

Family Page

Background Reflection

Love is powerful. Love can transform people, making them more positive, more charitable, and more loving themselves. Those who know and feel love cannot help but extend love to others. God loves us completely and calls each of us to be transformed by love into someone better, someone more giving and more devoted to serving others.

Marriage is a vocation that reflects this love. Married couples are called to unity, to love each other and serve the Church as one. With the grace of God, their commitment and devotion to each other is a witness to God's commitment and devotion to all people.

At the wedding in Cana, Jesus helps the bride and bridegroom when they run out of wine. Jesus' first miracle shows his love and concern for this couple. By helping them in this context, he also blesses marriage itself. The transformation of water into wine can remind us of the incredible transformation that love can bring about in people.



Family Activities

- Call the parish office, and ask for the names of those in the marriage preparation classes. Pray for these couples at meals. Send the couples a note telling them that your family is praying for them.
- Spend time with your grandparents or other couples who have been married for a long time. Invite them for a visit, and ask them about their wedding and the early years of their married life.
- Watch the video "Pope Francis' advice to married couples" (YouTube, 2:26) together. Talk about how important it is for all family members to make peace with one another before a day ends. Invite everyone to share ways to make peace when arguments occur in the home.

People of Faith

**Saints Louis (1823-1894)
Zélie Martin (1831-1877)**

Saints Louis and Zélie are the parents of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux. When they married, Louis and Zélie promised to serve God first and then each other. They went to daily Mass and served the poor and the sick together. The Martins shared their faith and love with their children. They trusted God through every trial. We celebrate Saints Louis and Zélie on July 12.

Prayer

Pray this prayer together as a family, beginning and ending with the Sign of the Cross.

Dear Lord, thank you for the vocation of marriage and for all married couples. We ask you to strengthen the love between them and to help them recognize the grace you provide. Amen.