



National Week for Life and the Family: May 8 – 15, 2022

On the 5th anniversary of the apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* on the joy of familial love, Pope Francis has dedicated this year as the **Year of the Family**, helping families to grow in faith while living God's joy more abundantly in family life. Pope Francis encourages us, to "experience the Gospel of the family as a joy that 'fills hearts and lives'" (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 200). The Year of the Family will conclude on June 26, 2022, with the 10th World Meeting of Families in Rome, focusing on the theme, "**Family Love: A Vocation and a Path to Holiness.**"

In collaboration with the theme for the World Meeting of Families and the Year of the Family, the Tri-Diocesan committee is happy to announce that our sub-theme this year, for the National Week for Life and the Family will be, "**Living our Calling & Calling with Love.**" Key events will take place throughout the month of May including:

- 100,000 Lives Flag Display - May 12, 2022
- Life's Culture Spring Banquet - May 27, 2022
- Walk for Life - May 28, 2022

In addition, there will *not* be a "Tri-Diocesan Family Conference" in Winnipeg this year, but rather parishes are invited **individually or in collaboration with other local parishes to highlight a particular theme of vocations through an event, session, workshop, or another initiative.** To learn more about the National Week for Life and the Family and further details for local events, please go to the NWLF Manitoba website lifeandthefamily.com/2022



To mark the National Week for Life and the Family, Saint John XXIII Parish will highlight the importance of joy-filled prayer and celebration in the vocation of family life by holding a **"FLORES DE MAYO" FIESTA on SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2022.**

Our "Flores de Mayo" **ROSARY CELEBRATION** will be held at **10:15 a.m.**, i.e. between Masses on Sunday morning, the **INTENTION** at the **11:45 a.m.** Mass will be offered specifically for the families of our parish, and following the 11:45 a.m. Mass a parish **FAMILY CELEBRATION** will be held in the parish hall.

The ROSARY CELEBRATION with the procession of the "AVE MARIA" letters will require the participation of a number of our children and youth. We are looking for older children and youth to be pole bearers (the poles are a bit heavy) and younger children to accompany the pole bearers dressed as angels to carry the ribbons. We are also looking for some strong readers to help with the rosary prayers. For those who would be walking in the procession, where possible they could wear a white top. We have angel wings on site for the children to use.

For preparation purposes, if your child(ren) would like to take an active part in the rosary celebration, please let Sharon Camier know ASAP. We need to know how many children/youth will be available to help and in what area they would like to assist (*pole bearer, angel or reader*).

The FAMILY CELEBRATION after the 11:45 a.m. Mass will include a potluck lunch, music, and some children's activities. The donated food (preferably commercially prepared) will be set up buffet style in room 9 on the east side of the basement hallway.

In the interest of health and food safety, arrangements are being made for designated food handlers to serve the food buffet style. Also, we urge participants to wear face masks when standing in line at the buffet to get their plates filled. **For those with food allergies and/or other health concerns, you are welcome to omit the buffet and bring your own bag lunch for your family.**

If you are willing to help in the celebration (a food dish to share, soft drinks, juice, children's activities, food service or clean up, etc.) please let us know as soon as possible and in which area(s) you would like to help. You may contact Sharon Camier through the parish office at 204-832-7175 or email sharon@johnxxiii.ca, or you may contact Elona Paragas at 204-930-2426.

Thank you so much! We look forward to seeing you at our FLORES de MAYO FIESTA!