

FIVE IDEAS TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH IN OUR PARISHES

(December 8, 2020 through December 8, 2021)

Some ideas for parishes to include in their celebrations for the Year of St. Joseph. The recommendation is to select one or two ideas from this list or from other resources.

1. Make your shrine to St. Joseph more prominent. Adorn the area with simple decorations. Take into consideration the space, architecture, and if the shrine is inside or outside. Parishes that do not have a shrine to St. Joseph may consider placing an image of the saint in a more prominent place. Parishes that have worship outside, may consider having a vinyl print of St. Joseph to hang in their worship space.
2. Use different festivities to preach about St. Joseph.
 - March 19th - St. Joseph, Husband of Mary. Share some of St. Joseph's virtues for husbands and fathers, or explain why he is the patron of the Universal Church. Include a line about ways he is celebrated in other places, like the Italian tradition of St. Joseph's table.
 - May 1st - St. Joseph the Worker. Highlight the dignity of human work and the challenges workers face today. Recognize the work of essential workers during the pandemic.
 - June 20th - Father's Day. Speak about St. Joseph's contributions to today's fathers. Celebrate this day in a greater way to recognize dads.
 - November 2nd - All Soul's Day, include few words about the tradition to invoke St. Joseph for a happy death.
 - November is National Adoption Month. Select a day to talk about the benefits of adoption.
3. This Fall, if the pandemic allows it, invite the Knights of Columbus, or a men's group to organize a potluck or picnic for fathers and their children coordinating activities or opportunities to play sports together. If this year the parish is able to hold a festival, dedicate one day in honor of St. Joseph for dads and their children offering some incentives, like dad getting a free burger or drink.
4. Invite catechists and/or Catholic schoolteachers to select a class period to talk about St. Joseph. They can use crafts or coloring images to reinforce the topic.
5. Promote prayers, novenas or other popular devotions through your communications media. There are several on-line resources for a consecration to St. Joseph.