



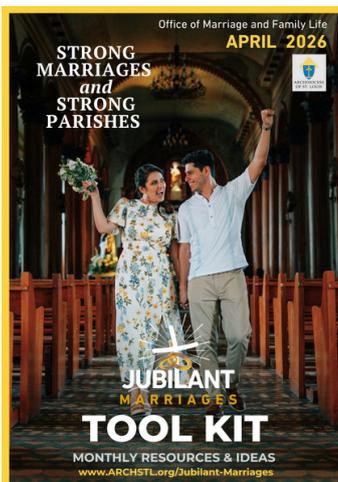
## APRIL Jubilant Marriages for Priests & Deacons

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

### 1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 4/12 & 4/26*

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

**With JM Prayers of the Faithful** - These Prayers of the Faithful intentions emphasize the need for God to pour His grace on marriage and family in a modern society in which powerful forces are arrayed against both. In April we pray especially that couples and families will seek out ways to use the power of Matrimonial grace to strengthen their family and the parish community. Try to include one or more at a Sunday mass this month.



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

The digital JM Toolkit for Parishioners is packed with inspiration and resources for couples and families to be holy and strong in their own relationship and as they connect with others in parish life.

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: 4/12

*For Sunday, April 12, 2026*



*These reflections are for April 12, the Second Sunday of Easter - Year A  
The simple format below gives options to include encouragement for Catholic married couples within the larger context of the Sunday Homily.*

The readings this week offer us the opportunity to reflect on the multi-faceted joy and strength that God can infuse in our marriages and all our relationships.

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

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## First Reading

Acts 2:42-47

### **First Reading:**

*The faithful gather every Sunday, or perhaps every day, to praise God and break bread together—the Sacred Bread that is Christ's Presence—nourishing us as individuals and binding us as a community of believers.*

*Married couples gather for meals in their home, praising God and breaking bread together with their family—also sacred bread that celebrates Christ present in each member of their holy family and binds them together as the smallest community of believers in our larger church.*

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## Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24

### **Responsorial Psalm:**

*The Israelites recognized that their strength and courage in times of distress came from their Lord, and they gave thanks.*

*Married couples who reflect on how the grace of their sacramental love was present during past times of distress will remain courageous when troubles come in the present.*

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## Second Reading

1 Peter 1:3-9

### **Second Reading :**

*Peter reminds us that our pains, our struggles, and our little and big deaths will ultimately result in indescribable joy.*

*The pattern of this paschal mystery is present also in marriage, whereby in dying to ourselves and our own needs/desires, we come to experience the indescribable joy of living in loving union.*

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## Gospel

John 20:19-31

### **Gospel Reading:**

*Despite their behavior at the end of Jesus' life, Jesus' first greeting to his disciples after the resurrection was one of peace.*

*In marriage, we can choose to retain the offenses of the other or we can choose, like Jesus, to offer the peace of forgiveness.*

# Homily Hints 4/26

*For Sunday, April 26, 2026*



**The readings & Gospel for the Fourth Sunday of Easter - Year A**  
**The simple format below gives options to include encouragement for Catholic married couples within the larger context of the Sunday Homily.**

The readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter invite us to appreciate God's spiritual and practical gifts that equip us to bring His comforting, patient, fortifying and quiet love to each other, and to all the people in the parish community in which we live.

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

## First Reading

**Acts 8:5-8, 14-17**

### **First Reading:**

*We are promised the gift of the Holy Spirit and God does not go back on his promises!*

*Married couples, empowered by their grace-filled sacrament, are called to use their combined gifts to be a strong and life-giving presence in their parishes.*

## Responsorial Psalm

**Psalms 22:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)**

### **Responsorial Psalm:**

*Everything we need to live Christian lives in the world is present to us when we turn to the Lord as our shepherd.*

*This truth follows us into marriage, where couples come away from the stress of the world and find rest, refreshment, kindness and abundance in each other.*

## Second Reading

**1 Peter 2:20b-25**

### **Second Reading:**

*As Christ was patient in his suffering for the greater good of our righteousness, we too are called to do good, to choose good, even when we are suffering.*

*Husbands and wives are called to continually look for the good present in the other, to err on the side of charity and assume their spouse's good intent, especially during times of disagreement and conflict.*

## Gospel

**John 14:15-21**

### **Gospel:**

*It takes a quiet heart to hear the voice of Christ speaking in our noisy world today.*

*Married couples who take some time to be in the quiet together, to listen for Christ's voice in shared prayer, will ultimately experience the abundant life Christ offers.*

# Jubilant Marriages Prayers of the Faithful for APRIL

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## 01 Married Couples

We pray that during the Easter season, Married couples embrace the joy of the Resurrection, embracing mercy, forgiveness, and holy renewal in their lives together.

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## 02 Parents & Families

We pray that God will give parents the creativity and steadfastness to tap into the Joy of the risen Jesus as they walk through the challenges, inconveniences, losses and successes of life with their children. May the joy of the Lord be their strength.

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## 03 Parish Community

We pray that through the prayers and actions of our clergy and parishioners, we can support and encourage married couples who are struggling in their relationship, to find the hope and light they need.



# Sunday Matrimony Moments for APRIL:

**Parish Bulletins:** Copy and paste the following 4 **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 and live their Matrimony as a daily lived Sacrament.



**Couples and/or Couple Small Groups:** Use the content below as a structure for reflection, prayer, and conversation between spouses one-on-one or in a couple's small group.

(For ease of use try this [LINK](#) for a word document download of the same content.)

## **MATRIMONY MOMENTS - RENEWAL IN THE RISEN CHRIST** (SUNDAY - 4/5/26)

***"If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." (Colossians 3:1-3 – Reading 2, Easter Sunday)***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** Just as Christ rose to new life, let your marriage rise daily in His grace. A strong, Christ-centered marriage becomes a living witness that draws others in your parish closer to God—starting with your own renewed love.

**Prayer:** *Lord Jesus, risen from the dead, renew our marriage in Your resurrection power. Hide our life together in You so that others in our parish may see Your glory shining through us. Amen.*

**Couple Conversation Question:** How can we seek "what is above" together this week so our marriage becomes a source of hope for someone in our parish?

## **MATRIMONY MOMENTS - BUILDING COMMUNITY** (SUNDAY - 4/12/26)

***They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of bread and to the prayers... All who believed were together and had all things in common."***

***(Acts 2:42, 44 – Reading 1, Second Sunday of Easter)***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** When husbands and wives devote themselves to prayer, the Eucharist, and one another first, their marriage naturally overflows into parish life—welcoming the lonely, supporting families, and building the kind of "communal life" that the early Church modeled.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, help us devote our marriage to You and to one another just as the first Christians did. May our unity in prayer and the breaking of bread strengthen our parish family. Amen.*

**Couple Conversation Question:** What one act of "communal life" could we offer our parish this week that flows from the love we share?

## **MATRIMONY MOMENTS - JOURNEYING WITH CHRIST TOGETHER** (SUNDAY 4/19/26)

***"Then they said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the Scriptures to us?'" (Luke 24:32 – Gospel, Third Sunday of Easter)***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, walk side-by-side with Christ and each other. A marriage that discusses Scripture, recognizes Jesus in the Eucharist, and stays close on life's journey radiates hope that inspires other couples and singles in the parish

**Prayer:** *Risen Lord, walk with us on the road of marriage. Set our hearts on fire with Your Word so that our love becomes a light drawing others in our parish community to You. Amen.*

**Couple Conversation Question:** Where do we sense our "hearts burning" when we talk about faith together—and how can we invite someone from our parish to journey with us?

## **MATRIMONY MOMENTS - ABUNDANT LIFE TOGETHER & BEYOND** (SUNDAY 4/26/26)

***"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10 – Gospel, Fourth Sunday of Easter)***

**Marriage Motivation Tip:** Jesus the Good Shepherd wants your marriage to overflow with abundant life. When you follow Him together, your strengthened bond becomes a shepherding presence—mentoring newlyweds, visiting the sick, and showing the parish that Catholic marriage is joyfully alive.

**Prayer:** *Good Shepherd, lead our marriage into the abundant life You promise. Use our love to guide and bless the families and individuals in our parish community. Amen.*

**Couple Conversation Question:** How can we live the "abundant life" together this month so that other couples or families in our parish feel drawn closer to Christ?



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*



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