

WORD OF LIFE: JANUARY 2016 SPECIAL EDITION

Note: A compilation of resources for observing the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* can be found at <http://goo.gl/pa6fNc>. Check back often for updates!

January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children":

“In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.”

- [January 22 Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children](#)
- [January 22: Leader Resources](#) (choices of readings, homiletics, pro-life petitions, and more)
- [Pro-Life Prayers](#)

9 Days for Life: Prayer, Penance, and Pilgrimage

9 Days for Life is a focused period of prayer, penance, and pilgrimage marking the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* (the Supreme Court case which legalized abortion during all 9 months of pregnancy). All are invited to participate by planning and/or taking part in local events and by praying with thousands across the country for a new intention each day.

- [9 Days for Life: Prayer, Penance, and Pilgrimage](#)
Download a free mobile app or printable handouts, or sign up for daily emails or text messages during the novena. Available in both English and Spanish.
- [9 Days for Life: Leader Resources](#)
Pulpit and bulletin announcements; promotional flyer; youth/young adult ministry guide; graphics and articles for distribution; social media kit; and prayer resources. **(Updates pending.)**
- [9 Days for Life: Facebook “Event”](#)
Another way to invite your parish, school, or other networks to join along!

More Resources

- [Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims Before Their Journey](#) ([en español](#))
- [Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims as They Return from Their Journey](#) ([en español](#))
- [Holy Hour for Reparation and Healing](#)
- [Pro-Life Rosary Prayer Intentions](#) ([en español](#))

Download or order our 2015-16 Respect Life Program materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife

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January 22, 2016: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children *(and anniversary of Roe v. Wade)*

For an end to abortion and for the legal protection of unborn children everywhere;

We pray to the Lord:

For women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy:

May they be treated with kindness and receive support in welcoming their unborn children;

We pray to the Lord:

For unborn children who are in danger of abortion:

May they be given the chance to live the life God has planned for them;

We pray to the Lord:

For those who are suffering after abortion and desire help:

May God grant them the courage to seek peace through the Church's Project Rachel Ministry for post-abortion healing;

We pray to the Lord:

For those who work in post-abortion healing ministries:

May the Holy Spirit work through them to bring healing, freedom, and peace to those wounded by abortion;

We pray to the Lord:

For parents who have received a prenatal diagnosis of disability or illness:

May the Lord fill their hearts with peace and help them to trust in His loving plan for their child's life;

We pray to the Lord:

For medical staff caring for infants not expected to live long after birth:

May they affirm the priceless worth of each child's life, no matter how brief;

We pray to the Lord:

For those who doubt the value of their lives:

May they see themselves as the irreplaceable gift to the world that they are;

We pray to the Lord:

For all members of the Church:

By exemplifying the Father's mercy in our lives, may we bear witness to the truth that every life is worth living;

We pray to the Lord:

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Intercessions for Life

January 3rd

The Epiphany of the Lord

For unborn children everywhere:
May each child be welcomed with joy,
as the Christ Child was welcomed by the Magi;
We pray to the Lord:

January 10th

The Baptism of the Lord

For those approaching the end of their lives:
May they receive loving care
that protects and respects
their dignity;
We pray to the Lord:

January 17th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all Catholics:
May the Holy Spirit reveal to us
how we are called to use our gifts
to spread the Gospel of life and joy;
We pray to the Lord:

January 24th

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

For all Catholics:
May our hearts be open to God's call
to bring comfort to those who are
vulnerable and oppressed;
We pray to the Lord:

January 31st

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For infants not expected to live long after birth:
May each child's life, no matter how brief,
be welcomed, protected, and cherished by all;
We pray to the Lord:

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Bulletin Briefs

Note: The QR codes to the right of each quote can be saved as separate JPG files and inserted – or copied and pasted – into bulletins, newsletters, etc. When scanned with a smartphone, the QR codes will direct smartphone users to the webpage where the resource referenced is located.

“Each of us has his or her own personal identity and is capable of entering into dialogue with others and with God himself.”

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, no. 81
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(www.goo.gl/UBwd3B)



“[Jesus] showed us the self-sacrificial nature of love when he laid down His life for us, and we are called to follow in his footsteps. We are called to be his hands and feet, caring for and loving others.”

— USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program
Prayer and Program Guide (www.goo.gl/2nrphg)



“Since everything is interrelated, concern for the protection of nature is also incompatible with the justification of abortion. How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings... if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?”

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, no. 120
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“We were made to love and be loved; we are meant to depend on one another, serving each other in humility and walking together in times of suffering. Our relationships are meant to help us grow in perfect love.”

— Cardinal Seán P. O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap.
“2015 Respect Life Month Statement: Every Life is Worth Living” (www.goo.gl/GVYQZY)



“A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings. It is clearly inconsistent to combat trafficking in endangered species while remaining completely indifferent to human trafficking, unconcerned about the poor, or undertaking to destroy another human being deemed unwanted. This compromises the very meaning of our struggle for the sake of the environment.

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*, no. 91
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