

## SAMPLE TIMELINE

We have provided a sample timeline to help you prepare for the celebration of Father's Day. While these steps apply most directly to a parish coordinator for Respect Life ministry, whatever your role serving the Church, they can help you think about key steps for planning ahead.



### MARCH

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

### APRIL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

### MAY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

#### Early to mid-March

- ◆ Meet with your pastor to discuss highlighting the precious gift of life and fathers' role as defenders and protectors of life as part of the observance of Father's Day. Let him know what resources are available, such as the homily helps and sample intercessions that follow later in this guide. Share with him the ideas for offering a spiritual bouquet to St. Joseph (sample activity at the end of this Father's Day action guide). Request permission for the things you'd like to implement, any bulletin submissions you have in mind, and to set up a table in the vestibule or other gathering area. Most importantly, *ask what you can do to help* and whether there's any other information he would like you to provide.
- ◆ Following your conversation with your pastor, contact your parish office to open the lines of communication. Share the results of the conversation with your pastor and what you are requesting for the observance of Father's Day. Find out bulletin submission guidelines and deadlines. This information will help you determine the best date to follow up with your bulletin submissions. Many parishes need content well in advance to be able to include it in the weekly bulletin. Find out what else the parish staff needs from you and when they need it.

#### Early April

Once you have received the appropriate approvals and permission, begin gathering materials for the spiritual bouquet. Research what options you may have for purchasing flowers at an affordable price, and compare the information against your budget. Keep in mind that flower options and prices may change based on the season.

#### Mid-April

Begin to recruit volunteers to help you facilitate the spiritual bouquet. Volunteers will be needed to staff the table after each Mass the weekend of Father's Day. Other volunteer tasks might include picking up or transferring flowers to the parish or preparing materials.

#### Late April

Submit the bulletin and pulpit announcements you hope to have featured. This will help your parish plan and allot the necessary space in the bulletin.

## 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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