



Office of Marriage
and Family Life

OCTOBER 2025

HOLY MATRIMONY - WHERE VOCATIONS GROW



ARCHDIOCESE
OF ST. LOUIS

PARISHIONER TOOL KIT

MONTHLY RESOURCES & IDEAS

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.

Visit and share the link to the webpage: www.ArchSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages 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.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- [Jubilant Marriages Theme](#)
- [Scripture Reflection: 10/12 & 10/23](#)
- [October Intercessions](#)
- [Jubilant Marriages Prayer](#)
- [Recommended Resources](#)
- [Events, Links, and More](#)
- [Ideas for Parents & Educators](#)
- [Hispanic Resources](#)
- [Helpful Contacts](#)

Jubilant Marriages Parish Teams

You and your spouse are invited to work with your pastor to build a Jubilant Marriages team at your parish - to fortify and energize couples in an intentional way.

Parishes can become a Jubilant Marriages “Accelerator” Parish at any time.

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

Sunday Scriptures: 10/12

Reflection for Sunday, October 12, 2025



The readings for the 28th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle C) give us a good reminder to focus on faithfulness and gratefulness in our personal lives, parish communities and relationships with others. No matter what vocation path God has called us to, our lived example of faithfulness and gratefulness can create a powerful draw for the younger generation to choose a generous "Yes!" to God as well.

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

First Reading

Second Kings 5: 14-17.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 98: 1, 2-3ab, 3c-4

Second Reading

Second Timothy 2: 8-13

Gospel

Luke 17: 11-19

Second Reading - Called to be Faithful

Throughout Scripture, we hear of God's faithfulness. The entire book of Hosea serves as a powerful demonstration of God's unwavering love, forgiveness, and commitment to us, his people, even when we are unfaithful. In today's second reading, Paul describes his suffering. He is chained and imprisoned. Yet even in his suffering, Paul remains faithful to Christ Jesus just as Christ remains faithful to us.

We today are called to persevere like Paul and like Timothy to whom Paul sends his letter. We are called to persevere like the many saints and martyrs through the ages who have gone before us. We, too, are called to remain faithful as God is faithful to us. Nowhere is this faithfulness demonstrated as fully and beautifully as in the vocation of Christian marriage. On their wedding day, both bride and groom pledge fidelity to the other in good times and in bad, for richer and for poorer, in sickness and in health. Each promises to be faithful to these vows until death they do part. And then they spend every hour of every day for the rest of their lives living out what they promised on that day. In doing so, day in and day out, married couples are a visible sign of Christ's free, faithful, fruitful and unconditional love in their families and in our world today. Their YES to each other shows their children the power of answering God's call - whether through the married covenant love, or through a priestly or religious vocation - each of us is called to be a model of Christ's covenant love for all of us.

Gospel - Called to be Grateful

Recognizing God's faithful love for us, in good times and in bad, we are called to be grateful. Today's gospel tells us of ten lepers who pled for mercy. Jesus' faithful love showed them mercy. Jesus healed each one of them. One healed leper recognized God's action in his healing, and he returned to Jesus and thanked him. Did the others not recognize this was God's work? Or were the others just ungrateful? The gospel passage does not tell us. But we do know that while God was faithful to all ten lepers, only one was faithful in return. Do we recognize God working in our lives today? When good things happen to us, do we thank God? Or do we just think we are lucky? It has often been said that if the only prayer we say today is "Thank you," it will be enough. A sincere thank you in prayer is recognizing God's gifts to us. It recognizes that God is the giver and we are the recipients. And this kind of sincere gratitude works just as well in our human relationships. One of the ways married couples express their love for each other is the simple way they say thank you. Not just a fly away "thanks," but taking the time to look your spouse in the eye and sincerely say "thank you." Thank you for bringing me a cup of coffee in the morning. Thank you for filling the car up with gas. Thank you for being here for me in good times and in bad. Thank you for listening. Thank you for your faithfulness in our shared vocation together.

Sunday Scripture 10/23

Reflection for Sunday, October 23, 2025



First Reading

Sirach 35:12-14,16-18

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 32:2-3,17-18, 19,23

"The Lord hears the cry of the poor."

Second Reading

2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Gospel

Luke 18:9-14

Readings and Gospel for the 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time (Cycle C) provide encouragement to take time for introspection to make sure we are running our race toward heaven with docility to God and humility toward everyone.

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

Second Reading - Reflecting on Our Lives

Paul's life is coming to an end. And, like many who are facing death, Paul reflects on his life. He sees that he did well. He kept the faith. He recognizes that the Lord stayed with him when others failed him. He is ready to journey to the heavenly kingdom.

There will come a time when each of us comes face-to-face with our own mortality. It may be when a sibling or a close friend dies. It may come with a diagnosis of a serious illness. Or perhaps a significant injury. At such times, we, like Paul, might reflect on our own lives. We might ask ourselves, "How am I doing in my own race toward heaven? Am I doing well?" Married couples might reflect on: *"How am I living my marriage vows? Am I loving and faithful in good times and in bad? When we have money and when we do not? How about when my husband is down with the flu or my wife has a migraine headache? Do I show kindness and compassion even on those days when my spouse is irritating or annoying?"* In the words of a modern country song, "If tomorrow never comes, will she know how much I loved her?" It is a question we might all ask ourselves. In Paul's letter to Timothy, he indicates that he is confident the Lord would answer with a resounding, "Yes!" May it be so with us.

Gospel - Superiority vs. Humility

One of the most dangerous attitudes in any human relationship is the attitude of superiority. This attitude manifests itself when we believe that we are a better person than someone else. The Pharisee in today's gospel has such an attitude. He thanks God he is not like the rest of humanity -- doing everything wrong. He extolls his own good behavior emphasizing all he is doing right. This attitude blinded the Pharisee. It kept him from seeing any of his weaknesses (hint: we all have them!). He could not see the hardness of his own heart that stood in harsh judgement of everyone else.

Attitudes of superiority can be disastrous in marriage and family relationships. If one spouse is superior, then, by definition, the other must be inferior. Even in small things, this can be trouble. If one believes her or she is a better person because of a different parenting approach, that can put self-doubt in the spouse. There are so many ways we can exhibit superiority in marriage and family life and cause defensiveness and self-doubt in others. Attitudes of superiority in a spouse also have a ripple effect to alienate children from a God-oriented vocation to matrimony or even religious life. A child who experiences a parent demonstrating arrogance or superiority over others can decide they want no part of "that kind of life".

Today's gospel describes a better way: an attitude of humility. Recognizing our own weaknesses and imperfections, we are better able to accept imperfections in others. We come to see that we are loved even with our faults, making us able and willing to love our spouse and our family even with their faults. There is no longer superiority and inferiority, there is building up the other, and for a married couple – making the two an even better *one*.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions For OCTOBER

01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will be intentional to cultivate a home environment in which their children find motivation to listen, hear, and follow God's call to their unique vocational paths in their lives.

02 Youth Vocations

We pray that teens and young adults will choose to make room in their lives to listen the the promptings of the Holy Spirit, and seek out God's call to the Sacrament of Matrimony, Priesthood, or religious life.

03 Parenting Holy Families

We pray that parents will be active to cultivate attitudes in their home life for their children to admire husbands and wives, priests and religious sisters as heroic role models.



FEATURED RESOURCES:

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

The logo for 'Love means more.' features the word 'Love' in a large, dark purple serif font, 'means' in a smaller, dark purple serif font, and 'more.' in a yellow sans-serif font with a period.

[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](#)





Recommended Reading:

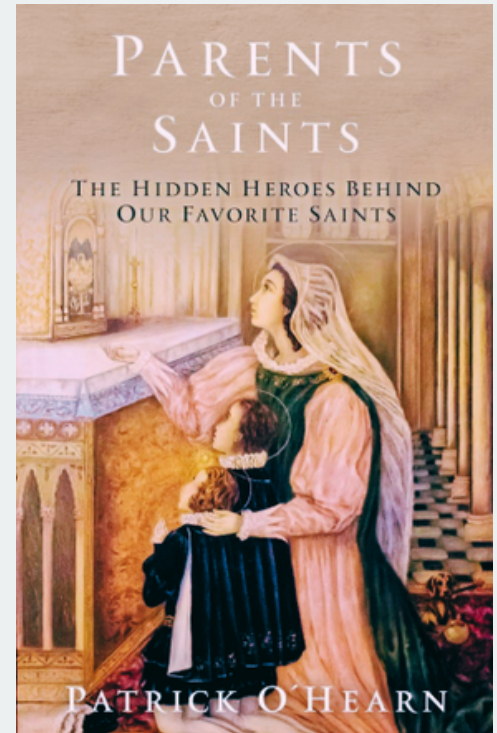
Discover the book, ***Parents of the Saints*** published by TAN Books. This interesting and insightful book can be helpful for husbands and wives who desire to raise kids who say YES to God.

Recommended by: Paul Duker, Program Director of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Office of Marriage and Family Life

Through the faith and joy of your own jubilant marriage, you can empower your children to find their true vocation and help them become saints.

Patrick O'Hearn, in his book ***Parents of the Saints***, provides an encouraging array of over 100 holy husbands and wives who raised children that became canonized saints. He describes the way these heroic couples demonstrated consistent family hallmarks. The seven hallmarks upon which each of these parents built a family lifestyle, to a greater or lesser degree, are:

- Rich sacramental life from early baptism
- Receiving the Holy Eucharist frequently
- Surrendering to the will of God
- Choosing sacrificial love for family and neighbor
- Embracing the purgative power of suffering for the love of God
- Adopting a simple and uncomplicated lifestyle
- Seeking to be alone with God in solitude and prayer
- Living the Gospel of Life in generosity -- such that children recognize the sacredness of each life



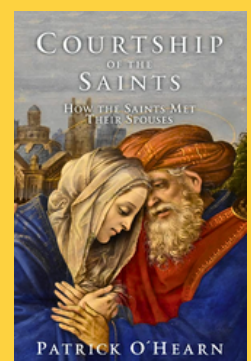
If you are looking for inspiration on how to live a jubilant marriage with earthly sanity in your home -- anchored in the joy of an eternal vision for you and your children, ***Parents of the Saints*** is a great book for you. With specific relatable examples, Patrick O'Hearn brings to life fascinating practical guidance how to live the Sacrament of Marriage in a way that leads the whole family to heaven.



Author: Patrick O'Hearn

Patrick O'Hearn is an author, literary consultant, and a freelance editor. He grew up in the Midwest and spent close to three years in a Benedictine Monastery before discerning the call to marriage. He graduated with a master's in education from Franciscan University of Steubenville and a bachelor's in marketing from St. Ambrose University. His personal website is patrickrohearn.com.

Patrick's book, ***Courtship of the Saints*** is also a worthwhile read.



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 for Priests, Parishes, Couples, and SINGLES to help Marriages be HOLY and strong.

Visit Archstl.org/Jubilant-Marriages and look under the HOLY category for links to resources and ideas that empower couples in ways to cultivate an openness in their family to whatever vocation God calls their children.

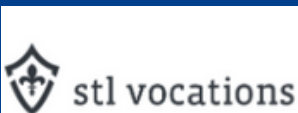
Events & Info.

RESPECT LIFE CONFERENCE

Spouses and singles are invited to experience the powerful Respect Life Conference. It is a wonderful opportunity to be reminded how many great ways there are to say YES to God, no matter what vocational path God offers you. Couples - make it a date and go together!

October 4 @ 9:00 am – 3:00 pm [Register Here](#)

This inspirational and educational day includes Holy Mass and Rosary, presentations on timely topics from Catholic and pro-life leaders, concurrent pro-life teen track for 8th grade and high school students in the afternoon, lunch, and a ministry partner fair. The event costs \$25 for adults, \$10 for teens, and is free for seminarians, sisters and brothers (including those in formation), and priests.



Archdiocese Office of Vocations

Husbands and wives are encouraged to get acquainted with the Office of Vocations webpage with a broad range of vocations-focused experiences for all age levels of youth and young adults. It's great to give young people opportunities to explore the question, "What is the path to which God is calling me to experience the greatest love, purpose, meaning and joy in my life?"

Visit: www.stlvocations.org

Jubilant Marriage Inspiration:

"Do not be afraid when love requires sacrifice. Do not be afraid when the Lord asks you to leave everything to follow him. God has put your deepest desires in your heart. God knows them because God put them there. When we embrace God, we find the full potential of those deepest desires."

- Pope Francis, 2019



Be a Jubilant Marriages "Prayer Pilgrim"!

The St. Louis Archdiocese Office
of Marriage & Family Life

**INVITES YOU TO
JOIN THE
JUBILANT MARRIAGES
5 DAY FALL PRAYER CAMPAIGN
OCTOBER 6 - 10.**

Be a "Prayer Pilgrim" by simply
offering a private prayer
each day for Matrimonial Love
to flourish in Singles, Couples,
Parents, Priests and Parishes.
**One specific intention
is assigned to each day.**

DAY ONE Intention: *October 6*
Pray today for **SINGLES**
to choose a Matrimony Mindset



Join the Jubilant Marriages 5 Day
Fall Prayer Campaign October 6 - 10.
Offer a private prayer each day for
Matrimonial Love to flourish in
Singles, Couples, Parents,
Priests and Parishes.

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

DAY TWO Intention: *October 7*
Pray today for married **COUPLES**
to say, "I DO" to each other every day.



Join the Jubilant Marriages 5 Day
Fall Prayer Campaign October 6 - 10.
Offer a private prayer each day for
Matrimonial Love to flourish in
Singles, Couples, Parents,
Priests and Parishes.

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

DAY THREE Intention: *October 8*
Pray today for **PARENTS** to make their
marriage relationship a top priority.



Join the Jubilant Marriages 5 Day
Fall Prayer Campaign October 6 - 10.
Offer a private prayer each day for
Matrimonial Love to flourish in
Singles, Couples, Parents,
Priests and Parishes.

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

DAY FOUR Intention: *October 9*
Pray today for **PRIESTS** helping couples
to be **HOLY**, happy and healthy.



Join the Jubilant Marriages 5 Day
Fall Prayer Campaign October 6 - 10.
Offer a private prayer each day for
Matrimonial Love to flourish in
Singles, Couples, Parents,
Priests and Parishes.

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

DAY FIVE Intention: *October 10*
Pray today for **PARISHES** to thrive
with a culture of Matrimonial love.



Join the Jubilant Marriages 5 Day
Fall Prayer Campaign October 6 - 10.
Offer a private prayer each day for
Matrimonial Love to flourish in
Singles, Couples, Parents,
Priests and Parishes.

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

Or be a Prayer Pilgrim in Person!

**THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP TO JOIN THE
KATY TRAIL PILGRIMAGE IN PERSON.
WWW.KATYTRAILPILGRIMAGE.COM**



You can do one day, or all five! Maybe use a vacation day and go with your spouse. Add the Jubilant Marriages Prayer intention along with your personal prayers each day.

Monday, October 6: Augusta Trailhead - Our Lady of Lourdes

Tuesday, October 7: Dutzow Trailhead - St. Ignatius

Wednesday, October 8: Treloar Trailhead - St. Anthony's

Thursday, October 9: Case, MO Trailhead - Our Lady of Sorrows

Friday, October 10: Portland Trailhead - Church of the Risen Savior

GET A JUBILANT MARRIAGES PRAYER STICKER FOR YOUR WATER BOTTLE AT THE TRAILHEAD!



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.





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.

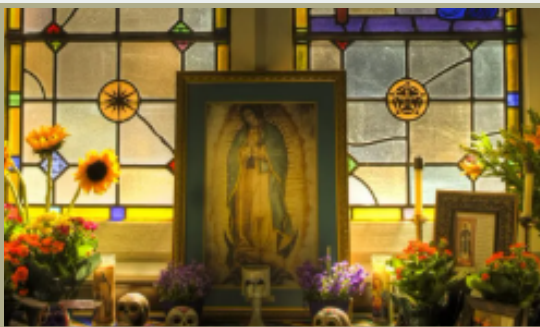
Unleash the power of Matrimonial Grace in our parish - through the leadership of our clergy, the faithfulness of married couples, and the wisdom of the widowed, to inspire each parishioner to live as a joy-filled daily sign of the sacrificial love of God .

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

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>



[Viviendo en el Espíritu – Renovación Carismática Católica \(RCC\):](#)

- Reunión de oración de Renovación Carismática Católica St. Louis es un momento de alabanza y adoración con una breve charla y testimonio.
- Preguntas y/o más información llamar este número o correo (314) 731-6100 or email Lizettmata@archstl.org
- Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025
- Location: 6120 Pebble Hill Dr, St. Louis, MO

Que Brille El Amor

Recursos Gratuitos en Español del Consejo de Obispos de California:

ENLACE: Excelentes ideas e inspiración para parejas y familias hispanas.

[Que Brille El Amor](#)





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
Gloria Del Rosario <i>For more information about the ISpiritual Motherhood of Priests</i>	636-227-3737	smfpstl@gmail.com

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

Visit ARCHSTL.org/Jubilant-Marriages to discover more!