



MARCH 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 include 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 Matrimony Mindset content as often as you can in the parish Bulletin

1) *JM HOMILY HINTS for Sundays 3/8 & 3/22*

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 that arrays powerful forces against both. In January we pray especially that couples and families will seek out ways to embrace the Spiritual Works of Mercy together.



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 enrich their marriages during the season of Lent.

Use this Tool Kit **COVER IMAGE** and **LINK**:

<https://public.files.capacity.com/b74c60b2-5d6b-4369-ae6a-8eed6e9bbb22/73067bb8-9373-4206-82d3-54fbf98fa9b0?FU=1765470280>

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) *JM “Matrimony Moments” Weekly Bulletin Content*

Share this document 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: 3/8

For Sunday, March 8, 2026



These Homily Hints are for March 8, the Third Sunday in Lent - Year A

In the weeks highlighted for our reflections this month, the Church reads the Gospels from John, which are known as the Scrutinies, used as final preparation for the Rite of Christian Initiation. These texts are vivid encounters with Jesus and densely rich in symbolism, inviting all Christians to examine their lives through stories where Jesus reveals that God offers more than we could imagine.

Reflections by: Tom and Celeste Mueller, who have been married for 42 years, have two children and two grandchildren. They worship and serve with the community at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, being formed and taught by Christ through the persons of those in poverty.

First Reading

Exodus 17:3-7

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

The Israelites' complaints in the desert highlight humanity's tendency to doubt God's presence amid hardships, even after experiencing His deliverance, reminding us to seek signs of His provision in our trials.

In marriage, couples may question their union during daily struggles, but attentiveness to God's refreshment—through gestures of kindness, shared service, or deeper dialogue—can reveal life-giving waters from seemingly rocky places.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,8-9

"If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts."

Psalm 95:1-2,6-7,8-9

The psalm urges all to heed God's voice and avoid hardening hearts, especially in difficult times, by celebrating His guidance toward life and freedom.

For married couples, this means softening self-protective barriers through thanksgiving for the joys and fruits of their union, allowing God's gentle strikes to release springs of renewal in their relationship.

Second Reading

Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2,5-8

Paul reminds us that God's love, poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, empowers hope and endurance for all, as Christ died for sinners and saints alike.

In marriage, this assurance enables couples to engage with respect and compassion, trusting the Spirit's power to sustain their bond through challenges without disappointment.

Gospel

John 4: 5-42

Gospel: John 4: 5-42

Jesus' respectful dialogue with the Samaritan woman shows how compassion can soften hardened hearts, leading to living water that transforms weariness into evangelizing joy for anyone open to the truth.

For married couples, emulating this encounter through present, loving conversations can tap into hidden thirsts, revealing Christ in their midst and making their union a fruitful witness to eternal life.

HOMILY HINTS: 3/22

For Sunday, March 22, 2026



The readings & Gospel for the Fifth Sunday of Lent - Year A

The readings for the Fifth Sunday in Lent and the Third Scrutiny confront us with questions of life and death, showing Jesus sharing in human sorrow while revealing God's power over death. Each reading speaks to finding life amid loss, offering hope for those who trust God's promises, whether in daily living or at life's end.

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First Reading

Ezekiel 37:12-14

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Ezekiel's promise that God will revive dry bones and infuse His Spirit into His people speaks to humanity's hope for renewal from despair or spiritual death.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 130:1-2,3-4,5-6, 7-8.

"Out of the depths, I cry to you, Lord."

In marriage, this encourages couples to invite the Holy Spirit through shared prayer, to restore vitality to relationships dried by inattentiveness or sin.

Psalm 130:1-2,3-4,5-6,7-8

This psalm voices cries from the depths while affirming God's mercy and new life, serving as a prayer for all seeking redemption amid varied emotions.

For married couples, it provides a framework for joint prayer, that can feel awkward at first, yet it creates opportunities to express feelings and reclaim God's promises of presence and renewal together.

Second Reading

Romans 8:8-11

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Paul assures that the Spirit who raised Christ dwells in us, fulfilling Ezekiel's promise and bringing life to our mortal bodies for all believers.

In marriage, this Spirit actively works to renew dry or distant bonds, calling couples to meditation and cooperation for hopeful restoration.

Gospel

John 11:1-45

Gospel: John 11:1-45

The raising of Lazarus reminds us of baptism's gift of new life in Christ, urging all to confidently trust in resurrection amid grief and loss.

For married couples, this means supporting each other to "roll back the stone" on buried pains, and unbinding destructive patterns through grace to embrace fuller life and heavenward growth. A simple lesson often repeated by Celeste's mother was, "Marriage is a grace given so that the two of you can get to heaven faster than either one of you could alone." Spouses are called to encourage, witness and remind one another that newness of life in their marriage now, and resurrection in the fullness of time, is Christ's gift to us.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions for MARCH

01 Married Couples

We pray that during this time of Lent, Married couples are given a renewed desire to access the power and protection of the Matrimonial Grace in their marriages to be a blessing to all the people they encounter.

02 Parents & Families

We pray that God will give parents the stamina and spiritual strength to fortify their families to resist the darkness of modern culture, and become beacons of light instead.

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.



Matrimony Moments for MARCH 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. This month we are encouraging couples to give their marriage a spiritual "tune-up" during Lent... together.



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

MATRIMONY MOMENTS - PRAYERFUL UNITY (SUNDAY - 3/1/26)

"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." (Genesis 12:1-2)

Marriage Motivation Tip: This Lent, tune up your marriage with daily prayer as husband and wife. A simple spiritual "oil change" strengthens your one-flesh bond, polishing your marital light so brightly that other couples see the way to heaven through your example.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we begin Lent together, draw us into daily prayer as one. Strengthen our unity, tune our hearts to Yours, and let our shared prayer brighten our light to guide others home to You. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: What one simple prayer habit can we commit to together every day this week to start our Lenten tune-up?

MATRIMONY MOMENTS - SACRIFICIAL RENEWAL (SUNDAY - 3/8/26)

"God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

Marriage Motivation Tip: Offer Lenten sacrifices side-by-side—skip a favorite show, fast from dessert, or give up scrolling together. These shared acts of self-denial become a powerful spiritual tune-up, deepening Christ-like love and making your marriage a radiant beacon that lights the path to heaven for those watching.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, our perfect Bridegroom, teach us to sacrifice joyfully for each other this Lent. Sanctify our marriage through every small denial, so our tuned-up love shines clearly and draws others closer to You. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: Which Lenten sacrifice can we embrace together this week that will both strengthen our love and brighten the light we give to the world?

MATRIMONY MOMENTS - GENEROUS SERVICE (SUNDAY 3/15/26)

"You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness and righteousness and truth." (Ephesians 5:8-9)

Marriage Motivation Tip: Turn Lenten almsgiving and works of mercy into a team mission—volunteer at the food pantry, deliver groceries to a neighbor, or pray for a struggling couple together. Serving as one flesh tunes up your marriage and amplifies your light so powerfully that other families are inspired to seek heaven too.

Prayer: Faithful God, You joined us as one flesh—empower us this Lent to serve generously as a couple. Let every act of charity polish our marital light until it brightly guides others on the journey to eternal life with You. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: What one work of mercy or act of generosity can we do together before Easter that will both serve others and shine our light more clearly?

MATRIMONY MOMENTS - RADIANT WITNESS (SUNDAY 3/22/26)

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live." (John 11:25)

Marriage Motivation Tip: As Lent draws to its joyful close, celebrate how your shared prayer, sacrifice, and service have tuned up your marriage! Your renewed, one-flesh love now reflects Christ and the Church in a brighter way - so that your relationship becomes a living invitation—guiding friends, family, and strangers along the road to heaven.

Prayer: Triune God, in the mystery of our marriage You have given us a living image of Christ's love for the Church. Thank You for this Lenten tune-up. Let our brightened light shine before all, so many more souls may journey with us to heaven. Amen.

Couple Conversation Question: Looking back on Lent together, how has our spiritual tune-up changed the way our marriage now shines for others—and who might we invite to experience this same grace?



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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