



Office of Marriage
and Family Life

DECEMBER 2025

JUBILANT MARRIAGES OFFER HOPE THAT UNITES GENERATIONS



ARCHDIOCESE
OF ST. LOUIS

PARISHIONER TOOL KIT

MONTHLY RESOURCES & IDEAS

Jubilant Marriages Theme For DECEMBER

Jubilant Marriages Offer Hope That Unites Generations



Catholic married couples play a profound role in anchoring society in ways that reach beyond their own lifetimes.

The Jubilant Marriages Initiative focus for DECEMBER reminds couples, priests and parishes to appreciate the way that the Sacrament of Matrimony touches lives across generations. The season of Advent and Christmas offer great opportunities to cultivate the cross-generational unity of shared faith and family relationships.

Many couples feel discouraged as children, and grandchildren too often seem far away from the Catholic faith. Maybe the fire of faith in your own life or in your marriage has grown lukewarm. Advent and Christmas are the perfect time to rekindle the “Jesus part” of your lives.

Keep things naturally prayerful and fun. There are many gentle ways to build relationships around warm memories that include the aroma of faith. For example, choose a Christ-centered Christmas playlist as the soundtrack for your holiday, with music by Catholic & Christian contemporary artists. Make praying with special intentions around an Advent wreath a focal point of each day.

This month’s toolkit includes options for Christ-centered outings, cozy reading, and fun family games that can draw your immediate and extended family closer together – and closer to Jesus – during the Advent and Christmas season.

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

- Jubilant Marriages Theme
- Scripture Reflection: 12/14 & 12/28
- DECEMBER Intercessions
- Jubilant Marriages Prayer
- Advent Opportunities
- Links and Family Game Night Ideas
- Ideas for Parents & Educators
- Hispanic Resources
- Helpful Contacts

Be Part of a Jubilant Marriages Parish Team at Your Parish!

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.

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: 12/14

Reflection for Sunday, December 14, 2025



These readings are for the third Sunday of Advent (Cycle A)

The overall theme can be summed up as: God can transform deserts into blooming joy. God's healing, that can renew unity within a family, echoes Gospel patterns of redemption. Patient, grumble-free love models Christ's patient endurance in loving all God's children. Married couples who persevere through and beyond times of struggle, have marriages that display Christ's works — forgiveness, sacrifice — and are a powerful living witness to the power of God's grace.

First Reading

Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10

Blossoming Hope in Desert Times

In the arid stretches of married life—marked by financial strain, illness, or unspoken grief—God promises transformation: the desert shall bloom, weak hands strengthen, and feeble knees gain firmness. As a Catholic couple, you embody this prophetic hope, your fidelity is a living sign that God's redemption spans generations, capable of turning the sorrow of today into everlasting joy.

When doubt creeps in, actively "go and tell" your children or grandchildren the "works" you've witnessed in your marriage—healings of resentment through forgiveness, or renewed love after hardship. This week, share one specific story of God's intervention in your union, as a reminder of Jesus' call to look beyond current expectations to seek the divine reality to come.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 146: 6-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10.

"Lord, come and save us!"

Patient Endurance as Generational Witness

Like farmers awaiting precious fruit, wise married couples cultivate patience amid trials, choosing not to grumble – but strengthen each other with prayer and patience. A steadfast union, which finds a path forward even through times of discord, models Christ. Your patience can echo across generations, and inspire your descendants to persevere in faith and love.

Second Reading

James 5: 7-10.

Patiently affirm your spouse's role in God's plan, especially when expectations falter. This Advent, commit to a daily "no grumble" challenge: replace criticism with a spoken word of gratitude, then discuss with your spouse how this patience mirrors Jesus' call to help Him build His Kingdom, planting seeds of hope in your family's lineage.

Expectant Faith Beyond Sight

John's prison question reveals the tension between expectation and reality, yet Jesus points to tangible signs: the blind see, the lame walk. Holy marriages reflect this Gospel hope, your shared life can be a "greater than John" testimony where love's miracles—forgiven wounds, joyful sacrifices—proclaim the Kingdom to future generations.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

Couples can live as signs of hope, by assuming a messengers' role. Consider inviting a young couple – or your own children -- to witness your marriage's "works of Christ." Host them for a simple meal this week, and make time to share how you've seen God "raise the dead" – your release from relational ruts – through sacramental grace, like Isaiah's deserts that bloom.

Sunday Scripture 12/28

Reflection for Sunday, December 28, 2025



The readings and Gospel for Sunday in the octave of Christmas (Cycle A) The Feast of the Holy Family

These readings show that honoring parents, clothing your home in Christ's virtues, and trusting God's guidance through exile and return, are the way your marriage becomes a living icon of the Holy Family. Stay rooted in reverence, radiant in love, resolute in obedience and you will offer current and future generations a tangible sign that God dwells with those who follow Him, generation after generation.

Honoring Roots, Clothing in Christ

God entrusts parents with sacred authority, promising long life and expiated sin to children who honor father and mother—even when age brings frailty. Catholic spouses, by cherishing aging parents and nurturing reverence in your children, become living bridges of mercy, your family a sign of hope that obedience to God's order bears fruit across generations.

This week, involve your children in one concrete act of kindness toward grandparents—writing a letter of gratitude or helping out with a task—then pray together the Fourth Commandment, linking honor with the Holy Family's hidden obedience in Egypt.

Garments of Compassion, Woven for Eternity

Clothe yourselves in heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience; bear with one another and forgive as the Lord forgives. In marriage, these virtues—lived daily amid spilled milk, sleepless nights, or sharp words—transform your home into a school of love, preparing hearts, young and old, to recognize that Christ's peace can reign in them now and for generations to come.

Choose one virtue (e.g., patience) to practice visibly each day. At dinner, have each family member name where they saw it lived out, then thank God in a closing prayer, mirroring the Holy Family's quiet fidelity to God's plans for them.

Faithful Flight, Hopeful Return

Joseph rises in the night, takes Mary and Jesus, and flees to Egypt; later, guided by dreams, returns to Nazareth. Your marriage echoes this Holy Family: obedient to God's whisper amid danger or uncertainty, your trust becomes a beacon—showing children and grandchildren that divine protection accompanies those who follow, no matter the road.

Create a "Joseph Moment": once this week, pause as a couple to pray silently for guidance on a family decision, then share the insight aloud with your children, affirming that God still speaks in quiet moments and sometimes surprising circumstances to lead His families on their journey – to our heavenly home.

First Reading

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5

"Blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in His ways."

Second Reading

Colossians 3:12-21 or 3:12-17.

Gospel

Mt 2:13-15, 19-23.

Jubilant Marriages Prayer Intentions For DECEMBER

01 Married Couples

We pray that married couples will cultivate love in their extended families through healthy companionship, gestures of support, and earnest prayer.

02 Youth Relationships

We pray that young people will be intentional to build, and value, cross-generational family relationships of all ages - with grandparents, aunts and uncles, siblings, nieces and nephews.

03 Parenting Holy Families

We pray for God's grace to empower parents with the loving words and practical wisdom to foster fervent faith and enduring relationships to unite their immediate and extended families.



ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES

Discover ways to enrich and strengthen your marriage through experiences in which you can include parents and grandparents and/or children and create family-honoring memories.



Way of Lights at Our Lady of the Snows

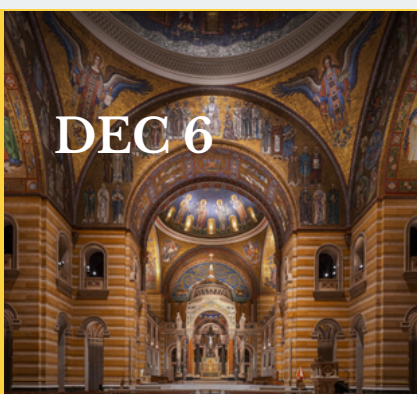
For over 50 years, the Way of Lights at Our Lady of the Snows, has offered families a way to share CHRIST-CENTERED Christmas fun together. It's just a 30 minute drive from St. Louis to experience thousands of Christmas lights, a large Nativity scene, live Camel rides, yummy treats, Lego brick display, live performers, and more.

This is the perfect faith-affirming outing to include all generations together. Get all the details at <https://snows.org/wayoflights/>

Las Posadas in Old St. Charles - December 6

Old Saint Charles offers a uniquely CHRIST-CENTERED tradition during the Advent season. On December 6 they offer a "Las Posadas" procession with Mary and Joseph processing down Old Main Street to finally find a spot in the Living Nativity Stable - with Christmas Carols sung by all. This is a great experience in which parents, grandparents, and children can experience Advent joy together!

Get all the details at: <https://www.discoverstcharles.com/event/las-posadas/1212/>



Advent Concert + DIY Day of Reflection

On Saturday, December 6, Couples can plan a special spiritual date together at the **STL Cathedral Basilica**. The **STL Archdiocese Choir Concert** is at 10:30AM. Plan relaxing lunch and window-shopping afterwards in the Central West End. Return to the Cathedral for Confession and Adoration starting at 3:30 and complete the day with Holy Mass (Sunday Vigil) at 5PM. Couples can come on their own (or perhaps invite their parents) to join them for the day. Make your Advent sparkle with relational warmth and spiritual joy. More details: <https://cathedralconcerts.org/>



Advent Family Events in St. Charles and Crestwood

Scenes of the Nativity Family Event
St. Joseph Parish - Cottleville
Take Family photos in provided Nativity costumes, and more
December 6 from 9:00am-6:00pm &
December 7 from 9:00am-3:00pm
<https://stjoeocot.org/ministries/nativity-scenes/>

Daughters of St. Paul
Baby Jesus Party
Storytime, crafts, treats and fun.
Saturday, December 6, 10am-3pm
Pauline Books and Media on
Watson Road
<https://pauline.org/event/baby-jesus-party-st-louis/>



Jubilant Marriage Inspiration:

"The warmest gift of Christmas is the presence of our family gathered all around our Christmas Tree."

—Wise Moms and Dads everywhere

Links and Family Fun

Find Marriage enriching links, and information to help your marriage, or the marriage of someone you care about to be...JUBILANT!

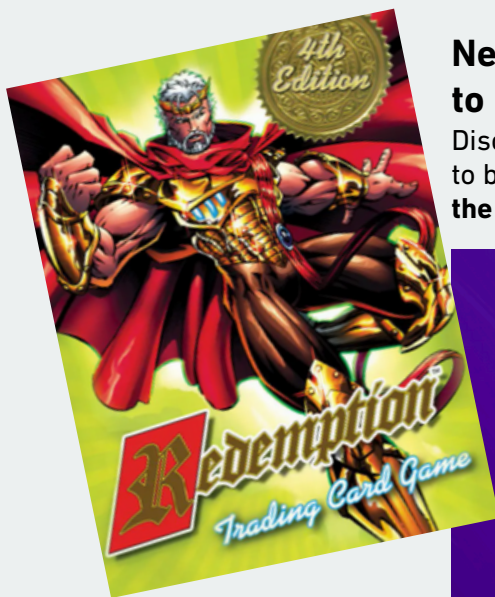
LINK



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 HAPPY category for links to resources and ideas that empower families embrace joy and faith that spans generations.

Family Game Night Ideas



Need a way to get the video-gamers (young and old) to UNPLUG and join in family fun?

Discover the REDEMPTION card game. This very popular card game was created to bring the adventure of Catholic biblical teaching alive in a truly FUN way. **Order the cards:** [HERE](#) Find out more about the game at the fan hub website: [LINK](#)

Unite Heroes. Save Souls.

Welcome to Land of Redemption, the ultimate online destination for all things related to Redemption®, the trading card game based on the timeless stories and characters of the Bible.

Try a Family FUN Card Game: NERTZ

This card game is great fun for a BROAD range of ages/generations to enjoy playing together. Anyone who can play 'Solitaire' can play NERTZ. Imagine a way to play Solitaire with friendly competition for multiple people (up to 6 or 8 players). IT'S SIMPLE. EASY TO LEARN for all ages.

Get a set to play NERTZ with your family: [Link](#)





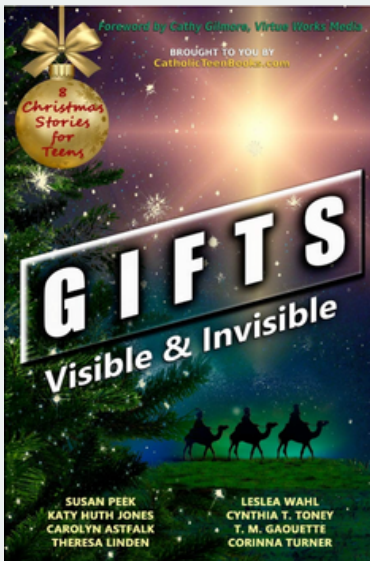
Recommended Reading:

Discover some enjoyable reading for the cozy season of Advent. The recommended picture book about Louis and Zelig Martin helps families appreciate the generational impact of a holy married couple. The other two recommendations are books that 1) can inspire a joyful Advent spirit in teen readers and 2) a beautiful volume that might be a great way to share Advent joy as a couple,

One Holy Marriage

The book, **One Holy Marriage**, by Katie Warner is a great family read-aloud picture book about the first married couple to be canonized as saints together. Their family is a powerful portrait of Matrimonial grace and holiness that can flow through one generation into another.

<https://tanbooks.com/products/books/one-holy-marriage-the-story-of-louis-and-zelig-martin/>



GIFTS, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE is a holiday-themed collection of eight fun-to-read short stories by the team of authors at CatholicTeenBooks.com.

These talented authors create great books with a Catholic worldview in many different genres that teens actually enjoy. Energize teen readers with the gift of faith-inspired imagination this Advent.

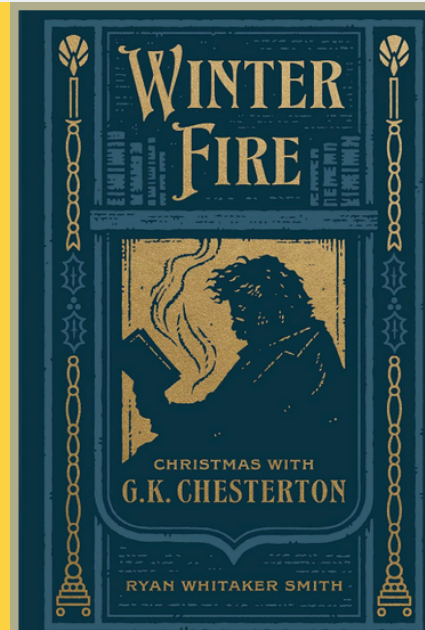
Find this book and many more titles - with excellent reader reviews - that can inspire the imagination of the next generation at www.CatholicTeenBooks.com

Winter Fire - Christmas with G. K. Chesterton

Couples can share this 30-day collection of the writing of G.K. Chesterton to experience the warmth of Christmas in a book worthy to pass on to the next generation.

It includes Chesterton's witty and wise writings and commentary plus scripture passages, reflections, recipes and more. Be inspired and prepare for the season with childlike wonder.

This hardcover book is available on Amazon.com:
<https://www.amazon.com/Winter-Fire-Christmas-G-K-Chesterton/dp/0802429289>



Ideas for Parents & Educators

In DECEMBER, we focus on the way married couples build a legacy of faith and virtue through their children and grandchildren..



Holy Matrimony Role Models: Juan de Dios Nepomuceno & Teresa Gomez y Pamintuan from the Philippines

This Catholic couple demonstrated remarkable partnership in their marriage through their family businesses – which shaped the course of the town's economy – while also serving God and their beloved community. Juan and Teresa raised 10 children, each one embracing the family values of faith and service. One son became a Jesuit Priest, and a daughter, a Benedictine nun. Their siblings chose active ways to build their community through law, business, medicine, and public service. The couple lived their life simply, quietly and kindly, remaining steadfast in service and prayer into old age. They lived to celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary in 1970, and left behind an enduring family legacy of generous faith.

For LITTLES



Invite little children to draw a family tree and add the names of extended family

- Share stories of the family members on the tree. How did the couples meet and decide to marry?
- Remind the children that we are all part of the Family Tree as sons and daughters of God our Heavenly Father.

For MIDDLES



Extended Families can do great good when they work and pray together

Invite children to pray and explore ideas how their extended family could do something generous to help people in need in their community - together.

Brainstorm ideas like: Make 100+ sandwiches for a shelter, Do yard clean up for elderly folks in a poor neighborhood. Do a clothing donation challenge - see who in the family can gather the most bags of clothing to donate to the SDVDP Thrift stores.

For TEENS



Adopt some extra grandparents.

If teens have grandparents or aunts/uncles in any kind of care facility, plan a special time to visit them, but with a bonus. In every elder care facility, there are far too many older gentlemen and ladies who rarely, if ever have visitors. **Prepare the teens to also befriend and "adopt" some other lonely folks at the care facility** during the time they are there. Find out names of the lonelier folks from the aide on duty at the main desk. Ask the new friends to share a story. (Memory impaired folks will share "today's" story) Offer to play cards (bring a deck). Offer to say a prayer with or for them...and do it right then. The warmth shared is tremendous for everyone involved.



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.

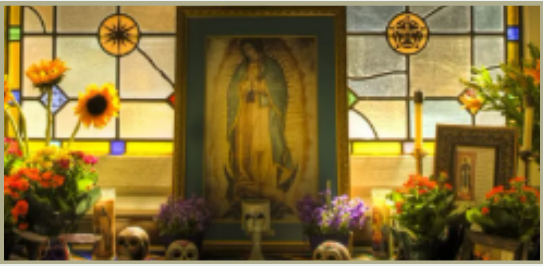
Unleash the power of Matrimonial Grace in our parish - through the leadership of our clergy, the faithfulness of married couples, and the wisdom of the widowed, to inspire each parishioner to live as a joy-filled daily sign of the sacrificial love of God .

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.

Solemnidad De La Virgen De La Guadalupe

Parroquia San Juan Diego
1400 N Main St, O'Fallon, MO, 63366
636-240-4556

<https://saintjuandiegostl.org/>

SOLEMNIDAD DE LA VIRGEN DE GUADALUPE
en la
Parroquia San Juan Diego
1400 N. Main St. O'Fallon MO 63366
(636) 240-4556

Del 3 al 11 de diciembre,
Novena
6:15 pm Rosario
7pm Misa con reflexión
Jueves 11 de diciembre
Mañanitas y convivencia después de la novena.

12 de diciembre

- 5 am Santo Rosario y oraciones
- 6 am Santa Misa
- 6 pm - Danza
- 6 pm el Santo Rosario y oraciones

7:00 pm Misa solemne
con mariachi

TE ESPERAMOS
PATROCINADO POR:
RENOVACION CATOLICA CARISMATICA STL
Desayuno de Testimonio - Cristo Vive Para hombres y mujeres

Sábado diciembre 13
2025
8:30AM-12:30pm
Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Dr.
St Louis, MO 63119

Renovacion Catolica Carismatica STL

December 13 @ 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Ven te invitamos, incluye desayuno Costo \$25. Habra Oracion, Alabanza, Testimonio y grupos de oración y Sacerdotes ofreciendo el Sacramento de Reconciliación. Mayores de 13 años.

RSVP llama a Maria Cholita Aguayo.

Lugar: Arquidiócesis de St. Luis Rigali Center Fleur de Lis Room

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

✦ 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!