

LABOR AND FAITH OUTREACH PROJECT
LABOR DAY 2022 RESOURCES
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Will your faith community honor workers impacted by COVID this Labor Day? We can help

Earlier this year, our nation surpassed one million deaths from COVID-19 since the pandemic's breakout in the early months of 2020. This solemn landmark makes Labor Day 2022 a special opportunity to acknowledge and offer gratitude for the millions of American frontline and essential workers who were particularly impacted by this disease due to increased exposure on the workplace.

We encourage Maine faith communities to acknowledge these workers this Labor Day 2022.

Many of these workers belong in our faith communities and gather at worship. Faith leaders across our state have already presided over funeral services for many who died from COVID including workers.

When the epidemic began, there were no vaccines. There was a lack of protective clothing including face masks, and shortages of accurate testing. Many workers were isolated from their families for weeks at a time when exposed to the virus. Hundreds of thousands contracted COVID from their work. Tens of thousands died from the virus and many still live with remaining symptoms of long-term COVID. Many were economically devastated and countless more still grieve the loss of loved ones.

We encourage local faith communities to take the opportunity to honor Labor Day this year by focusing worship time that week to the topic of workers lost or hurt due to the pandemic.

Faith expressions of recognition and gratitude can be included in preaching, common prayers, and other rituals unique to particular faith expressions. Utilizing newsletters, bulletins, and other social media, faith leaders can further educate their congregations on the need to acknowledge these workers.

We have resources to provide, including:

- **Preaching resources** based on the Scripture readings found for Sunday September 4th in The Roman Catholic Lectionary, The Common Lectionary, and the Torah portion for the Sabbath.
- **Suggested prayers** to be included in your worship service
- Data and information for inclusion in your preaching, church bulletins or other ways you communicate with your parishioners or congregants.
- **Speakers** who were “on the job” facing these hazards during the pandemic. These speakers can be available for your worship service or for gatherings such as coffee and doughnuts following worship.

For more information or assistance with this 2022 Labor Day recognition, please contact Michael Seavey Faith/Labor Liaison for the Maine AFL-CIO. He can help you approach your faith leaders with this request. Mike can be reached at (207) 212-1477 and his email address is mike@maineaflcio.org