



JUBILANT MARRIAGES

OCTOBER 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 OCTOBER. **THREE**, add the Sunday Matrimony Moments content as often as you can in the parish Bulletin.

1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 10/11 & 10/25*

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 support the relationships of married couples to cultivate an openness to God's vocational call in their children's lives. Try to include these intercessions or something similar at a Sunday Mass this month.



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

The digital Jubilant Marriages Toolkit magazine is packed with great content to equip marriages to be strong and inspire families to cultivate a yes to God's vocational call in their children..

Use this Tool Kit COVER IMAGE and [LINK](#) to easily share the valuable content with your parishioners.

Sharing options include: Parish e-newsletter, Flocknote, etc.

3) *Sunday "Matrimony Moments" for Parish Bulletins*

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: 10/11

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.

Homily Hints 10/25

For Sunday October 25, 2026

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.



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First Reading

Exodus 22:20-26

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

Psalms – 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

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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

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

Gospel – Matthew 22:34-40

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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 Intentions & 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

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 well.

Parish Bulletin: Copy and paste each weekly CONTENT SECTION and LOGO IMAGE as a regular feature in the parish bulletin - as often as space allows. (See following page to use.)

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**

Sunday Matrimony Moments for October, 2026

Sunday Matrimony Moments offer married couples a simple opportunity to grow in unity and holiness. Couples can use this content one-on-one for conversations on Sundays and build a habit of choosing heart-to-heart time together as a priority each week.

Parish-based couple small groups can also use these as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation. (Parishes can include these in the Sunday parish bulletin.)



Couples, use this simple content to enrich your marriage one-on-one each Sunday

Sunday Matrimony Moments - October 4, 2026 - Cultivating the Vineyard of Marriage

"I have chosen you from the world, says the Lord, to go and bear fruit that will remain." . John 15:16

Couple Prayer: Lord Jesus, You planted us as a vineyard in the Sacrament of Matrimony. Help us tend our marriage with care, prune what is unfruitful, and produce the lasting fruit of love, patience, and holiness. Guard our hearts with Your peace. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Just as the landowner carefully prepared his vineyard, invest intentional daily effort in your marriage—small acts of kindness, shared prayer, and forgiveness—so that it yields the good fruit God desires.

Couple Conversation Question: What "wild grapes" (habits, attitudes, or distractions) might be hindering the fruitfulness of our marriage right now, and how can we work together to cultivate better growth?

Find more ways to make your marriage JUBILANT at www.MarriageandFamilySTL.org

Couples, use this simple content to enrich your marriage one-on-one each Sunday

Sunday Matrimony Moments - October 11, 2026 - The Wedding Feast of the Kingdom

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son." Matthew 22:2

Couple Prayer: Heavenly Father, You invite us to the everlasting wedding feast of Your Son. Strengthen our marriage as a living image of that joyful banquet. We pray especially for the youth and young adults of our time: fill them with hope and courage to embrace the Sacrament of Matrimony with faith and generosity. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Live your marriage as a joyful invitation to the feast. Let your visible love and fidelity inspire young people around you to see Christian marriage as a beautiful, hope-filled vocation worth embracing.

Couple Conversation Question: How can our marriage more clearly reflect the joy and generosity of the King's wedding feast, and in what ways might we encourage young people to open their hearts to the Sacrament of Matrimony?

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Sunday Matrimony Moments - October 18, 2026 – Rendering to God What Belongs to God

"Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Matthew 22:21

Couple Prayer: Lord, You have claimed us as Your own through the covenant of marriage. Help us render to You the first fruits of our love, time, and decisions, while faithfully fulfilling our duties in the world. Make our home a place where You are truly honored. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Prioritize what belongs to God—shared prayer, Sunday Mass, and moral integrity—before the demands of work, schedules, or social expectations. A marriage ordered toward God remains strong amid worldly pressures.

Couple Conversation Question: In the balance of our daily responsibilities, are we giving God what is rightfully His in our marriage, and what one adjustment could help us do so more faithfully this week?

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Couples, use this simple content to enrich your marriage one-on-one each Sunday

Sunday Matrimony Moments - October 25, 2026 – Loving God and Loving Your Spouse

"You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Couple Prayer: Jesus, You teach that the greatest commandments are love of God and love of neighbor. Help us love You wholeheartedly and love each other as our closest neighbor—with patience, selflessness, and tender care. May our marriage be a school of genuine love. Amen.

Marriage Motivation Tip: Treat your spouse as the "neighbor" closest to you. Concrete daily love—listening well, serving without being asked, speaking kindly—fulfills the greatest commandments in the most intimate way.

Couple Conversation Question: In what practical ways can we better love God together, and how can each of us more intentionally love the other as ourselves this coming week?

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