

## SIMPLE STEPS

Here is a list of simple steps that you can use in your parish, school, ministry, or home to help in your efforts to celebrate the Solemnity of the Annunciation. These steps offer ideas on how to use the provided resources. Each step may not apply to your specific circumstance, but most can be adapted to suit your needs. The supplemental resources referenced in this action guide can be found at [respectlife.org/action-guides](https://respectlife.org/action-guides), unless otherwise noted.

### 1. Prepare through prayer.

The USCCB produced a novena in honor of the Annunciation called “[A Heart Open to God’s Will](#).” Invite your parish to join in praying this novena. Highlight the novena in your bulletin on the weekends preceding the start of the novena. If possible, make copies of the novena available in a prominent place in your parish on the weekends that the novena announcement appears.

### 2. Reach out to parents expecting a child.

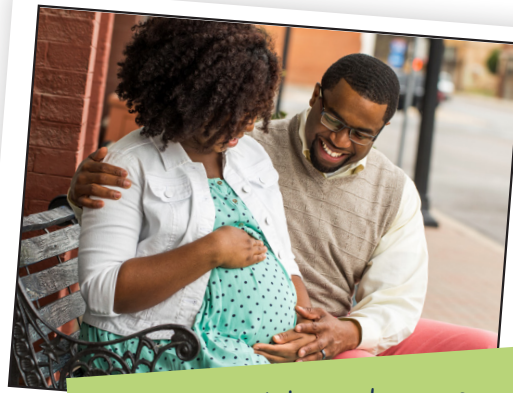
In honor of the Annunciation, ask your pastor to offer the [Blessing of a Child in the Womb](#). Propose the possibility of including this blessing as part of the weekend Masses before the feast day, as not all parishioners will be able to attend Mass on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Your pastor may prefer to offer the blessing at another time. Once a date and time have been set, invite expectant parents to participate by announcing the blessing from the pulpit and/or including an invitation in the bulletin. You could ask parents to RSVP, but even if you want to leave the option open for parents to come forward without prior notice, you may want to confirm a few parents’ participation ahead of time.

### 3. Educate and celebrate.

A [bulletin insert](#) is available to help educate your faith community about the connection between *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) and the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Homily helps are also provided if your priest would like to highlight this connection in his homily on the Solemnity of the Annunciation. Additional resources for observing the anniversary of *Evangelium vitae* are also available at [respectlife.org/gospel-of-life](https://respectlife.org/gospel-of-life).

### 4. Pray for expectant parents and unborn children.

Sample intercessions are provided for use during the Prayer of the Faithful during Masses on the weekend preceding the Solemnity of the Annunciation and on the solemnity itself. Schools can use these intercessions to mark the Solemnity of the Annunciation by praying together at the beginning of class. Families can include these intercessions in their regular prayers in the morning or evening, or before or after a family meal.



We would love to see how you and your family, parish, or school participate!

Email us at [prolife@usccb.org](mailto:prolife@usccb.org), or tag us on Facebook ([@usccbrespectlife](https://www.facebook.com/usccbrespectlife)) or Twitter ([@usccbprolife](https://twitter.com/usccbprolife)).

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