

## INTERCESSION



## PRAYERS

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

## REFLECTION

Each year at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Christ our Savior. As we prepare for this joyful celebration, we recall the journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Far from home, poor, and in great need, Mary and Joseph find refuge in a simple stable. But this humble setting among the livestock soon welcomes the heavenly host of angels and the infant Jesus himself. Today, many women find themselves pregnant, poor, without a home, and in great need. They often feel alone, scared, and overwhelmed, not knowing where to turn. During this challenging time, expectant mothers need a refuge of their own. Like the Holy Family, they are reliant on the kindness of others. This year, may the story of the first Christmas inspire us to reach out to mothers in need. May we be ready to offer loving support and encouragement as they prepare to welcome their children. By answering this call, may we too come to share in and witness to the miracle of new life.

## ACTS OF REPARATION *(choose one)*

- Offer a prayer for all mothers in need: [www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/a-prayer-for-pregnant-mothers.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/a-prayer-for-pregnant-mothers.cfm).
- Contact your local pregnancy resource center. Ask about ways you can help, such as volunteering or donating baby items.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for this month's intention.

## ONE STEP FURTHER

Mothers in need are in our parishes and neighborhoods. In March 2020, the Church will take up a new, nationwide effort called “*Walking with Moms in Need: A Year of Service*” ([usccb.org/moms-in-need](http://usccb.org/moms-in-need)). Parishes will be encouraged to assess, expand, and better communicate resources to pregnant moms and families in need. Learn more in this interview with Archbishop Naumann: [www.bit.ly/wwmin-interview](http://www.bit.ly/wwmin-interview).

## DID YOU KNOW?

March 25, 2020 marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*) written by Pope St. John Paul II. This anniversary year gives us a wonderful moment to focus on supporting expectant mothers in challenging circumstances.

