

# National Week for Life and the Family (CCCB)

May 12 (Fourth Sunday of Easter) – May 19 (Fifth Sunday of Easter), 2019

## Plan for Parish Use

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**THEME:** “Listening to the Gospel as a Family”

**CONTEXT:**

In our information age much of the news we hear is often negative. Now we have to contend with not only bad news but fake news. What we really need is good news. Our loving encounter with Jesus, the God-Man is truly good news that sets us free and brings us joy. Pope Francis tells us that “the joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus” and when “we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1 & 8). Let us experience God’s love for us by taking time to listen to the gospel as a family so that we may share with others the joy of the gospel.

### 1. PROMOTION

Before the “Week” begins . . .

**Prayer:** A call to prayer for life and the family in Canada to be issued on Palm Sunday, (April 14, 2019) or on Easter Sunday (April 21, 2019), together with the distribution of a prayer card – downloadable from the Week’s website page <https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/5041-2019-national-week-for-life-and-the-family>

- . We encourage dioceses/eparchies to print and promote the prayer.
- **Bulletin announcements:** Parish bulletins could publish the following promotional announcements a few weeks in advance and on the Sunday chosen to celebrate the Week (either May 12 or May 19, 2019):
  - A. National Week for Life and the Family (May 12-19) – This year, in the Church in Canada, the Week will focus on the theme: “**Listening to the Gospel as a Family**”. For more information about events related to the week, see: <https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/5041-2019-national-week-for-life-and-the-family>

**B. “Listening to the Gospel as a Family”** – In our information age much of the news we hear is often negative. Now we have to contend with not only bad news but fake news. What we really is good news. Our loving encounter with Jesus, the God-Man is truly good news that sets us free and brings us joy. Pope Francis tells us that “the joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus” and when “we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1 & 8). Let us experience God’s love for us by taking time to listen to the gospel as a family so that we may share with others the joy of the gospel. Please visit: <https://www.cccb.ca/site/eng/church-in-canada-and-world/catholic-church-in-canada/life-and-family/5041-2019-national-week-for-life-and-the-family>

## **2. THE EUCHARIST**

On one of the Sundays during the National Week for Life and the Family (either May 12 or May 19), the theme of life and the family can be creatively worked into the homily.

- **Homily Notes / Suggestions:** (see specific section)
- **Prayers of the Faithful:** (see specific section)

## **3. EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The family is the first “school” where we learn to think first not of ourselves but to love and care for others. Pope Francis tells us that “the joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus” and when “we have received the love which restores meaning to our lives, how can we fail to share that love with others?” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, 1 & 8). Here are some ways that we can share the joy of the gospel.

**A. At home** (see “Suggested Events and Activities”)

**B. In the parish** (see “Suggested Events and Activities”)