



9 DAYS FOR LIFE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS 9 DAYS FOR LIFE?

9 Days for Life is an annual period of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person's life. Surrounding the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22 (also the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*), the overarching intention of the centerpiece novena is the end to abortion. However, the novena also highlights many other facets of respecting each other's God-given dignity, especially by respecting human life at every stage and in every circumstance.

9 Days for Life is an opportunity to **pray** for the respect and protection of each person's life; to **gather together** in prayer, action, and fellowship with others; and to **share your stories** online!

WHEN IS IT?

Saturday, January 21, 2017 - Sunday,
January 29, 2017

WHO IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE?

Anyone can join individually at **www.9daysforlife.com**. However, leaders in parishes and various parish ministries, as well as in schools, dioceses, and other organizations, are especially important in raising awareness and in helping others participate in various ways.

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO PARTICIPATE?

- **PRAY:** The novena's short prayer guides highlight a different topic each day with five sections: intention, prayers, reflection, suggested actions, and related topical information.

Subscribe to receive daily text messages or emails; join the Facebook event or follow the USCCB on Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram; download the novena in a printable format; or download the free mobile app. All options can be accessed at **www.9daysforlife.com**.

- **GATHER:** Join together with others in prayer, action, and fellowship. Organize or attend local events sponsored by dioceses, parishes, schools, etc., and/or host private gatherings of friends and family.
 - *Ideas for sponsored events:* Special blessing at send-off Mass or Holy Hour for pilgrims attending a march or rally

(suggested blessing available online: “Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims before Their Journey”); service project related to one of the topics highlighted; workshop on chastity, Theology of the Body, or sexual ethics.

- *Ideas for private gatherings:* Potluck dinner with discussion; lunch hour prayer with co-workers; movie night of age-appropriate films addressing life issues.

• SHARE:

- Share how you participated in 9 Days for Life on a particular day, why you are participating, or what being pro-life means to you. Post your filled-in “selfie sign” (available in 9 Days for Life leaders’ toolkit online) or a 5-15 second video using #9DaysforLife and tagging @USCCB on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter. We’ll pick from the best to share!
- You can use the special cover photo and/or profile picture for your social media accounts from January 17-29, 2017 (or longer).
- Use the social media kit with pre-written posts to share the novena’s daily intentions, as well as other respect life images and information.

WHAT TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP RAISE AWARENESS AND ENGAGE PEOPLE?

Leaders are encouraged to promote and incorporate 9 Days for Life into their regular programming and/or to host special, related events during this time. To aid leaders in these efforts, a leaders’ toolkit is available online with promotional, programmatic, and prayer resources. Visit www.9daysforlife.com.

- **PROMOTIONAL:** Pulpit/bulletin announcements; flyer; graphics (suitable for bulletins, emails, websites, newspapers, and more); 10” x 13” ad; pre-written articles.
- **PROGRAMMATIC:** Social media toolkit; selfie sign; Coffee & Conversation (discussion guide on additional pro-life articles); youth/young adult ministry guide (adaptable for other ages).
- **PRAYER:** 9 Days for Life novena; pro-life Rosary prayer intentions; Holy Hour templates; list of options for Mass readings for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; pro-life intercessions for the Prayer of the Faithful; homily notes; Order for the Blessing of Pro-Life Pilgrims.

ARE THESE RESOURCES AVAILABLE IN SPANISH?

Yes! Both the leaders’ resources and the novena itself are available in both English and Spanish.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

You can sign up any time of year at www.9daysforlife.com! Throughout the year, this webpage features email and text message subscription options for monthly messages structured like the daily prayer guides. (By signing up, you’ll automatically receive the novena in January.) There will be more information on 9 Days for Life prominently displayed during the time leading up to it, but the related pages are still accessible throughout the year.