

SAMPLE TIMELINE

Fall is a busy season! Families have returned from vacation, a new school year is beginning, ministries that may take breaks for the summer are back in full swing, and people are trying to return to regular routines. In the flurry of fall activities, October can easily sneak up on us! This sample timeline is provided to help you prepare for Respect Life Month. While these steps apply most directly to a parish coordinator, they can be adapted to help you think about key steps you can take to plan ahead in whatever capacity you serve the Church.



AUGUST

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

August 1

Visit respectlife.org/respect-life-month to review and familiarize yourself with the new materials. Compile any resources you hope to use during Respect Life Month. This would include bulletin announcements, intercessions, the Respect Life reflection, graphics, homily notes, article summaries, instructions for ordering printed materials, etc.

Early August

- ◆ Meet with your pastor to discuss possibilities for observing Respect Life Month. Let him know what resources are available, such as homily notes and prayer intercessions. Share your ideas with him, and ask permission for whatever you have in mind. Most importantly, *ask what you can do to help* and whether there's any other information he'd like you to provide. For example, perhaps emailing him the homily notes directly will save him time. Or he may ask you to send the prayer intercessions to parish staff.
- ◆ Following your conversation with your pastor, contact your parish office to open the lines of communication. Many parishes need content well in advance to include it in the weekly bulletin. Inquire about deadlines, and share what content you hope to have featured. This will help your parish plan ahead to allot the necessary space in the bulletin. If you plan to include materials such as bulletin boxes each weekend in October, you may need to make separate submissions. If you plan to do the interactive Respect Life bulletin board or another activity, you'll also need to plan for those announcements to be printed in the bulletin in advance. Sample announcements and instructions for the interactive Respect Life bulletin board are provided later in this action guide.

SEPTEMBER

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					

OCTOBER

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		

First Week of September

Begin gathering the materials you will need for the interactive Respect Life bulletin board. Enlist volunteers who might like to help you with the activity. This is a great way to get youth involved and invite parishioners to use their creative gifts.



Second Week of September

This is the time to tie up any loose ends, verify that all content has been received, and determine whether there are any follow-up tasks to be completed in the weeks ahead of Respect Life Month. Reconnect with the appropriate parish staff regarding your bulletin submissions. Touch base with your pastor to offer any further assistance that is needed and to confirm any plans you may have made.

End of September

Gather with your volunteers and bring the bulletin board materials. Put together the interactive Respect Life bulletin board using the instructions included later in this action guide. Improvise as needed, and make it your own!

October

Respect Life Month is here, and it's finally time to hang the poster in a place people will see it! Now is also a great time to begin sharing announcements about Respect Life Month on social media or in monthly newsletters. You may want to pre-schedule some social media posts throughout the month with graphics, prayer intercessions, or the reflection on this year's theme. (You could use or adapt the pre-written pulpit or bulletin announcements. And be sure to follow and share from the Facebook and Twitter accounts of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities! Facebook: [www.fb.com/usccbrespectlife](https://www.facebook.com/usccbrespectlife) / Twitter: [@usccbprolife](https://twitter.com/usccbprolife))

First Sunday of October (Respect Life Sunday)

On Respect Life Sunday (or another Sunday in October), have volunteers staff a table near the interactive Respect Life bulletin board after each Mass. Provide examples of items to pin, as well as printed, take-home reminders to bring in and add their own items throughout the month. Volunteers can help explain the activity and answer any questions. Include Respect Life resources on various topics on the table as well. If your parish has the space, consider leaving the table up for the duration of Respect Life Month.

Mid-October

Monitor the content being added to the Respect Life bulletin board, and ensure that all materials are appropriate. Take special note of prayer requests, and consider how your parish community might pray for these specific intentions. Perhaps they can be included during a regularly scheduled Holy Hour or lifted up during a ministry gathering. You may also want to remember these intentions in your own daily prayers.

End of October

Take some pictures of the interactive Respect Life bulletin board. Consider taking some with those who helped and/or participated, including their unique contributions. These pictures* could be shared in a newsletter or on a parish social media page to highlight how your community celebrated Respect Life Month. These visual memories are also a great way to remember the final product and serve as examples if you'd like to do this activity in future years.

**Make sure to follow all parish and diocesan policies for taking and sharing photos, especially any policies pertaining to minors.*

BULLETIN & PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

◆ Bulletin Announcements

Today is Respect Life Sunday!
Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month! [respectlife.org/celebrate](https://www.respectlife.org/celebrate).

◆ Pulpit Announcements

Option 1: Respect Life Sunday
(First Sunday of October)

Today is Respect Life Sunday, which kicks off Respect Life Month. We consider more deeply why *every* human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects it. See the bulletin for more information.

Option 2: Respect Life Month
(Any Weekend in October)

Every October, we celebrate Respect Life Month. We consider more deeply why *every* human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. See the bulletin for more information.

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