

Office of Marriage and Family Life

OCTOBER 2026

**HOLY
MATRIMONY,
WHERE
VOCATIONS
GROW**



**JUBILANT
MARRIAGES**

TOOL KIT

MONTHLY RESOURCES & IDEAS

www.ARCHSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages

Jubilant Marriages Theme For OCTOBER

Holy Matrimony - Where Vocations Grow

Catholic couples who embrace their marriage as a daily lived Sacrament can have a surprisingly profound impact on the vocational paths of their children.

The Jubilant Marriages Initiative focus for OCTOBER encourages couples, priests and parishes to cultivate an openness to the BIG YES to God in the children they care about. The vocational call to marriage, priesthood, or religious life is a life-long, sacrificial, holy and hope-filled adventure.

Modern culture sells young people the counterfeits of co-habitation, financial success, and selfish relationships as “happiness”. Our youth need help from all of us to discover the HOPE and LOVE they long for is found in God’s design, plans, and call in their life.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- Jubilant Marriages Theme
- Scripture Reflection: 10/11 & 10/25
- October Intercessions
- Matrimony Moments
- Recommended Resources
- Help for the Winding Path
- Events, Links, and More
- Ideas for Parents & Educators
- Hispanic Resources
- Jubilant Marriages Prayer
- Helpful Contacts

Visit and share the link to the webpage: www.MarriageandFamilySTL.org with everyone in your parish. The page offers resource links to cultivate HEALTHY marriages that endure with generational impact that is powered by sacramental grace.

Jubilant Marriages Parish Teams

You and your spouse are invited to work with your pastor to build a Marriage Ministry Core Team at your parish. These couples work together to fortify and energize couples in the parish through prayer, events and small groups.

Contact Paul Duker at the Office of Marriage and Family Life: 314.792.7178 (Cell: 314.303.5060) to register and get started with Jubilant Marriages.

Sunday Scriptures: 10/11

Reflection for Sunday, October 11, 2026



The readings this week, the twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, invite us to depend on God's providence and promises as we look forward to the end times when all things will be brought to fulfillment in God.

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

Isaiah 25: 6-10a

First Reading - Isaiah 25:6-10a

Isaiah describes the end times as a great feast celebrating the fulfillment of God's promise of salvation for all people and creation. God's faithfulness brings about rejoicing instead of weeping, eternal life over death, a future of hope.

In the midst of a world that is in turmoil this vision of God's plan can seem impossible. To live with hope as a married couple means being aware of the positive happening in spite of the negative as a sign of God at work in all things.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-r, 5, 6

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The metaphor of shepherd describes God's personal and tender care for each of us. God satisfies all of our needs and keeps us safe; we profess our dependence on God as our way of life forever.

A married couple praying together daily and expressing gratitude to God can help them discover God at work in each other as compassion, support, forgiveness, and trust.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Second Reading – Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Paul has learned through experience that God is the one who provides and sustains him in all circumstances. "I can do all things in him who strengthens me".

The logo for Jubilant Marriages is two hearts entwined with the cross, symbolizing the need for Christ at the center of the relationship. Married couples need to examine priorities and values that form their decisions and actions on a daily basis to include Christ.

Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Gospel – Matthew 22:1-14

The kingdom of heaven is compared to a wedding feast in which many are invited, but not all choose to attend. For some it is not a priority or have no desire to make the effort to prepare themselves. Those who do come realize the value and are aware of their own need to attend.

Married couples can reflect on the individual 'temperature' of their faith and practices and encourage each other to remain engaged and invested as hopeful participants in God's unfolding promises.

Sunday Scripture 10/25

Reflection for Sunday October 25, 2026



First Reading

Exodus 22:20-26

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms – 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel

Gospel – Matthew 22:34-40

The Readings for the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle C) offer a chance to reflect on the power of caring generously for those in need, in our homes and families, and in the larger community.

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 – Exodus 22:20-26

The reading exhorts the Israelites to be particularly attentive to the marginalized in their community – the alien, widow and orphan. Reminding them that they were once aliens and experienced the hardships in their lives, they should be particularly sensitive to those who are suffering.

Married couples are called to be particularly attentive to the needs of each other, especially in times of difficulty. A willingness to listen and be present to each other is a sign that they have rooted their marriage in God's love.

Responsorial Psalm – 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

The Psalmist uses a variety of metaphors to describe the characteristics of God and God's actions in the life of the Psalmist – my strength, fortress, deliverer, rock of refuge, shield, stronghold.

Just as the Psalmist found God to be a source of comfort, protection and could be counted on to be present in times of need, married couples, drawing on the grace of their sacrament, can be assured of God's presence and find comfort and strength in God during difficult times.

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Paul commends the Thessalonians for their growth of their faith and becoming models of faith for others in their words and actions. We are all called to grow in faith and model our lives after Jesus, the lives of saints and those who speak the Gospel in their words and lives.

Married couples are entrusted with being the first teachers of their children. Knowing that children are particularly observant of their parents and the world around them, it is especially important to remember that the love and respect shown to each other is contagious and children will learn more from our actions than our words.

Gospel – Matthew 22:34-40

Tested by a 'scholar of the law' regarding the 'greatest' commandment, Jesus responds by offering two that undergird the "whole law and the prophets" – the love of God and neighbor.

Married love that is open and generous is a living sign to others of God's love for all humanity and all of creation. Couples who pray together and share their spiritual life with each other grow not only in their personal faith but also in compassion and their willingness to share their love with others.

Jubilant Marriages Prayers & Matrimony Moments

Married Couples

We pray that married couples will lean on the power of their own Matrimonial grace as they help their children choose to say “yes” to God’s vocational call to marriage, priesthood or religious life.

Vocations

We pray that young adults will grow a renewed desire to build their lives on the foundation of faith and generosity - and follow God’s call to the Sacrament of Matrimony or to a religious vocation.



Sunday Matrimony Moments

Use this simple weekly framework to grow closer as a couple.

Take time each Sunday to:

- 1) Be inspired by a **SCRIPTURE** from the Sunday readings
- 2) **PRAY** a short prayer together
- 3) Try a **MOTIVATION TIP** to improve your marriage
- 4) Get a **CONVERSATION** prompt to build connection between you.

Print and use these at home, or in a Married Couple Small Group. Use this [LINK](#).



Mark Your Calendar to Experience...

JUBILANT MARRIAGES WEEK

Jubilant Marriages Week 2026

Sunday, September 27 through Saturday, October 3

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of St. Louis - Office of Marriage & Family Life



Play together!

Pray together!

Married and engaged couples, you are invited to spend seven days with seven simple ways to PRAY & PLAY as a couple and grow more *JUBILANT* in your marriage!

Enjoy daily ways to PLAY together
along with daily ways to PRAY together
that are anchored in Scripture.

Visit www.Marriageandfamilystl.org/JMWeek for all the details.
All the options are simple, meaningful and easily done at home.

****If you can't join in during that week...bookmark the link and use the ideas to create a "Marriage Staycation" at a time that works for you.**

Download the 7 days of PLAY:

Download the 7 days to PRAY:



ARCHDIOCESE
OF ST. LOUIS

Office of Marriage and Family Life - Archdiocese of St. Louis
MarriageandFamilystl.org

ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
APPEAL
BUILD MY CHURCH

FEATURED RESOURCES:

Discover ways to enrich and build openness to say YES to God's call to the vocation of holiness in each member of your family.

**Love
means
more.**

[USCCB Resources: Tools for Conversations that cultivate a YES to God's plan and purpose.](#)

Love Means More is a website from the USCCB that encourages thoughtful, respectful dialogue around the true meanings of marriage, family, sexuality, and the human person. Visit lovemeansmore.org, and get ready to have more meaningful conversations.

[USCCB Resources: Strengthen Your Marriage Vocation to Inspire Others](#)

Find an abundance of practical and inspiring resources to enrich your life as you live your big YES to God through the vocation of marriage. Your daily "I DO" to each other offers a powerful witness to your children, friends, and extended family that living according to God's purpose and plan is a journey full of love, HOPE, joy and meaning.



Spiritual Motherhood of Priests

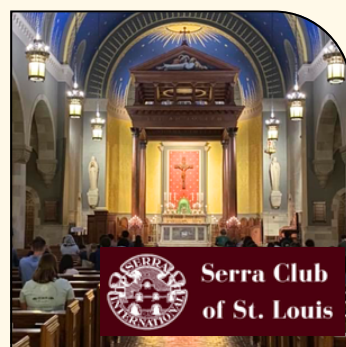
Discover a creative way for wives/mothers to have a spiritual impact within our Archdiocese, and also provide the option to help children open their hearts to God's call to their vocation path. When women decide to "adopt" a priest or seminarian as a spiritual son, and invite their husbands and children to join them in this important prayer - it can plant gentle seeds of vocation in the children's hearts. Ladies, find out how to incorporate this prayer habit in your personal life and more.

Find out more: [Spiritual Motherhood of Priests](#)



SERRA CLUB

Catholic couples can find strength and fun solidarity in the ranks of the Serra Club. Through a broad array of prayer and activities, Serrans work to grow the numbers of young people who answer the call of a religious vocation, and spiritually sustain them on that path. Couples involved with Serra Club also reap spiritual benefits for their own vocation of matrimony. Discover more: [SERRA CLUB](#)



Beloved - Marriage Retreat at Augustine Institute



Love desires unity. Draw closer to scripture, closer to God, and closer together. Over the course of three days on the serene campus of the Augustine Institute, you and your spouse will journey through the Bible—and toward Christ—with figures from the Old and New Testaments, discovering the refreshing waters of scriptural wisdom that will nourish your marriage from here to eternity.

Come talk, listen, pray, and grow. Renew your commitment to your beloved and to Christ. There is always room for richer love in your lives. Taking time to strengthen your vocation sets a good example for the young people in your life to embrace God's call as well.

OCTOBER 23–25, 2026

AUGUSTINE INSTITUTE | FLORISSANT, MO

Register for this extraordinary weekend with this [LINK](#).

RESOURCES FOR THE WINDING PATH

Below are some options to help when a marriage or family needs a fresh start. Discover that practical and spiritual help is available when separation or divorce are part of the marriage and family journey.

Annulment Information: FAQ and Local Help



At times a couple suffers with impediments that have been at the root of problems that existed from before the start of their relationship. When that is the case, the Church can help them explore the Annulment process.

[LINK](#) to find a basic **Annulment FAQ from the USCCB**

[LINK](#) to get **Annulment Guidance in the St. Louis Archdiocese**

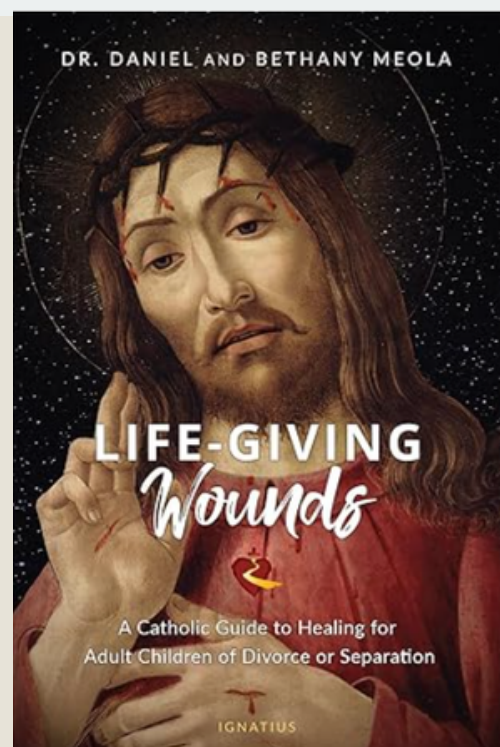
Life-Giving Wounds *Healing for Children of Divorce*

Life-Giving Wounds offers young adults and adults with divorced and separated parents a path to find transformative healing in Christ, and to ways to discover a fresh “matrimony mindset” for their own journey ahead in life.

This Catholic, peer-led ministry provides unique programs and means for Christ to transform life-draining wounds into life-giving resources of faith, hope, love, and joy for themselves, their relationships, and the Church.

[LINK STL Chapter Contacts: STL Life Giving Wounds Group](#)

[LINK: Fall Virtual Retreat - Wednesdays October 7 through November 18, 2026, 8:15 to 10 p.m. EST](#)



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 to help Marriages be HAPPY and strong.

Visit MarriageandFamilySTL.org and discover links to resources and ideas that empower couples to cultivate a joyful and generous YES to God in whatever vocational path their life leads them... and their children.

Events & Info.



Help for the Winding Path...

For couples experiencing marriage difficulties, “**Retrouvaille**” is a proven & POWERFUL marriage renewal experience in which you can: rebuild your emotional connection, learn healthy communication methods, manage conflicts effectively, forgive and rebuild trust. *Rediscover your love!*

“Retrouvaille” weekend in STL: October 2 - 4, 2026

Take the first step to a better marriage. [Register Here](#)

Testimonials

“We came to Retrouvaille thinking nothing would work. We have been given another chance.”

“We’d been living apart for over six months, but through this program, we’re gradually learning to rebuild our marriage.”

“God Chose You For Me” Retreat

“God Chose You For Me” - WWME 1-Day Retreat for Couples

Deepen the spiritual intimacy in your marriage.

Pray, connect in new ways, and encounter God’s love...together!

Saturday, October 3, 2026 -

Sts Joachim and Ann Parish in

St. Charles, MO - [Register](#)



“Marriage is not only a beautiful vocation. It is also a necessary one, for out of marriage and family will come other vocations, to priestly, and religious life.”

— The Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales

Ideas for Parents & Educators



In OCTOBER, we focus on the way married couples can guide their children to find HOPE in God's call and say YES to whatever vocation to which God calls them.

Holy Matrimony Role Models: Blessed Conception Cabera & Francisco Garcia

Conception Cabera (Conchita) and Francisco Armida Garcia, lived in Mexico. They were devoted parents of 9 children. She became a widow at age 39 and continued on with heroic faith, grateful for God's grace to sustain her family. She was known as a mystic and for her spiritual motherhood of priests.

This holy couple showed through their words, prayers and actions that saying YES to God with our whole heart is powerful. God needs each of us to say YES!

For LITTLES

Invite little children to join with mom, and dad, to pray for priests and religious

- Talk about what it means to say YES to God with your whole heart as a husband, wife, priest, sister or other religious!
- Pray a daily prayer for God to protect, and strengthen, all the priests, religious sisters and brothers, husbands, and wives who have said their big YES to God!



For MIDDLES

Blessed Conchita consecrated each of her children to Our Lady,

"I give them entirely to you as your children. You know that I am not capable of raising them. I understand too little of what it means to be a mother. But you...you know it." Manuel, their third child, became a Jesuit priest. Concepción, their fourth, joined the order of the Religious Sisters of the Cross of the Sacred Heart. Four children got married: Francisco, Ignacio, Salvador and Guadalupe. The other three died holy deaths at an early age: Carlos at age 6, Pablo at age 18, and Pedrito, the youngest, at age 3.

Seek out a simple prayer of consecration to pray with and for children to ask Mary's help and protection, so they will say their own YES to God, like she did



For TEENS

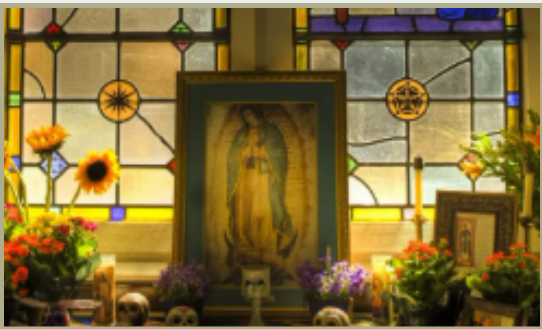
Blessed Conchita, as a widow, lived during both the Mexican Revolution and the Cristero War that followed it. The Mexican government persecuted Catholics for almost two decades from 1910 until the 1930s. Many seminaries and convents were forced to close. During the Cristero War many Catholics rebelled against the government's anticlericalism. Blessed Conchita wrote about her experiences during this time in her diary. She had a special charism. Like the Virgin Mary, she acted as a spiritual mother who intercedes for souls, especially priests and religious.

Set aside time for teens to pray in a special way for those who are persecuted for the Catholic faith, especially for the courage of priests and sisters who lead others to Christ.



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>



[Quinceañera!](#)

Estas Por Cumplir Tus 15 Años Y Quieres Tener Una Misa
¿Pero No Sabes Que Necesitas?

El rito de los quince años es más que una celebración del paso de niña a mujer, una herencia cultural y religiosa hispana y está relacionada con la familia, maternidad y fe.

<https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/452531cb-6769-4577-b152-452392dd9b41?FU=1721072528>

Preparación Matrimonial

La preparación matrimonial para parejas comprometidas en la Arquidiócesis de STL se basa en un excelente programa de Ascension llamado: El plan de Dios para un matrimonio lleno de alegría, que ofrece tanto preparación espiritual como práctica.

[Enlace: Preparación Matrimonial](#)

EL PLAN DE DIOS
para el AMOR





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

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

✦ 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 spotlight important ways each marriage can be holy, healthy, and happy - and provide practical information that helps married couples and parishes to thrive.

Visit MarriageandFamilySTL.org to discover more!

