



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Suggestions for Parish Engagement for **Mental Health Sunday 2025**

The National Catholic Mental Health Campaign (NCMHC) is a year-round initiative wherein the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) promotes in a nationwide effort to encourage all people of good will to respond to the ongoing mental health crisis across the country.

- The message of the NCMHC is simple: Everyone who needs help should receive help.
- The three primary goals are: (1) to raise awareness of the mental health crisis, (2) to combat stigma surrounding the topic of mental health, and (3) to advocate for all those impacted by the crisis.

Within the NCMHC, the U.S. Bishops engage in a concerted effort to raise awareness of the issue beginning on World Mental Health Day (October 10) and continuing to the Catholic feast of Saint Luke, patron of health care (October 18). The USCCB recommends each parish promote a national novena between those dates. The daily texts can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/mentalhealth>.

Mental Health Sunday 2025

The NCMHC has designated that the Sunday that falls within the novena timeframe as *Mental Health Sunday*. In 2025, that Sunday is **October 12, 2025, the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**.

In preparation for that Sunday, Catholic communities and dioceses/eparchies may consider the following:

- Use the NCMHC as an impetus to **promote existing local mental health initiatives/programs**, or to **launch a resource** around mental health and wellness from a spiritual/pastoral perspective. This can also be an occasion for connecting to other national Catholic efforts in this area, such as the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers (<https://catholicmhm.org/>).
- Invite Catholics to **get the conversation going** within the local community; the materials available from the USCCB (novena, videos, and resources) are designed to engage deeper dialogue on this issue.
- **Promote the annual novena** from October 10 to 18 through parish, diocesan, or eparchial communications (bulletins, website, emails, texts, social media channels, etc.), linking directly to the USCCB site at www.usccb.org/mentalhealth.
- Since each day of the novena corresponds to a **particular ministry or population** (i.e., young people, families, racial justice, etc.), consider highlighting the connection between local efforts around those focus areas and mental health – or use it as an impetus to reinvigorate those areas in the community.
- In advance of Mental Health Sunday, invite people to bring their **particular intentions/petitions** about how mental health issues are impacting them personally to the parish community. These can be collected online or in-person to the church (i.e., through a book of prayers, or anonymous cards dropped off).

Suggested Bulletin and Pulpit Announcement/Sample Copy Text for Diocesan Resources

The mental health crisis is a profound challenge to the Church and to society. Catholics can respond with generosity, hope, and compassion to everyone who needs help. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) invites all people of good will to pray for mental health and wellness with a special nationwide novena beginning on World Mental Health Day (October 10), continuing to the feast of Saint Luke, patron of health care (October 18). See www.usccb.org/mentalhealth for more.

During the Liturgy for the Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Integrate mental health matters into the **homily** around the readings for Sunday, October 12, 2025 (Lectionary 144: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4; 2 Tim 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19). The First Reading and the Gospel Reading both include healings by Elisha the Prophet and Jesus, respectively. The Second Reading includes St. Paul's reflection on his suffering, perseverance, and faith.
- Offer a **special prayer or blessing for all those struggling** with mental health issues. Consider an appropriate selection from the *Book of Blessings*.
- Include mental health issues during the **Prayer of the Faithful** at all Masses. A sample version, which may be adapted for local use, is included here:

For all the individuals who are impacted by issues of mental health, especially within our local community, that God may bless them with his grace and consolation, and that Catholics everywhere will accompany and support women and men who experience mental health challenges and promote mental and spiritual wellness. We pray to the Lord.

- Offer a **blessing and commissioning of those who accompany women and men who struggle** with mental illness or mental health concerns, inclusive of people in the local Catholic community who may be part of or are starting a mental health ministry. The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers suggests this as an option: [riteofblessingcommissioningmhm.docx](#), available through its [website](#).
- In the **narthex/vestibule of the church after all Masses**, have local and national mental health resources available for parishioners and visitors to take. Consider also having staff and personnel on hand to answer questions about the Church's engagement with mental health.



The National Catholic Mental Health Campaign (NCMHC) is a special initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), led jointly by the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development and the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth. For more information about the NCMHC, please check its web page regularly for the latest resources and developments: www.usccb.org/mentalhealth.