

# WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

HOSPITALITY TIPS



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## OVERVIEW

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Parishes are invited to celebrate the World Meeting of Families within their community this June. Each parish can determine the best way for their local celebration; a few ideas to consider are included below. The international celebration will take place in Rome June 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup>.

## IDEA A: CELEBRATE WITH FAMILIES AT MASS

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Pray for families during the Universal Prayers and offer a blessing for families at Mass.

### TIPS AND IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

- » Use the blessing and prayers found in the Book of Blessings (Nos 62-67).
- » World Meeting of Families Prayer & Hymn: [Prayers & Hymns - #WMOF22 \(romefamily2022.com\)](https://www.romefamily2022.com/prayers-hymns)

## IDEA B: HOST A SOCIAL GATHERING

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Offer a small gathering for families after Mass or at another time that is convenient for them to get to know one another and your community better.

### TIPS AND IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

- » Have volunteers on hand to greet families, provide direction if needed, and make them feel welcome at the parish.
- » Provide simple discussion questions for families to use at their tables.
- » Have activities for children:
  - > If the event is outside, set-up yard games, like corn-hole. If inside, consider having party games, like relay races, or board games.
  - > Provide simple crafts or coloring pages.
- » Be sure to have the following:
  - > A way for families to sign-up to receive information from your parish and for you to follow-up with them.
  - > An invitation to the next event/opportunity for families to get involved.

## IDEA C: HAVE A LARGE-SCALE EVENT FOR FAMILIES (PICNIC, INTERNATIONAL DINNER, ETC.)

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Consider hosting a larger-scale event where families can gather to enjoy a meal and share in fellowship.

### TIPS AND IDEAS TO CONSIDER:

- » Have a parish tailgate where you ask families to decorate their cars in celebration of their family.
- » Host a themed potluck, where families supply recipes based on a specific theme such as:
  - > *Laudato Si*: Go Green— Ask families to bring their own utensils and plates; share information from *Laudato Si*. [laudatosimovement.org/#join](https://laudatosimovement.org/#join)
  - > *Evangelii Gaudium*: Be Joyous— Suggest parishioners invite someone they know that has fallen away from the church to come and enjoy a meal. Or perhaps a priest can hear confessions somewhere near the event.
  - > If parish resources allow, bring in Food Trucks and a Band/DJ or musicians willing to perform.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

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» Hospitality Handbook: [210803\\_HospitalityHandbook\\_Docs\\_v6\\_APPROVED.pdf](#) | Powered by Box

» World Meeting of Families Region VI Toolkit: [Family Love 2022 Toolkit \(nacflm.org\)](#)

» Before the Event Tips:

- › Advertise the event across all of your communication channels and provide reminders after families have signed-up.
- › Make it simple for families to sign-up. If you are providing food, be sure to ask about any dietary restrictions.
- › Provide any promotional material to make it easy for families to invite friends and neighbors.
- › Pray for the participants.
- › Recruit volunteers to make the event enjoyable for everyone: set up/take down crew, traffic crew, and an emcee to welcome attendees and facilitate the event.

» During the Event Hospitality Tips:

- › Orient volunteers, set up space for the meal and test the sound system.
- › Welcome families, provide direction as needed, and help them find seating.
  - Let them know if you are taking photos and to let you know if they wish to not have their family's pictures included on social media, the website, or the bulletin.
- › Lead the participants in prayer.
- › Provide opportunities for discussion and connecting with one another.
- › Thank those who have attended and send them off with a blessing.
- › Invite families to the next event.

» Follow-up Tips:

- › Follow-up with participants to see if they have any prayer requests or questions about upcoming events.
- › Pray for the participants.
- › Celebrate the event with photos on your social media, messages in the parish bulletin, etc.