

Mid-May

Reconnect with appropriate parish staff regarding your bulletin and pulpit submissions, and make sure they have received all the materials needed, including the spiritual bouquet announcements and any prayers, such as the *Litany of St. Joseph*. If you have obtained permission from the pastor, make arrangements to set up a table in the vestibule or other gathering area on Father's Day weekend.

Early June

Touch base with your pastor to offer further assistance and to confirm any plans you may have made, such as the spiritual bouquet. Make sure he has everything he needs, such as pulpit announcements or homily helps. With your volunteers, prepare all the spiritual bouquet materials except for the flowers.

Saturday of Father's Day Weekend

Gather with your volunteers to set up the table prior to the vigil Mass. Keep the flowers in a safe area. Consider allotting a certain number of flowers for each Mass, and setting out each allotment just prior to each Mass. This will help ensure that you don't run out of flowers before the final weekend Mass. Remember that some Masses have higher attendance than others, and plan accordingly.

Father's Day Weekend

Help participants complete the spiritual bouquet following each Mass. Depending on how you have planned to complete and/or adapt this activity for your parish, specific logistical steps will vary. (See the sample activity at the end of this Father's Day action guide for various options for doing this activity.) After the final Sunday Mass, break down the table, and clean up any leftover materials. The spiritual bouquet can remain in place for the next 1–2 weeks.

1-2 Weeks After Father's Day

Clear away the spiritual bouquet, and remove any leftover vases.

BULLETIN & PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are planning to do the Father's Day activity, use these sample announcements and graphics to invite parishioners to participate.

◆ Bulletin Announcements

(Suggested Weekends: The Two Weekends Before Father's Day)

On Father's Day weekend, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to St. Joseph. Following each Mass, parishioners will be invited to write down their prayer intentions and offer them to St. Joseph along with flowers of thanksgiving for his fatherly care and intercession. *[To cut the cost of providing flowers, consider adding: "If you would like to participate, please bring a flower with you to Mass that/next weekend."]*

As we celebrate the gift of fathers and honor St. Joseph, we also recognize that *Father's Day can be a difficult holiday for many*. We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions brought to your heart by the occasion.

◆ Pulpit Announcements

Option 1

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend Before Father's Day)

Next weekend after each Mass, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to St. Joseph. All are invited to write down a prayer intention and offer it to St. Joseph with a flower of thanksgiving for his fatherly care. Please see the bulletin for more information.

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Option 2 (if you are *not* providing flowers)

(Suggested Weekend: Father's Day Weekend)

After Mass, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to St. Joseph. All are invited to *[insert location of the table with the supplies]*, where there are pens and paper for you to write down a prayer intention. You can then present your intention to St. Joseph by placing it in the basket at *[insert designated statue, icon, or painting and location]*. If you brought St. Joseph a flower, you can offer it to him in thanksgiving for his fatherly care by placing it in the vase located *[insert location]*. *[Consider adding: "For those who did not bring a flower, a limited supply is available near the pens and paper."]*

As we celebrate the gift of fathers and honor St. Joseph, we also recognize that Father's Day can be a difficult holiday for many. We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions in your heart today.

Option 2 (if you *are* providing flowers)

(Suggested Weekend: Father's Day Weekend)

After Mass, please join us in offering a spiritual bouquet to St. Joseph. All are invited to *[insert location of the table with the supplies]*, where there are pens and paper for you to write down a prayer intention. There are also flowers for you to offer to St. Joseph in thanksgiving for his fatherly care. After writing down your intention, take a flower, and present both to St. Joseph at *[insert designated statue, icon, or painting and location]*.

As we celebrate the gift of fathers and honor St. Joseph, we also recognize that Father's Day can be a difficult holiday for many. We hope this spiritual bouquet provides an opportunity to pray for the intentions in your heart today.

INTERCESSIONS

These sample intercessions were written for use on Father's Day; however, many can be used throughout the year. These intentions are appropriate for inclusion in the Prayer of the Faithful at Sunday Mass. They can also be printed in the weekly bulletin, featured in email newsletters, shared on social media platforms, or prayed during personal or family prayer times.

May expectant fathers lovingly support the mothers of their children in welcoming new life;
We pray to the Lord:

For expectant fathers:
May they find courage in the example of St. Joseph, as they prepare to love, protect, and provide for their child;
We pray to the Lord:

For all priests:
That through the intercession of St. Joseph, they will be filled with the wisdom, understanding, and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus;
We pray to the Lord:

For all married couples struggling to have a child:
May the Lord grant them peace and comfort;
We pray to the Lord:

For all those longing to welcome a child through adoption:
May the Lord guide their journey and grant them peace along the way;
We pray to the Lord:

For fathers who mourn the loss of a child:
May they find peace and consolation in the heart of God the Father;
We pray to the Lord:

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