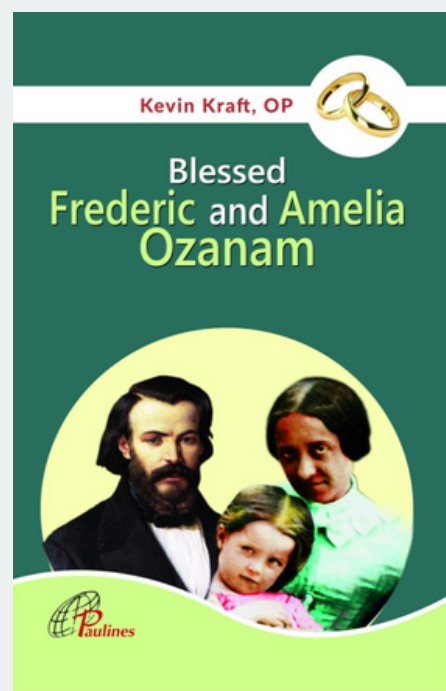
Pope Leo XIV has issued his first Apostolic Exhortation, "Dilexi te," as a call to Christ's disciples "to recognize him in the poor and the suffering." It offers an excellent meditation for couples who seek to incorporate more charitable acts of service in their life together. Use this link to read it: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20251004-dilexi-te.html

The pictured BOOK: Blessed Fredric and Amelia Ozanam is a great family read-aloud e-book about the life and marriage of Fredric and Amelia Ozanam. It is available on Amazon from the Daughter's of Saint Paul series of books about married saints. <https://www.amazon.com/Blessed-Frederic-Amelia-Ozanam-Kevin-ebook/dp/B08MQD4LNV>

Plus, check out the links for 2 short ARTICLES:

1) Discover **Fredric's** charitable heart and his vision to create a movement for Catholics everywhere to help people in need. <https://www.drvc.org/wpcontent/uploads/Holiness-and-Mission-May-2019.pdf>

2) Get a glimpse of their love, relationship, and **Amelia's** role in their journey of generosity together in this article from SVDP Scotland: <https://www.ssvpscotland.com/ssvp-origins/amelie-soulacroix-ozanam/>



A Month with St Vincent de Paul

Couples can use this 30-day guide to reflect on and pray with the extraordinary words of St. Vincent De Paul - who was such an inspiration to Fredric and Amelia. Do the reflections together and give the Holy Spirit an opportunity to enrich your marriage with the virtue of charity.

This book is available as an inexpensive paperback or e-book on Amazon.com: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0F8RD73DM>

Ideas for Parents & Educators

In NOVEMBER, we focus on the way married couples can show children how charitable love can bring hope and joy that echoes far beyond one's immediate family life.



Holy Matrimony Role Models: Blessed Fredric and Amelia Ozanam

The selfless holiness of this couple shined in the founding of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Their lives demonstrate how CHARITY infused through Holy Matrimony can impact a local community and far beyond. Fredrick died at age 39 and at his funeral he was described as: "One of those privileged creatures who came direct from the hand of God in whom God joins tenderness to genius in order to enkindle the world." Amélie, widowed at age 32, with a humility very similar to that of Frédéric, devoted her lengthy widowhood, first of all, to her daughter and, above all, to safeguarding her husband's work. Her life was dedicated to the service of the poorest and most vulnerable, and to the love of God, and to her family.

For LITTLES



Invite little children to find someone in the neighborhood who needs help.

- Help them think of the joy of doing good when you get nothing in return.
- Encourage them to choose a way to give a smile, some service, or simply gestures of friendship to a neighbor in need. Example: Color a special picture to give a neighbor.

For MIDDLES



Charity is the virtue of generous giving.

Invite children to consider how they might make a big difference in someone's life.

Invite the children to pray for 7 days with this intention: God please help the POOR people, the SICK, people, and the SAD people...and all the missionaries (like me) who bring Jesus to them. At the end of the 7 days, see what concrete acts of charity the children are inspired to do and help them accomplish it.

For TEENS



Discover the world-wide impact of one married couple. Fredric and Amelia Ozanam.

Fredric: <https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day/blessed-frederic-ozanam/>

Amelie: <https://www.ssvpscotland.com/ssvp-origins/amelie-soulacroix-ozanam/>

Invite teens to research the profound work of the St. Vincent De Paul Society that is active in parishes and communities across the USA and around the world.

Challenge the teens to come up with a special way to help people in need, possibly partnering with the SVDP Vincentian team in their local area. (Example: Host a "bedding and blanket" collection to go with the SVDP bed donation program.

<https://svdpstlouis.org/everyday-needs>)



Pray THE JUBILANT MARRIAGES 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.

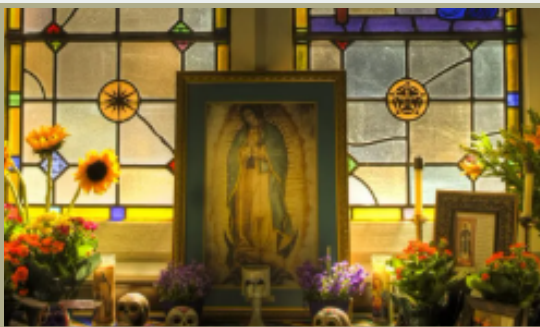
Unleash the power of Matrimonial Grace in our parish - through the leadership of our clergy, the faithfulness of married couples, and the wisdom of the widowed, to inspire each parishioner to live as a joy-filled daily sign of the sacrificial love of God .

Amen.

You are encouraged to pray this prayer in your home with your spouse and/or family.
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.

Oportunidad Hispana Carismática

Programas del Centro de Renovación Católica – para participar, póngase en contacto con nosotros

<https://resources.archstl.org/article/181921/oportunidad-hispana-carismatica>



Viviendo en el Espíritu – Renovación Carismática Católica (RCC):

- Reunión de oración de Renovación Carismática Católica St. Louis es un momento de alabanza y adoración con una breve charla y testimonio.
- Preguntas y/o más información llamar este número o correo (314) 731-6100 or email Lizetmata@archstl.org
- Date: November 27 @ 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm
- Location: 6120 Pebble Hill Dr, St. Louis, MO

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
Society of St. Vincent de Paul <i>Call the general line for questions.</i>	314-881-6000	Online Contact link: https://svdpstlouis.org/who-we-are/contact

✦ 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.

Visit ARCHSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages to discover more!