



Child Abuse Prevention Month

*Every Child Deserves
a Safe Environment*

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PROMISE to Protect		Pledge to HEAL	 Plant Pinwheel Garden	Rosary for Healing	Blue Friday	Lighten the Load
5 Share your Commitment	6 St. Maria Goretti	7 Show Respect	8 Pray a Novena for Protection and Healing	9 Holy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11 Pray for Healing Victims of Abuse
12 Easter	13 Be Positive	14 Review Reporting Procedures	15 Greet Someone New	16 Be an Example of Authentic Love	17 Blue Friday	18 Support Child Advocacy Centers
19 Family First	20 Send Salutations	21 Smile	22 Model Clear Boundaries	23 Meet the Need	24 Blue Friday	25 Healthy Families
26 National Blue Sunday	27 Become a Volunteer	28 Balance the Scale	29 Shower on the Welcome	30 Random Acts of Kindness	Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Office of Child & Youth Protection Safe Environment www.htdiocese.org/PreventAbuse	

Plant a Pinwheel Garden (April 1st)

The pinwheel by its very nature, connotes whimsy. Make or buy a pinwheel to plant as a reminder of the great childhoods we want for all children.

Rosary for Healing (April 2nd)

Pray the Rosary for Healing: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/child-and-youth-protection/upload/Rosary-for-Healing-2.pdf>

Blue Friday (April 3rd , 17 & 24th)

Help raise awareness of child abuse and neglect. Wear blue and show your support in promoting a happy childhood for all.

Lighten the Load (April 4th)

Make a meal, run an errand, open a door, or say a prayer for a parent who is over-loaded. Be aware of the sign of stress and offer a small gesture of hope and kindness to a parent today.

Share Your Commitment (April 5th)

Share your commitment by posting what your church/school is doing to promote Child Abuse Awareness.

St. Maria Goretti Prayer of Patroness of Abused (April 6th)

Just a young child herself, the story of St. Maria Goretti teaches us courage and forgiveness. Today make the intention to say a special prayer for the intercession of St. Maria Goretti Patroness of Abused. Feast Day July 6th.

Show Respect (April 7th)

Keep clear boundaries... Love unconditionally... Forgive...Be Honest... Laugh with, not at, others.... Be Patient and Kind... Communicate openly...Don't threaten, humiliate, or degrade...follow the Golden Rule.

Pray a Novena for Protection and Healing (April 8th)

Spend time with the Lord during 9 days in April to pray for the protection and healing of God's little ones. Visit USCCB.org for the novena.

Pray for Healing Victims of Abuse (April 11th)

Dedicate April 11th to prayer and sacrifice for the intention: "May survivors of abuse experience God's profound love for them and receive comfort and healing." Visit USCCB.org/pray to learn more.

Be Positive (April 13th)

Brighten the world around you. Find something good to say about everyone you see and everything you do today.

Review Diocesan Reporting Policies (April 14th)

When you see something, say something. Log onto <https://www.htdiocese.org/report-abuse-1> to learn more about Diocesan reporting procedures.

Greet Someone New (April 15th)

When you say hello and make eye contact with a stranger, you have the power to change their world — and yours, too. Make an effort to greet someone new today.

Be an Example of Authentic Love (April 16th)

Love is willing the good of another. In every interaction, every day, focus on the good of others. Today, strive to see in every person the image and likeness of God.

Blue Friday (April 3rd , 17 & 24th)

Help raise awareness of child abuse and neglect. Wear blue and show your support in promoting a happy childhood for all.

Support the Child Advocacy Center (April 18th)

Visit <https://www.lacacs.org/> and find the Child Advocacy Center in your area. Consider making a donation of time or money to support their efforts to protect all children.

Family First (April 19th)

Pope Francis calls the family the principal cell or building block of human society. Share a picture of your family and how they have shaped your faith.

Send Salutations (April 20th)

Create cards, notes, or pictures for children in out-of-home placements, families in shelters, or to welcome new parents in your parish.

Greet each other with a Smile (April 21st)

Mother Theresa said, "Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love." Greet all those that you encounter with a smile.

Model Clear Boundaries (April 22nd)

Boundaries define who we are and what we are. Maintaining boundaries preserves the integrity of the relationship and expands trust. Be aware of your own and others' boundaries.

Meet the Need (April 23rd)

Neglect is one of the most reported types of child maltreatment. Often neglect occurs because parents lack the resources to meet their children's most basic needs. Donate food and other basic necessities to a local food pantry or outreach center.

Blue Friday (April 3rd , 17 & 24th)

Help raise awareness of child abuse and neglect. Wear blue and show your support in promoting a happy childhood for all.

Healthy Families (April 25th)

Families stay busy. Make an effort to spend uninterrupted time with your family today. Share a meal, a book, or fun activity.

National Blue Sunday (April 26th)

The day when Parishes take time in their service to pray for the victims of child abuse and for those who rescue them. Register your Parish at www.bluesunday.org.

Become a Volunteer (April 27)

Contact your Church parish or Catholic School to become a volunteer. Visit the online Safe Environment Training website: www.safeandsacred-htdiocese.org

Balance the Scale (April 28th)

Resilience is the ability to bounce back from stress, adversity, failure, or even trauma. Identify what skills and resources you have to counterbalance the hardships in life.

Shower on the Welcome (April 29th)

Host a shower for new parents in your parish or for a shelter or program for young mothers. With your gifts, include information about right relationships and resources for support.

Random Act of Kindness (April 30th)

Kindness promotes empathy and compassion. We feel better and the recipient of our acts feel better. Go out of your way to do something kind today.