



JUBILANT MARRIAGES

AUGUST 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 encourage married couples in a special way in a 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 of August. **THREE**, add the Sunday Matrimony Moments content as often as you can in the parish Bulletin.

1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 8/9 & 8/23*

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

JM Prayers of the Faithful - These Prayers of the Faithful intentions emphasize the need for couples, families and the parish community to support the relationships of married couples to help them live a lifestyle of faith as they raise their children to love God and serve others. Try to include these intercessions or something similar at a Sunday Mass this month.



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

The digital Jubilant Marriages Toolkit magazine is packed with great content to strengthen the faith, hope and love of couples who are in the child-rearing season of life. Back-to-school is a great time for parents to regroup and plan ways to fortify and energize their marriage and family in the coming year.

Use this Tool Kit **COVER IMAGE** and [LINK](#):

to easily share the valuable content with your parishioners.

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

3) *Sunday “Matrimony Moments” Weekly Bulletin Content*

Share this document download 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: 8/9

For Sunday, August 9, 2026



*These reflections are for August 9, the 19th Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
Try reading and discussing these before, or after, Sunday Mass*

The readings this week offer solace in the midst of trials and distress. Married couples are reminded to cling to Christ who can overcome all fear and turmoil in our hearts.

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 and is an adjunct instructor at Aquinas Institute. The Loves are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Valley Park.

First Reading

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

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Elijah flees to a cave to avoid facing his difficulties. God calls him out of hiding to experience His presence. Elijah looks for God in the heavy wind, earthquake or fire to no avail but finally experiences God's presence in a "tiny whispering sound."

In married life, couples might stay attuned to the "tiny whispering" of God's voice in the small and ordinary events of daily life in times of difficulty for guidance and support.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm: 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14

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The Psalmist writes of a people in distress who have called on God for help. They are a faithful people confident that God will answer their pleas.

In times of difficulty, married couples must remain confident that God has blessed their marriage and turn to God in prayer for guidance.

Second Reading

Romans 9:1-5

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Paul is speaking to the Jewish people to whom he first proclaimed the Gospel. While he has now devoted himself to the conversion of the Gentiles, he states that he has never abandoned his relationship with the Israelites. He reminds them that it was the Jewish people that first enjoyed a covenant with God and from whom the Christ came in the flesh.

Married couples must remember that their marriage is a sacramental covenant blessed by God and place their trust in God even amidst the challenges that couples and families sometimes incur.

Gospel

**Gospel: Matthew
14:22-33**

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While being tossed around in their boat during a storm, the disciples were in distress. Jesus approaches them walking on the water and speaks to them about their fear, "Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid."

Even though, like the disciples, married couples can experience fear in their relationship about the strength of their commitment, financial issues, their ability to be good parents and a host of other issues, they cannot let fear be their guide. Jesus assures us that he will always travel the journey alongside them and will calm whatever fear they might experience.

Homily Hints 8/23

For Sunday, August 23, 2026



***The readings & Gospel for the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A
Try reading and discussing these before, or after, Sunday Mass.***

The readings this week encourage us to lean into Divine wisdom as we grow in relationship with Christ and with each other.

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 and is an adjunct instructor at Aquinas Institute. The Loves are members of Sacred Heart Parish in Valley Park.

First Reading

Isaiah 22:19-23

First Reading – Isaiah 22:19-23

Isaiah describes the ritual of transferring leadership to Eliakim, who will provide order and stability the Kingdom of Judah needs to survive.

Married couples are called to be the bearers of the faith in their families through their example of love in word, deed, and faith practices.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm – 138:1-2.2-3,6,8

Responsorial Psalm – 138:1-2.2-3,6,8

Addressed directly to God, the psalmist publicly expresses gratitude for God's faithfulness and lovingkindness in the past and present, and always.

Married couples are called to remember God's kindness and faithfulness in their past struggles, be attentive to God's faithfulness in present challenges, and to trust that God's faithfulness will never fail them no matter what the future brings.

Second Reading

Romans 11: 33-36

Second Reading - Romans 11: 33-36

Paul speaks of Divine Wisdom that cannot be seen or understood by humans and yet has meaning and purpose for their lives and all of Creation. God's plan will unfold in God's way.

Marriage requires trust in each other and trust in God's plan; couples' prayer together especially in times of uncertainty can be what draws them closer to each other and to God.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

Gospel – Matthew 16:13-20

Peter declares what has been personally revealed to him by God: "You are Christ, the Son of the Living God." This revelation makes him 'blessed': his establishment and leadership of the church will be guided and sustained by God's grace.

True discipleship flows from personal relationship with Christ. Married couples who recognize this through their sacrament of matrimony will be 'blessed' with grace to closely follow and proclaim God's promises and plan.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions AUGUST

01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will make it a priority to strengthen their own faith, hope, and love so they are energized to guide their children as young disciples.

02 Parents & Families

We pray for moms and dads to lean on Christ for strength as a couple - and with their children - as they navigate the challenges of parenting and family life.

03 Parish Community

We pray that parents in our parish, will find solidarity and strength from the support of our parish community in raising their children to know, love, and serve God with joy.



Sunday Matrimony Moments for August:



Sunday Matrimony Moments can help the married couples in your parish in a simple and practical way. These can reach the parishioners who might not come out for an event, but might try this simple little Sunday exercise to strengthen their marriage one-on-one at home. Couples can use them one-on-one to start a conversation over coffee on a Sunday morning and/or parish-based couple small groups can use them as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation.

Parish Bulletins: Copy and paste the 4 **CONTENT SECTIONS** and **LOGO IMAGE** as a regular feature in the **parish bulletin** - as often as space allows.

Couples and/or Couple Small Groups: Offer copies or the download link to couples and parish-based couple small groups as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation.

Sunday Matrimony Moments include the following four elements each week:

- **Scripture** from one of the Sunday readings
- Simple **Couple Prayer** based on a weekly theme
- **Marriage Motivation Tip** for couples to improve their marriage
- **Conversation Question** to fuel a conversation about the topic that week

Themes for August 2026: Strong Marriages & Strong Families

WEEK #1 - Theme: Nourished by God's Love to Sustain Family Unity

WEEK #2 - Theme: Listening to God's Soft Voice Amid Life's Storms

WEEK #3 - Theme: Faith That Unites and Heals the Family

WEEK #4 - Theme: Built on the Rock of Christ for Lasting Legacy

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 and experience Matrimony as a daily lived Sacrament.

Questions? Contact the Office of Marriage And Family Life:

Paul Duker - Program Manager Paulduker@archstl.org

Cathy Gilmore - Jubilant Marriages Coordinator cathygilmore@archstl.org

Sunday Matrimony Moments content for AUGUST:

Sunday Matrimony Moments offer married couples a simple opportunity to grow in unity and holiness. This content can be a springboard for couples to use as a conversation starter as they establish a habit to take time each week to talk and connect about what matters most in their marriage.

Couples can use them one-on-one to start a conversation over coffee on a Sunday morning and/or parish-based couple small groups can use them as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation. (Parishes can include them in the parish bulletin.)



WEEK #1 - Theme: Nourished by God's Love to Sustain Family Unity

"Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant..."
(Isaiah 55:3, from the 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A)

Couple Prayer:

Lord Jesus, as we raise our children, nourish our marriage with Your living water. Renew our covenant daily so we remain united to You and to each other. Help us feed our family with faith, hope, and love. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip:

Prioritize a short daily moment of prayer or Scripture together—even 5 minutes. Just as Jesus fed the multitude, God will multiply your efforts to strengthen your bond and model unity for your children.

Couple Conversation Question:

How can we better invite God's abundance into our daily family life so we feel less overwhelmed and more united?

WEEK #2 - Theme: Listening to God's Soft Voice Amid Life's Storms

"After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound... Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave."
(1 Kings 19:12-13 / 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A)

Couple Prayer:

Heavenly Father, in the busyness of parenting, help us quiet our hearts to hear Your gentle voice. Draw us closer to You and to one another, so our home becomes a place of peace and faithful listening. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip:

Create a simple "whisper moment" each week—perhaps a quiet walk or evening check-in—to listen to God and to each other without distractions. This builds resilience against family storms.

Couple Conversation Question:

When do we most clearly hear God's voice in our marriage and family life, and how can we make space for that more often?

WEEK #3 - Theme: Faith That Unites and Heals the Family

"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."
(Matthew 15:28 / 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A)

Couple Prayer:

Lord, increase our faith as a couple. Like the Canaanite woman, may we persistently bring our children's needs to You. Unite us in trust so Your mercy flows through our family. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip:

Practice "persistent prayer" together for your children and marriage. Shared faith in action—especially during challenges—deepens your unity with God and each other.

Couple Conversation Question:

What is one area in our family life where we need greater faith right now, and how can we support each other in trusting God more?

WEEK #4 - Theme: Built on the Rock of Christ for Lasting Legacy

"You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church... I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."
(Matthew 16:18-19, / 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A)

Couple Prayer:

Jesus, You are the Rock of our marriage and family. Build our home on You so nothing can prevail against it. Grant us the grace to lead our children to Your Kingdom. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip:

Regularly reaffirm your sacramental foundation—recall your wedding vows or renew them simply. Anchor decisions in Christ to create a stable, faith-filled legacy for your children.

Couple Conversation Question:

How can we more intentionally build our family life on Christ as the solid rock, especially as we guide our children?

These weekly words of inspiration and encouragement are part of the Archdiocese Jubilant Marriages Initiative
Questions? Contact the Office of Marriage And Family Life:
Cathy Gilmore - Jubilant Marriages Coordinator - cathygilmore@archstl.org - 636-391-3999



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*

