



JUBILANT MARRIAGES

Jubilant Marriages 1, 2, 3 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 12/14 & 12/28*

Monthly themed Homily Hints give you homily prep help to orient your preaching once a month 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. These Homily Hints are based on readings for 12/14 and 12/28.

With JM Prayers of the Faithful - These Prayers of the Faithful intentions focus on prayers that parents, youth and families will be intentional to build loving family unity that spans generations. In December the emphasis is asking God to cultivate cross-generational unity in couples, families, and extended families.



2) *Digital Jubilant Marriages Tool Kit for Parishioners*

The digital JM Toolkit for Parishioners sparkles with enjoyable inspiration and resources for couples and families to embrace a cross-generational unity during Advent and beyond.

Use this Tool Kit COVER IMAGE and LINK:

<https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/fc6ad704-0de0-42cd-8fe3-02809dfb1013?FU=1762984655>

to share the valuable content with your parishioners. 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. <https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/c50f966c-5d63-4b7f-8913-7804253066b0?FU=1761251245>

Homily Hints 12/14

For Sunday, December 14, 2025



These readings are for the third Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

The overall theme can be summed up as: God can transform deserts into blooming joy. God's healing, that can renew unity within a family, echoes Gospel patterns of redemption. Patient, grumble-free love models Christ's patient endurance in loving all God's children. Married couples who persevere through and beyond times of struggle, have marriages that display Christ's works — forgiveness, sacrifice — and are a powerful living witness to the power of God's grace.

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10

Blossoming Hope in Desert Times

In the arid stretches of married life—marked by financial strain, illness, or unspoken grief—God promises transformation: the desert shall bloom, weak hands strengthen, and feeble knees gain firmness. As a Catholic couple, you embody this prophetic hope, your fidelity is a living sign that God's redemption spans generations, capable of turning the sorrow of today into everlasting joy.

When doubt creeps in, actively "go and tell" your children or grandchildren the "works" you've witnessed in your marriage—healings of resentment through forgiveness, or renewed love after hardship. This week, share one specific story of God's intervention in your union, as a reminder of Jesus' call to look beyond current expectations to seek the divine reality to come.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 146: 6-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10.

"Lord, come and save us!"

Patient Endurance as Generational Witness

Like farmers awaiting precious fruit, wise married couples cultivate patience amid trials, choosing not to grumble – but strengthen each other with prayer and patience. A steadfast union, which finds a path forward even through times of discord, models Christ. Your patience can echo across generations, and inspire your descendants to persevere in faith and love.

Second Reading

James 5: 7-10.

Patiently affirm your spouse's role in God's plan, especially when expectations falter. This Advent, commit to a daily "no grumble" challenge: replace criticism with a spoken word of gratitude, then discuss with your spouse how this patience mirrors Jesus' call to help Him build His Kingdom, planting seeds of hope in your family's lineage.

Expectant Faith Beyond Sight

John's prison question reveals the tension between expectation and reality, yet Jesus points to tangible signs: the blind see, the lame walk. Holy marriages reflect this Gospel hope, your shared life can be a "greater than John" testimony where love's miracles—forgiven wounds, joyful sacrifices—proclaim the Kingdom to future generations.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Couples can live as signs of hope, by assuming a messengers' role. Consider inviting a young couple – or your own children -- to witness your marriage's "works of Christ." Host them for a simple meal this week, and make time to share how you've seen God "raise the dead" – your release from relational ruts – through sacramental grace, like Isaiah's deserts that bloom.

Homily Hints 12/28

For Sunday, December 28, 2025



The readings and Gospel for Sunday in the octave of Christmas (Cycle A) The Feast of the Holy Family

These readings show that honoring parents, clothing your home in Christ's virtues, and trusting God's guidance through exile and return, are the way your marriage becomes a living icon of the Holy Family. Stay rooted in reverence, radiant in love, resolute in obedience and you will offer current and future generations a tangible sign that God dwells with those who follow Him, generation after generation.

Honoring Roots, Clothing in Christ

God entrusts parents with sacred authority, promising long life and expiated sin to children who honor father and mother—even when age brings frailty. Catholic spouses, by cherishing aging parents and nurturing reverence in your children, become living bridges of mercy, your family a sign of hope that obedience to God's order bears fruit across generations.

This week, involve your children in one concrete act of kindness toward grandparents—writing a letter of gratitude or helping out with a task—then pray together the Fourth Commandment, linking honor with the Holy Family's hidden obedience in Egypt.

Garments of Compassion, Woven for Eternity

Clothe yourselves in heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bear with one another and forgive as the Lord forgives. In marriage, these virtues—lived daily amid spilled milk, sleepless nights, or sharp words—transform your home into a school of love, preparing hearts, young and old, to recognize that Christ's peace can reign in them now and for generations to come.

Choose one virtue (e.g., patience) to practice visibly each day. At dinner, have each family member name where they saw it lived out, then thank God in a closing prayer, mirroring the Holy Family's quiet fidelity to God's plans for them.

Faithful Flight, Hopeful Return

Joseph rises in the night, takes Mary and Jesus, and flees to Egypt; later, guided by dreams, returns to Nazareth. Your marriage echoes this Holy Family: obedient to God's whisper amid danger or uncertainty, your trust becomes a beacon—showing children and grandchildren that divine protection accompanies those who follow, no matter the road.

Create a "Joseph Moment": once this week, pause as a couple to pray silently for guidance on a family decision, then share the insight aloud with your children, affirming that God still speaks in quiet moments and sometimes surprising circumstances to lead His families on their journey – to our heavenly home.

First Reading

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways."

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17.

Gospel

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions For DECEMBER

01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will cultivate love in their extended families through healthy companionship, gestures of support, and earnest prayer.

02 Youth Relationships

We pray that young people will be intentional to build, and value, cross-generational family relationships of all ages - with grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings, nieces and nephews.

03 Parenting Holy Families

We pray for God's grace to empower parents with the loving words and practical wisdom to foster fervent faith and enduring relationships to unite their immediate and extended families.



Matrimony Mindset for December Parish Bulletins:

<https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/c50f966c-5d63-4b7f-8913-7804253066b0?FU=1761251245>

Use 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.



MATRIMONY MINDSET WEEK 1 - Build Family Traditions

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." (Genesis 2:24)

Practical Marriage Motivation Tip: Start a family ritual like "share a family story" at meal time once per week, to capture lasting memories that bond your children (and future grandchildren) to your union.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, bless our marriage as a foundation for generations. Help us weave traditions that reflect Your love and unity. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: What family tradition from our past can we revive or adapt to strengthen our bond and pass on to our kids?

*This December, Catholic couples are encouraged to appreciate and cultivate opportunities for generational unity that can flow through their marriage. Find out more in the **December Jubilant Marriages TOOLKIT** at Archstl.org/Jubilant-marriages*

MATRIMONY MINDSET WEEK 2 - Nurturing Faith Inheritance

"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

Practical Marriage Motivation Tip: Pray together daily as a couple, modeling faith for your children so they carry it forward, uniting your family line in God's family of grace.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, unite our hearts in faith, that our marriage may inspire generations after us to seek You. Guide us in passing on Your truth. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: How has our shared faith shaped our marriage, and what do we hope our children and grandchildren will remember about it?

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MATRIMONY MINDSET WEEK 3 - Fostering Extended Family Bonds

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children." (Proverbs 17:6)

Practical Marriage Motivation Tip: Reach out to in-laws or elders weekly with calls or visits, showing respect and love that models unity for your descendants.

Prayer: God of all generations, strengthen our marriage to bridge family divides. May our unity be a beacon for our children and theirs. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: In what ways can we support our extended family to create a legacy of harmony that our kids will emulate?

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MATRIMONY MINDSET WEEK 4 - Cultivating a Legacy of Love

"Love is patient and kind... It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things." (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Practical Marriage Motivation Tip: Write letters or record videos sharing your love story, preserving wisdom and affection for future generations to draw from.

Prayer: Eternal God, let our marital love echo through time, uniting our family in Your enduring grace. Bless us Lord, to leave a holy inheritance. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: What aspects of our love do we want to intentionally pass down to unite our family across generations?

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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*

