

Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Marriage & Family Life

FAMILY DAY 2025

“Hope in the Home”

The purpose of Family Day is to provide the parishes of the Archdiocese of New Orleans an opportunity to gather their families and encourage them to renew their life together, strengthen friendships, form new ones, and to cultivate an appreciation for the importance and goodness of family life.

This year, during this global 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope throughout the Church, we invite families to be anchored in **“Hope in the Home.”**

The headlines of the day and our social media feeds regularly provide us with a grim outlook for our local, national, and global scenes. Within our families, we often experience the strain and fracture of difficulty, division, and anxiety. The late Pope Francis called for this Holy Year in 2025 with the intent that we would all be “pilgrims of hope.” As husbands and wives, grandparents, parents, and children, we are pilgrims on a journey of hope together. We are called by Christ to suffer life’s challenges with one another and to be loving, charitable, patient, and merciful with one another. If we take those small steps to foster hope anchored within the bonds of our families, we can more courageously set out on the path to our ultimate destination: life everlasting through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

This Family Day, we encourage Catholic families to “rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer.”¹ By believing and loving together, authentic hope grows in the home and “Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love.”²

¹ Rom 12:12

² Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, May 9, 2024, 3.

https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/bulls/documents/20240509_spes-non-confundit_bolla-giubileo2025.html

*The enclosed resources are aids to assist your
parish in planning for Family Day.*

*Please use them as seems most helpful
for your parish:*

Homily Suggestions

Universal Prayers

Family Blessing

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**Homily Suggestions for
Family Day in the Archdiocese of New Orleans
Sunday, September 28, 2025
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C**

“Hope In The Home”

Overall theme idea: This Family Day, we encourage Catholic families to “rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, and persevere in prayer.” (Rom 12:12) By believing and loving together, authentic hope grows in the home and “Christian hope does not deceive or disappoint because it is grounded in the certainty that nothing and no one may ever separate us from God’s love.” (Pope Francis, “Hope Does Not Disappoint,” 3.)

First Reading: Amos 6:1a, 4-7

“Woe to the complacent in Zion!”

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 54:3-4, 5, 6, and 8

“Praise the Lord, my soul!”

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 6:11-16

“Compete well for the faith. Lay hold of eternal life, to which you were called.”

Gospel Reading: Luke 16:19-31

“Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”

It’s hard to believe, but Christmas will be here before you know it! At some point in time in our lives, we all woke up on Christmas morning to the joy of presents under the tree. If your childhood was like that of most children, you likely also said to yourself: “I hope I get the Barbie doll I asked for!” or “I hope this box is the video game I put on my wish list!” or “I hope this isn’t another boring pair of socks!”

We have all placed our hope in something when we have desired or expected good things to come our way. This Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time and 4th Sunday in September is Family Day in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, where parishes here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans can gather our families and encourage them to renew our life together, strengthen friendships, form new ones, and to cultivate an appreciation for the importance and goodness of family life. This Family Day, we are invited to place our “Hope in the Home.”

Hope is the central message of the global Catholic Church as we continue to journey through the 2025 Jubilee Year as “Pilgrims of Hope.” When he called this Jubilee Year, the late Pope Francis desired that we would be men, women, boys, and girls who experience a genuine encounter with the Lord Jesus through our daily journey of life and thus proclaim to all, everywhere that Christ is “our hope.” (1Tim 1:1) In order to be families who have “hope in the home,” might I suggest that we remember the three core virtues as Christians: faith, hope, and love. As Saint Augustine put it: “Whatever our state of life, we cannot live without these three dispositions of the soul, namely, to believe, to hope and to love”.³

Real Christian hope in the home is different from the hope of opening a present you want on Christmas morning, that you have the winning lottery numbers, or that the Saints or Tigers receiver catches the ball for a much-needed 1st down or touchdown. It is a hope that knows that there is suffering and difficulties in the world. When Pope Francis invited us to be hopeful, he did not expect that there would be so many challenges to that hope in 2025 alone. We have experienced senseless violence in the French Quarter, economic stress, political discord, and the looming threat of war in these past 9 months. We may have felt or feel like the character of Lazarus in Jesus’ parable in today’s Gospel: poor, hungry, and wounded.

Amid all of this, Saint Paul encourages us, as he encouraged Saint Timothy in today’s Second Reading, to “pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness” and to “compete well for the faith.” To have ‘hope in the home’ is not to be naïve that God will answer every prayer we make exactly the way we ask it to be fulfilled nor is it to trust solely in our own wills and might because we have been disappointed by God before. Rather, it is to desire good things, and to believe that God will always bring good out of any situation in our lives, no matter how dire it is. As Saint Paul also writes in his Letter to the Romans: “We boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and

³ *Serm.* 198 augm. 2.

endurance produces character, and character produces hope.”⁴ Our sufferings and burdens can be used for good as it conditions us to compete well for the prize of heaven.

We can grow in hope in the home if we grow in charity. What would have happened to the rich man in Jesus’ parable if he gave Lazarus some of his food or hospitality? Would he have been spared the agony of a life separated from God?

In our lives, that charity can come through giving of ourselves monetarily or through serving the poor and the needy. It can also come through the thoughtful gifts we give our loved ones, the mercy we show when we forgive them for hurting us, the time and attention off our phones and present with them, and the patience we show to our children when they misbehave or irritate us.

“Hope in the home” helps us to grow in our belief in everlasting life - the final stop on our earthly journey. Hope is the checkered flag on our soul’s GPS; it guides our turns and can help us from experiencing total despair. Hope helps us to bridge the great chasm between paradise and punishment that Lazarus and the rich man experienced. Hope draws us closer to Christ and, in that communion, we can find happiness.

So, as we turn our attention to the giving thanks through the Eucharist, let us be drawn closer in communion with God. May God help us remember the poor and needy in our community and work as a family of faith to bring them hope. May He guide us with His graces through the low points in our lives. May the “hope in our home” encourage us to praise the Lord with our souls and be beacons of light to our community and the world that “hope does not disappoint.” (Rom 5:5)

⁴ Rom 5:3-4

Universal Prayers

Priest: Gathered as a parish family who hopes in the Lord, let us bring our prayers to God.

Reader: For our Church, that Pope Leo, Archbishop Aymond, and all who lead our Catholic family may provide an anchor of hope for our communities of communion, rooted in the Eucharist, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our nation and its leaders, that they may consider all, especially the poor and vulnerable, in their policies and governance, we pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For our families, that, on this Family Day, God will help us grow in faith, love, and hope in the home together, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For members of our families who are experiencing seasons of despair, that God will lead them to a place of hope, which does not disappoint, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the members of our families and this parish community who have died, that they may know the mercy of our God and the hope of everlasting life, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the victims of wars, injustice, poverty, racism, and violence in our community, our nation, and our world, that we can trust that the Lord who reigns forever hears the prayers of their mouths, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For the prayers that rest in the silence of our hearts, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest: Loving and faithful God, you hear the cry of the poor and raise up all who are bowed down. May the prayers we humbly bring to you fill our hearts with hope and lead us to You and Your heavenly embrace where you live and reign, Father, Son and Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Family Blessing:

God, through the grace of our baptism, we are members of your family and in the hope of the Risen Lord.

We bless your name, O Lord, for sending your own incarnate Son to become part of a family, so that, as he lived within its sufferings and its joys, he would be present and provide newness of life to all families. We ask you, Lord, to protect and watch over these families, so that in the strength of your grace and in the depth of your mercy their members may enjoy prosperity, possess the priceless gift of your peace, and as the Church alive with “hope in the home,” bear witness in this world to your glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[adapted from the Book of Blessings]

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Family Day 2025 : “Hope in the Home”

Each year, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, through its Office of Marriage and Family Life, invites parishes this Sunday to celebrate Family Day. This is an opportunity to gather families together and to be encouraged to renew your life together, strengthen friendships, form new ones, and to cultivate an appreciation for the importance and goodness of family life.

This year, during this global 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope throughout the Church, we invite families to be anchored in “Hope in the Home.” As husbands and wives, grandparents, parents, and children, we are pilgrims on a journey of hope together. We are called by Christ to suffer life’s challenges with one another and to be loving, charitable, patient, and merciful with one another. If we take those small steps to foster hope anchored within the bonds of our families, we can more courageously set out on the path to our ultimate destination: life everlasting through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What is one thing our family is hopeful for in this season of our lives?

What is one thing our family can do to foster in our parish or our neighborhood?

May God our Father pour His Holy Spirit into our hearts to better understand the love of Christ for us good times and in bad; knowing that *“affliction produces endurance, and endurance, proven character, and proven character, hope, and hope does not disappoint.” (Rom 5:3-5)*