

## INTERCESSION



May Catholic parish communities strive to provide compassionate, tangible support to expectant moms needing assistance.

## PRAYERS

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

## REFLECTION

In *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)*, Pope John Paul II applauds the daily heroism of mothers who selflessly devote themselves to their children. This modern-day saint also highlights the unfortunate reality that “these heroic women do not always find support in the world around them.” He goes on to say, “On the contrary, the cultural models frequently promoted and broadcast by the media do not encourage motherhood. In the name of progress and modernity the values of fidelity, chastity, sacrifice, to which a host of Christian wives and mothers have borne and continue to bear outstanding witness, are presented as obsolete” (EV 86).

A culture that fails to truly value motherhood naturally becomes hostile to the gift of new life. When the Church compassionately serves mothers, it witnesses to the beauty of human life. There is a great need for real, tangible assistance for expectant mothers. Christ calls us to serve those most alone and in need. In a world that often turns it back on mothers who sacrifice so much of themselves, may we, the Church’s members, rise to help mothers in need of assistance and support.

## ACTS OF REPARATION *(choose one)*

- Do you regularly enjoy a meal out during the week? Or do you typically stop to get a cup of coffee each morning? Give up one of these small pleasures this week. Use the money you saved to make a donation to a local pregnancy center, food pantry, or charity that provides assistance to mothers in need.
- Pray the “Prayer for Pregnant Mothers” throughout the month. Consider adding it to your morning or evening prayers each day.  
([walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers](http://walkingwithmoms.com/prayer-for-pregnant-mothers))
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for this month’s intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

Next month the Church celebrates the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Evangelium vitae*. In honor of this special anniversary year, a nationwide initiative is launching that is dedicated to serving pregnant women in need called *Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service*. You are essential to the success of this effort. ***Will you pledge to prayerfully support pregnant women in your community?*** (Your name and contact information will **not** be shared publicly.) You can take the pledge at [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com).

## DID YOU KNOW?

Last month, Archbishop Naumann met with Pope Francis in Rome. The Holy Father was thrilled to hear about the effort to support women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies through *Walking with Moms in Need*. Read more about Pope Francis’ response to this exciting initiative at [walkingwithmoms.com/national-vigil-homily](http://walkingwithmoms.com/national-vigil-homily).



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