

Parish Toolkit September 20-26, 2021



National Migration Week



"Towards an ever wider "we"

Catholic Charities
Providing Help. Creating Hope. Serving All.



Included in the toolkit



- Schedule of Archdiocesan Events for Migration Week 2021..... p. 3
- Prayer..... p. 4
- Marian Devotion around the world..... p. 5
- Suggested Petitions..... p. 7
- Facts about immigration ...p. 9
- Conversation Starters.....p. 10
- Ideas of Ways to welcome Immigrants and Refugees...p. 11
- Additional Resources.....p. 12

"At the heart of the Gospel of mercy, the encounter and acceptance by others are intertwined with the encounter and acceptance of God himself. Welcoming others means welcoming God in person!" - Pope Francis, Message, Sept. 12, 2015



Create communion within diversity

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week, which is an opportunity for the Church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking.

In this toolkit, we will give your parish ideas for prayer, resources to learn more about migration, and ways to put our faith into action in service to others.

Theme: "Towards an Ever Wider 'We'"

The primary theme for this year is "Towards an ever wider 'we'". In his letter announcing this year's theme, Pope Francis emphasizes that "this focus calls on us to ensure that 'after all this, we will think no longer in terms of 'them' and 'those,' but only 'us'" (Fratelli tutti, no. 35).

Date: National Migration Week, September 20-26, 2021

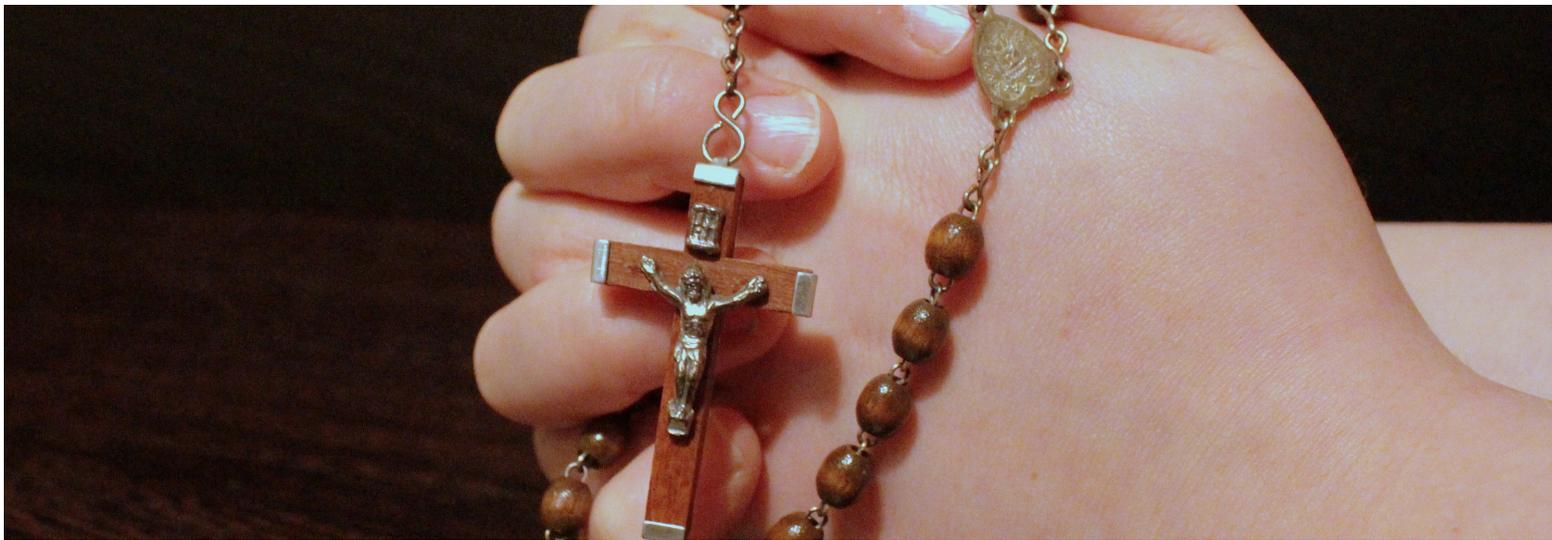
National Migration Week for 2021 takes place September 20-26, and will culminate with the Vatican's celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees (WDMR), which always falls on the last Sunday of September. More resources from the Vatican are at <https://migrants-refugees.va/>



Schedule of Archdiocesan Events for Migration Week 2021

- September 20, 2021 5:45 PM Bilingual (English and Spanish) Mass at Our Lady of the Greenwood Catholic Church celebrated by Archbishop Charles Thompson
- September 22, 2021 at 12:00 PM - *Virtual* Prayer Service for the Catholic Social Teaching Principle of Family, Community, and Participation and how we see that principle in action within our communities. Register at <https://nationalmigrationweek.eventbrite.com>
- Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 5:30 PM- Ecumenical Prayer Service for Migrants and Refugees at St. Bartholomew.

Please join us!



Pray

As disciples of the Lord Jesus, we must pray, experience God's presence in ourselves and others, and listen to how he calls us to respond to those in need. "The most important setting for the Church's social teaching is not in a food pantry or in a legislative committee room, but in prayer and worship..."
Communities of Salt and Light, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

2021 National Migration Week Prayer

Loving Father,

We thank you for the gift of children

And for the joy and love that they bring into our lives.

Protect with your fatherly care all children who face hardship.

In particular, we pray for unaccompanied migrant children who are alone,

For migrant children separated from parents who have been placed in detention,

For those who have lost loved ones due to violence,

And for those who are trapped in situations of exploitation.

Open all of our hearts to immigrant and refugee children in need.

Show us how we can protect and comfort them.

Give us the wisdom to know how we can help.

Give us courage to defend them

against those who would harm them.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

God forever and ever. Amen



Marian Devotion

"[The] presence of Mary finds many different expressions in our day, just as it did throughout the Church's history... through the radiance and attraction of the great shrines where not only individuals or local groups, but sometimes whole nations and societies, even whole continents, seek to meet the Mother of the Lord, the one who is blessed because she believed is the first among believers and therefore became the Mother of Emmanuel... One could perhaps speak of a specific "geography" of faith and Marian devotion, which includes all these special places of pilgrimage where the People of God seek to meet the Mother of God in order to find, within the radius of the maternal presence of her "who believed," a strengthening of their own faith."- *Redemptoris Mater*, St. John Paul II

Examples of Marian Devotion

The best known Marian devotion around the world is the Rosary. See the following link for a PDF of the "Unity in Diversity" Scriptural Rosary from the USCCB: <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Scriptural-Rosary.pdf>



Catholics have been urged to take part in a Marian devotion by praying the rosary and adoration with the intention of achieving peace and justice in military-ruled Myanmar. Catholics, who are a minority in Buddhist-majority Myanmar, have played an active role in praying for a peaceful solution, participating in pro-democracy protests and supplying material and moral support to the needy and the families of deceased protesters.



Mexico

Our Lady of Guadalupe has often been called the Evangelizer of the Americas. In the past year, Our Lady of Guadalupe has also been invoked as our protector against COVID-19. See the following page for the prayer.



India

Known as "the Lourdes of the East," the devotion to Our Lady of Good Health (Vailankanni) comes from India. As much of the world still struggles with coronavirus, we look to Our Lady of Good Health for comfort, healing, protection, and strength. For a prayer to Our Lady of Vailankanni go to: <https://bit.ly/vailankanni>



Covid-19: A prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe in times of trial

As the United States contends with the Covid-19 pandemic, the US Bishops invite Catholics to pray to Our Lady of Guadalupe for her maternal protection.

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas,
We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
and gain for our nation and world,
and for all our families and loved ones,
the protection of your holy angels,
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.

Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
knowing that you truly are our compassionate Mother,
health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
keep us in the embrace of your arms,
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.



Suggested Petitions

- For all bishops in our Church, that each may be encouraged by our prayers and support to lead God's people in building a culture that respects the human dignity of all migrants, we pray to the Lord...
- For all Catholics, that God inspire them to act in their local communities to support and protect migrants and to advocate on their behalf, we pray to the Lord...
- For our neighbors, coworkers, friends, fellow Christians, and all people, that they may grow in their awareness of the issue of migration and become a voice in the public square calling for greater protections for these populations, we pray to the Lord...
- For migrants, refugees, and all other strangers in our midst, that they may find strength in our concern for justice and feel the warmth of our love, we pray to the Lord...
- For all refugees who are forced to flee from their homes, that God bring peace to them, their families and their country of origin, we pray to the Lord...

-National Migration Week Sample Petitions from Justice for Immigrants' National Migration Week 2021 Toolkit



Learn

"Transformed by our encounter with God and neighbor, we strive to learn more about those issues impacting our families, local communities, and brothers and sisters around the world. Catholic social teaching illuminates the problems facing our local and global communities with the light of our faith and guides us as we seek to understand root causes and discern how we are called to act."- wearesaltandlight.org

Parish Resources

- **“Welcoming Christ in the Migrant”**
 - Purpose: To give Catholics an opportunity to reflect on the issue of migration through Scripture and Catholic Social Teaching Tradition. This resource also provides suggestions for practical ways that individuals can assist migrants.
 - <https://isaiahmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/5-Welcome-Christ-in-Migrant.pdf>
- **“An Evening in Solidarity with Migrants and Refugees”**
 - Purpose: This is a multicultural and adaptable guide with models specific to adolescents, college-age young people, and young adults. We encourage ministry leaders to use this as a model, and to adapt it as necessary to your local needs and circumstances. Event durations range from 50 minutes to 1.5 hours, and include detailed instructions on materials needed, questions for reflection, and key information to educate young people on the migration and refugee crisis in the context of their Catholic faith.
 - https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Evening-n-Solidarity_Youth-Engagement.pdf
- **“Accompaniment and the Catholic Faith: We are Called to Stand in Solidarity”**
 - Purpose: To highlight the importance of accompaniment in Catholic Teaching on migration, demonstrate ways in which you can accompany migrants, and provide a model that can institutionalize this process.
 - <https://justiceforimmigrants.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Accompaniment-and-the-Faith.pdf>



Additional Food for Thought

- According to the American Immigration Council, 5% of Indiana residents are immigrants. In 2018, there were 354,348 Hoosiers who were born in a different country and immigrated to the United States. Source: American Immigration Council Indiana Fact Sheet (2020)
- 35% of adult immigrants had a college degree or more in 2018 according to the American Immigration Council. Source: American Immigration Council Indiana Fact Sheet (2020)
- Immigrants generate millions of dollars in annual business revenue as entrepreneurs and billions to Indiana's economy as consumers. 7% of self-employed Hoosiers in 2018 were immigrants. That is 18,583 immigrant business owners who live in Indiana that generated \$497.9 million in business income. Source: American Immigration Council Indiana Fact Sheet (2020)
- The Catholic Church is rooted in a history of migration. We are an immigrant church that embraces our call to "welcome the stranger" among us. We are encouraged by biblical teachings that remind us that every human being is made in God's image and that our treatment of our neighbor is a reflection of God in us.- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)
- As people of faith, we know that each person is sacred. During a time of increased immigration enforcement, our system should honor human dignity and ensure that every person is given due process.- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)



Conversation Starters

The following are examples of ways to begin a conversation directly or indirectly related to immigration. A parish might share a few in the weekly bulletin, newsletter, or social media. Perhaps one could be used as an icebreaker for a parish meeting, a small-group bible study, or even as a family dinner-table topic.

- Share an experience when someone welcomed you generously in his or her home or family. How did you feel welcomed and accompanied? What changes did that person or family make in their own lives to welcome you?
- What words from the Bible have helped you during difficult times in your life?
- What makes it important for Catholics to practice hospitality?
- What programs or activities are present in your parish or school that reach out to immigrant youth and families?
- What attitudes, gestures, or actions can help us encounter one another in daily life: at work, school, in our neighborhoods, on public transportation, at a store, or in our faith communities?
- What can your parish, school, or community do to more fully incorporate the ways in which Catholics from around the world celebrate?
- What challenges do your immigrant neighbors face, particularly young people, in order to preserve their religious and cultural identity in the United States?
- What type of ministry is needed in the midst of today's culturally diverse environment in the Church?
- What can we do to increase a sense of welcome, belonging, and stewardship among the faithful?



Act

" "A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother," Pope Francis says, "is a sterile and incomplete prayer." Prayer leads to reaching out and learning, which leads to action. At the same time, action flows from prayer and its fruits of love, gratitude, forgiveness, compassion, hope, respect, hospitality, and humility."- wearesaltandlight.org

- Sign up to receive information about ArchIndy's Catholic Accompaniment and Reflective Experience (CARE) Program at <https://www.archindy.org/care/signup.html>
- Learn how you can start a CARE ministry at your parish. For more information contact Simona Reising- sreising@archindy.org
- Support unaccompanied children who are waiting for reunification with a family member. To learn how you and your parish community can support unaccompanied children, contact Simona Reising- sreising@archindy.org
- Support immigrant-owned businesses and use immigrant-owned restaurants to cater events.
- Learn a few words in the native language of a friend, neighbor, or fellow parishioner who is an immigrant or refugee.- *adapted from 12 ways to Promote Integration in Your Community, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)*
- Ask your local library, museum, and community center to include perspectives of immigrants in planned public events, classes that are offered, and resources that are purchased. Purchase and donate a book about immigrants or an immigrant story to your local library. -*12 Ways to Promote Integration in Your Community, CLINIC*
- Host a prayer/discussion group, book club, movie night, or other event to create a dialogue on immigration and refugee issues.- *Discerning How to Welcome Your Neighbor, CLINIC*
- Plan a bilingual Mass or activity for parishioners of different cultural backgrounds to get to know one another.-*Looking for ways to engage your parish on immigration issues?, CLINIC*
- Sign up for Action Alerts from the Indiana Catholic Conference at <https://www.voterveice.net/INDIANACC/home>



Additional Resources

- Catholic Relief Services: 10 minute Online Prayer Retreat for Migrants and Refugees - <https://bit.ly/migrationretreatonline>
- Justice for Immigrants: Rosary for Vulnerable Migrant Populations- <https://bit.ly/migrationrosary>
- USCCB "A Pastoral Response to Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters"- <https://bit.ly/christinharmony>
- Catholic Relief Services: "Lead the Way on Migration Action Toolkit" - <https://bit.ly/migrationleadtheway>
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network (CLINIC): "12 Ways to Promote Integration in your Community"- <https://bit.ly/parishintegration>
- Video: "Moving From Stranger to Neighbor: Using Parish Volunteers for Newcomer Integration"- <https://bit.ly/stranger2neighbor>