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Together Sunday Planning Timeline

A Repeatable Strategy for Seasonal Evangelization

People are often more open to reconnecting with the Church during seasons of transition. As routines change, many begin looking for community, purpose, and a place to belong. **Back Together Sunday** helps parishes intentionally respond to these moments with personal invitation, joyful hospitality, and a renewed culture of welcome.

Rather than being a one-time event, Back Together Sunday is a repeatable evangelization strategy that can be adapted to the natural rhythms of parish life.

Recommended Seasons

Back-to-School (August–September)

- Families establish new routines.
- Students return to school.
- Parish ministries begin again.
- One of the strongest opportunities of the year to invite people back to Mass.

Christmas

- Many people return to church during Advent and Christmas.
- Visitors are often more open to reconnecting with faith.
- A welcoming parish experience can encourage them to return throughout the year.

Easter

- Lent invites people to renewal and conversion.
- Holy Week and Easter draw many who have been away from the Church.
- A culture of hospitality helps transform a holiday visit into lasting discipleship.

Recommended Planning Timeline

Simply count backward from the weekend your parish chooses to celebrate **Back Together Sunday**.

Timeline	Goal	Communications	Personal Invitation	Hospitality
6 Weeks Before	Build the vision.	Introduce Back Together Sunday. Publish Bulletin #1. Distribute Invitation Flyer.	Form a prayer team. Identify individuals and families to invite.	Recruit Hospitality Team.
5 Weeks Before	Prepare the parish.	Verbal Announcement #1. Publish Bulletin #2.	Conduct a parish hospitality audit.	Evaluate signage, parking, greeters, children's hospitality, accessibility, and newcomer experience.
4 Weeks Before	Begin personal outreach.	Publish Bulletin #3. Social Media Post #1.	Launch the Personal Invitation Campaign (letters, phone calls, texts, emails, and conversations).	Continue volunteer recruitment and training.
3 Weeks Before	Invite intentionally.	Optional homily emphasis. Publish Bulletin #4. Social Media Post #2.	Continue invitations. Send Pastor and School letters.	Hospitality Team training and Sunday walkthrough.
2 Weeks Before	Build momentum.	Verbal Announcement #2. Publish Bulletin #5. Social Media Post #3. Parish email.	Continue personal invitations and follow-up.	Finalize volunteer schedules and hospitality plans.
1 Week Before	Prepare for guests.	Final verbal announcement. Social Media Post #4. Reminder email and text.	Encourage every parishioner to invite one person personally.	Prepare welcome materials, refreshments, connection cards, and volunteer briefing.
Back Together Sunday	Welcome everyone with joy.	Welcome materials and worship aids available.	Parishioners intentionally greet and accompany guests.	Hospitality before, during, and after every Mass. Invite guests to a clear next step.
Week After	Continue the relationship.	Share stories and thank the parish.	Personally follow up with every guest, returning Catholic, and newcomer.	Evaluate the weekend and identify improvements for the next Back Together Sunday.

The Four Movements of Back Together Sunday

Every activity in this timeline supports four simple movements that can become the culture of your parish:

Pray

Invite God to prepare hearts and guide every invitation.

Care

Build authentic relationships through listening, encouragement, and genuine concern.

Invite

Extend a personal invitation to encounter Jesus Christ and His Church.

Welcome

Help every person experience belonging through joyful hospitality and meaningful relationships.

When these four movements become part of parish life, **Back Together Sunday** becomes more than one successful weekend—it becomes the beginning of a culture where every Sunday is a welcoming Sunday.