



St. Phoebe Day - 2025 Planning Checklist

In September 2025, hundreds of Catholic faith communities around the world will celebrate the Feast of Deacon St. Phoebe. While each celebration will reflect the unique perspectives and needs of the community, all will be united around four common goals.

GOALS OF ST. PHOEBE DAY

1. Grow the devotion to Deacon St. Phoebe during the month of her commemoration
2. Journey with global church in prayer during the Synod's three-year implementation process
3. Receive and implement Paragraph 60 of the Synod's Final Document
4. Grow participation in the baptismal call to diakonia

For the St. Phoebe Day overview, FAQs, more resources and scheduled support calls for communities celebrating St Phoebe's Day, see the full [St. Phoebe Day Toolkit](#).

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ST. PHOEBE DAY ACTIVITIES

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES ★★ ★

We hope that every St. Phoebe Day celebration (1) will involve the distribution of Paragraph 60 into the hands of as many people as possible and (2) that individuals and/or planning teams will attend and drive participation in the September 3 online gathering. If you can do nothing else, consider how you might celebrate by taking these actions.

1. ★ GATHER YOUR PEOPLE ON SEPTEMBER 3 ★

- ☐ 🙏 **Join the Virtual Celebration:** [Sign up for the virtual Feast of St. Phoebe](#) Prayer and Celebration on September 3 at 8:00 p.m. ET / 5:00 p.m. PT
 - If you are planning a local celebration that conflicts with the virtual celebration, please let us know so we can give you a shout-out!
- ☐ 📧 **Bring Your Friends & Your Clergy:** Invite others to join you for the virtual service on September 3.
 - Who has been walking with you? Invite them!
 - Who is newer to the conversation? Invite them!
 - Are there people you know from neighboring parishes, schools, religious orders, and other Catholic organizations? Invite them!
 - Who is your pastor? Who are the deacons and priests in your life? Invite them!
 - If you have a planning team for St. Phoebe Day, invite them! (And if you don't, consider having a follow-up conversation with your friends you invite about how you can take step 2 below together!)

2. ★ SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF PARAGRAPH 60 ★

- ☐ ☒ **Make a Plan:** Make a plan for getting Paragraph 60 into the hands of others at your parish/school/order/organization in September, for example...
 - Can you table in the parish vestibule after all Masses on a Sunday in September or after other events that month?
 - Can you set up a resource table or info wall in a community space (e.g., parish vestibule, classroom or school bulletin board) for the month of September?
 - Can you bring copies of Paragraph 60 to your monthly prayer group?
 - Can you share about Paragraph 60 in an email distribution list you are a part of?
- ☐ 🗨️ **Bring in Collaborators:** Invite others (maybe those who plan to attend the virtual prayer with you) to join you at your info table and/or in other activities to spread the word about Paragraph 60.
- ☐ 📁 **Gather Your Materials:** Prepare the materials you'll need to implement your plan!
 - [Paragraph 60 Handouts](#)
 - [St. Phoebe Prayer Cards](#)
 - Sign-up sheet for people interested in the conversation about women's participation in the Church



- [Register your plans](#) with Discerning Deacons by July 31 to receive free materials
- Explore Discerning Deacons' [Resources page](#) and [Learn page](#) for more printables
- ☐  **Get the Date on the Calendar:** Get any dates (e.g., for tabling, for special liturgies as outlined in "[Additional Activities](#)" below) on your official parish or organizational calendar.
 - Resource: [Talking to Your Decision Maker about St. Phoebe Day](#)

3. ★ AMPLIFY YOUR WITNESS ★

- ☐ **Amplify Your Witness**
 - ☐  **Complete the Survey:** As soon as possible after your event (ideally within 24 hours) submit the [St. Phoebe Day Post-event Survey](#)—to help Discerning Deacons amplify your witness!
 - ☐  **Share Your Photos:** Whether you hosted a big celebration or handed out Paragraph 60 to a few friends, be sure to snap some photos and share them with Discerning Deacons at <https://dropevent.com/phoebe2025>
 - ☐  **Post on Social Media:** Share photos from your event on social media with the hashtag #StPhoebeDay
- ☐ **Connect and Grow**
 - ☐  **Connect Your People to the Movement:** If you collected names of people interested in subscribing to Discerning Deacons' newsletter, please submit their names and email addresses as soon as possible to Anna Robertson, Director of Distributed Organizing, at anna@discerningdeacons.org
 - ☐  **Show Up for Discerning Deacons' Fall Quarterly Assembly:** Bring yourself, your team, and any new connections to one of Discerning Deacons' Fall Quarterly Assemblies on Tuesday, September 30 from 1-3 p.m. ET/10-12 p.m. PT or Thursday, October 2 from 8-10 p.m. ET/5-7 p.m. PT. Register at <https://discerningdeacons.org/events..>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

*In addition to the priority activities above, many communities will incorporate celebrations of St. Phoebe into Sunday Mass, prayer services, or other events. **Note: If you choose to celebrate St. Phoebe in one or more of the ways below, please be sure to also incorporate the [priority activities](#) listed above into your celebration.***

- **Celebrate St. Phoebe During Masses on a Sunday in September**
 - [Integration Guide for the Order of the Mass](#): A guide for priest presiders to incorporate St. Phoebe into the Mass on a Sunday or weekday.
 - **Liturgical Roles:** Assign women & girls in appropriate liturgical ministries for the day (e.g., acolytes, lectors, eucharistic ministers, ushers, greeters, cantors, etc).



- **Greeting:** For parishes with greeters who open the Mass and welcome the assembly, consider adapting the following sample script:
 - **Sample Greeting:** *Welcome. Today in this 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, we celebrate in a special way St. Phoebe of Cenchreae (Sen - Cree - Ay), diakonos and benefactor to many, who traveled over 746 miles to bring St. Paul's letter from Corinth to the new Christian community in Rome. Our Church commemorates St. Phoebe on September 3, and we are honoring her at this Sunday's liturgies.*
- **Liturgical Hymns:** Consider selecting hymns that reflect the day's themes, e.g., synodality, diakonia, discipleship, baptismal dignity, and/or women's leadership and ministry. Hymns that make explicit reference to St. Phoebe include the following:
 - ["O Christ You Call Us,"](#) by Bernadette Farrell, 2021
 - ["Christ As Her Vision,"](#) by Bernadette Farrell, 2021
 - ["God of the Women,"](#) by Karen Schneider Kirner, 2023
- **Litany of Saints:** If your community prays or sings a litany of the saints, include St. Phoebe in the litany. This is typically done if there is a Baptism in your liturgy.
 - ["Litany of Saints and Deacons,"](#) Allison Beyer, 2021
- **Prayers of the Faithful / Petitions**
 - [Universal Prayer for St. Phoebe \(long\)](#)
 - [Universal Prayer for St. Phoebe \(short\)](#)
- **Homily:** Homilists are encouraged to consider how the readings of the day connect to themes such as synodality, diakonia, discipleship, baptismal dignity, and/or women's leadership and ministry.
 - Catholic Women Preach, Memorial of St. Phoebe (September 3) - include transcripts
 - [2024, Rose Lue](#)
 - [2023, Phyllis Zagano](#)
 - [2021, Carolyn Osiek, RSCJ](#)
 - [2020, Sam Bowns](#)
- **Woman Witness/Speaker** (Choose one.)
 - **Lay Reflection:** For parishes with approval from their bishop for a lay reflection at Mass, you may schedule a woman ministry leader to provide a Gospel reflection. In general, it is permitted to schedule her as a pre-Mass speaker, before the Collect prayer that opens the Liturgy of the Word, or following communion.
 - Watch: ["Deepening Formation Series: Preparing Women Witness to Reflect with the Scriptures on St. Phoebe Day" with Rhonda Miska](#) (in Spanish [here](#))



- See [Notes for Presiders Introducing Women Speakers on St. Phoebe Day](#)
- See [Guide for Women Witnesses on St. Phoebe Day](#)
- **Testimony:** Before Mass or following communion, you may invite a woman to speak to your community about why the Church's discernment about women's roles matters to her and/or about her own journey of call.
 - See [Notes for Presiders Introducing Women Speakers on St. Phoebe Day](#)
 - See [Guide for Women Witnesses on St. Phoebe Day](#)
 - See Discerning Deacons' [2020](#) and [2021](#) virtual prayer services on St. Phoebe Day for sample testimonies
- ☐ **Announcement:** Include an announcement after Mass about how people can learn more and stay connected with growing the devotion to St. Phoebe and with the Church's ongoing discernment about women's roles.
 - **Sample Announcement:** *After Mass, please visit the gathering space where you will find a table with handouts of the full text Paragraph 60, our new Church teaching about women's roles, as well as St. Phoebe prayer cards. We'd love to meet you, learn about your interest in our Church's discernment about women's roles, and get you connected with opportunities to contribute!*
- ☐ **Tabling After Mass:** Don't miss out on the opportunity to connect with others in your community who are interested in the legacy of St. Phoebe and in the Church's discernment about women's roles. Set up a table in the narthex or parish gathering space after the Mass or at other Masses and/or community events throughout the month of September. See ["Share the Good News of Paragraph 60"](#) above for ideas.
- ☐ **Children's Liturgy:** If your parish hosts a Children's Liturgy of the Word or other ministry initiatives with children, consider how you will incorporate St. Phoebe into the day's activities.
 - [St. Phoebe Activity Book](#)
 - St. Phoebe Coloring Pages ([Option 1](#), [Option 2](#), [Option 3](#))
- ☐ **Boundaries:** Please note the following boundaries regarding celebrating St. Phoebe Day, particularly in the context of the Mass:
 - The purpose of St. Phoebe Day is not to take a hard position on women's access to the diaconate but to grow synodal participation in the Church's ongoing discernment about women's roles, including the question of women's access to diaconal ministry. This is accomplished by (1) sharing the news about the active discernment, particularly Paragraph 60 of the Synod's Final Document, by (2) inviting people to pray for the discernment, and by (3) fostering participation in the discernment through the sharing of testimonies and perspectives on matters being discerned by the global church. We are asking for the Holy Spirit to guide our global church's current discernment about rethinking women's participation.



- We do not support women preaching reflections on St. Phoebe Day during Mass at the time of the homily unless it is an exception to norms for your community that has been arranged for and blessed by your Bishop.
- **Celebrate St. Phoebe at a Prayer Service in September**

The possibilities for celebrating St. Phoebe in non-Eucharistic prayer settings are endless. Many of the resources listed above for the Mass may also be useful for non-Eucharistic liturgies and prayer services (e.g., [Tabling After Mass](#), [Woman Witness/Speaker](#), [Liturgical Hymns](#), [Litany of the Saints](#), [Children's Liturgy](#), and [Prayers of the Faithful](#)). Additional resources and sample services are included below.

 - [Sample Liturgy for Evening Service of Prayer \(2024\)](#)
 - [Vespers Service in Honor of St. Phoebe \(2023\)](#)
 - See also [St. Phoebe Day Resources](#)
- **Celebrate St. Phoebe in a Catholic High School Setting**

There are many ways to celebrate St. Phoebe in high school settings, including by incorporating her into elements of the Mass ([see above](#)) and/or hosting a special prayer service ([see above](#)). Additional resources for high school contexts are included below.

 - [St. Phoebe High School Lesson Plans](#)
 - See also [St. Phoebe Day Resources](#)
- **Plan a Service Project in Honor of St. Phoebe the Deacon**

Humble, bridge-building service is at the heart of diakonia, to which all Christians are called, whether or not they are called to ordained ministry as deacons. How might St. Phoebe Day help to animate diakonia in your community?

 - Is there a local women's shelter who would benefit from particular kinds of donations? Plan a drive during the month of September for items they request, for example, women's hygiene kits. (Be sure to reach out to the organization to ask what would be helpful, and to share the mission of their work with your community.)
 - Are there groups at your parish who already practice the kind of service at the heart of the Christian vocation, for example, an immigrant ministry, St. Vincent de Paul chapter, or a Eucharistic ministry to those who are homebound? How might St. Phoebe Day be an opportunity to engage those involved in these ministries and educate the parish about the meaning of diakonia?



WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Visit the Discerning Deacons website at www.discerningdeacons.org for more information on the history of women in the diaconate. Additionally, members of the Discerning Deacons team are available to go over the materials with pastors and liturgists as needed. Contact us at anna@discerningdeacons.org or lisa@discerningdeacons.org.

Visit our [website](#) for more templates, tools, downloadable handouts, visuals, prayer cards for free download or purchase, etc.