

Hosting a Parish Festival

A parish festival is a fun, family-friendly event that can draw attendees from throughout the community. These events can celebrate the cultural heritage and devotions of the members of their parish communities.

Parts of the parish festival might include:

- Liturgical celebrations and devotions such as Mass
- Cultural performances, including music and dancing, or art
- Educational workshops or displays
- Traditional items and food offered by local vendors or parishioners
- Activities for families and children such as a piñatas, board games, and athletic events



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Celebrating

Our Catholic Heritage



Faith in Action

Community



Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage

The Celebrating Our Catholic Heritage program encourages councils and their parishes to celebrate the cultures and traditions of their communities. Catholics with many different cultural backgrounds have played a significant role in the history of North America, contributing to its spiritual, cultural and social fabrics - from the earliest Spanish missions established 400 years ago to the vibrant and different communities that thrive today. Councils can share the richness of their Catholic heritage by hosting festivals and other events that include the food, music, art, and religious devotions of the countries or cultures represented in their parishes. This program aims to educate, inspire, and unite the parish community by providing an opportunity for the parish to celebrate.

Suggested Dates to Celebrate

Consider running this program on the dates that are relevant to cultural communities in your parish (Hispanic, Italian, Irish, etc). Popular dates might include days such as:

- Our Lady of Altagracia (Dominican Republic, Jan. 21)
- St. Patrick's day (Ireland, Mar. 17)
- St. Joseph (Italy, Mar. 19)
- St. Oscar Romero (El Salvador, Mar. 24)
- Mexican Martyrs (Mexico, May 21),
- Bl. Stanley Rother (Guatemala, Jul. 28)
- Our Lady of Częstochowa (Poland, Aug. 28)
- Our Lady of la Caridad del Cobre (Cuba, Sep. 8)
- National Hispanic Heritage Month in the United States (Sep. 15 – Oct. 15)
- Bl. Carlos Rodríguez (Puerto Rico, Nov. 22)
- St. Juan Diego (Mexico, Dec. 9)
- Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico, Dec. 12)



Faith and Culture

Councils and their parishes can celebrate their own cultural traditions and love for God through devotions such as:

- A liturgy, such as the Mass, on feast days of saints with special significance to the community.
- The decoration of an altar with saints relevant to the community.
- Mass and rosaries with special intentions for the community.
- A procession with icons or statues depicting saints significant to their community.

All events can be followed by a meal and or festival as part of the commemoration of these "feasts."

