**Word of Life: February 2020**

*Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!*

**Featured this Month…**

**February 7–14, 2020: National Marriage Week**

**Sunday, February 9, 2020: World Marriage Day**

  
The upcoming observances of National Marriage Week (February 7-14, 2020) and World Marriage Day (Sunday, February 9, 2020) are opportunities to focus on building a culture of life and love by supporting and promoting marriage and the family. The USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth offers many resources to assist you in your efforts. The theme for 2020 is “Stories from the Domestic Church.”

* [Flyer](https://irp-cdn.multiscreensite.com/64484987/files/uploaded/NMWNewspaperAd-Letter.pdf)
* [Prayer for Married Couples](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/upload/Prayer-for-Married-Couples.pdf)

Resources for the celebration of National Marriage Week will continue to be added to the [USCCB website](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/national-marriage-week.cfm). Other resources can be found at [www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrate-national-marriage-week](http://www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrate-national-marriage-week).

**Related Pro-Life Resources**

[Seven Considerations while Navigating Infertility](https://www.respectlife.org/navigating-infertility)

[Married Love and the Gift of Life](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/love-and-sexuality/married-love-and-the-gift-of-life.cfm)

[Healing within Marriage from an Abortion](https://www.respectlife.org/healing-in-marriage)

**A picture containing person, indoor

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**Intercessions for Life**

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| **February 2nd**  May all expectant parents  joyfully welcome their children as gifts from God,  as Mary and Joseph welcomed the Christ Child;  *We pray to the Lord*: | **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** |
| **February 9th**  For the grace this week to see Christ in each person we meet  and extend the Lord’s mercy and compassion;  *We pray to the Lord:* | **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time** |
| **February 16th**  For the times we have disregarded God’s commandments  and violated the sanctity of human life: May we repent, receive the Lord’s mercy,  and live according to His laws;  *We pray to the Lord:* | **Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time** |
| **February 23rd**  May every human person,  from conception to natural death,  be recognized as a temple of God,  in whom the Spirit dwells;  *We pray to the Lord:* | **Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time** |
| **February 26th**  During this Lenten season,  may all who have participated in abortion  receive the courage to return to the Lord,  who is gracious and merciful;  *We pray to the Lord:* | **Ash Wednesday** |

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**Bulletin Quotes**

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| **February 2nd**  “When parents say ‘yes’ to life for their child, they are saying ‘yes’ to the most loving and healing path for all involved. When God invites us to draw close to him by following his commandments (Jn 14:15), he does so because he wants what is best for us. By saying ‘yes’ to life for their child, which is morally good and right, parents are placing their trust in God and embracing their child and the life their child has been given for as long as it is given.”  USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  “Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis” | [Order](http://store.usccb.org/Supporting-Families-Who-Receive-a-Prenatal-Diagnos-p/c1545.htm) [| Download](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2015/upload/supporting-families-who-recieve-a-prenatal-diagnosis-eng.pdf) |
| **February 9th**  “As disciples of Jesus, we are called to become neighbors to everyone (cf. Lk 10:29-37), and to show special favor to those who are poorest, most alone and most in need. In helping the hungry, the thirsty, the foreigner, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned—as well as the child in the womb and the old person who is suffering or near death—we have the opportunity to serve Jesus.”  Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 87.  © 1995 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. | [Order](http://store.usccb.org/the-gospel-of-life-p/316-7.htm) | [Read Online](http://w2.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031995_evangelium-vitae.html) |
| **February 16th**  “Prayer is the foundation of all that we do in defense of human life. Our efforts—whether educational, pastoral, or legislative—will be less than fully fruitful if we do not change hearts and if we do not ourselves overcome our own spiritual blindness. Only with prayer—prayer that storms the heavens for justice and mercy, prayer that cleanses our hearts and our souls—will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a culture of life.”  “Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities”  United States Conference of Catholic Bishops | [Order](https://store.usccb.org/pastoral-plan-for-pro-life-activities-p/5-463.htm) | [Read Online](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/pastoral-plan-prolife-activities.cfm) |
| **February 23rd**  “The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life. Every person is **cherished**.”  USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities 2018-19 Respect Life Reflection | [Order](http://store.usccb.org/2018-2019-rlp-flyer-p/c1806.htm) [| Download](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2018/2018-19-respect-life-reflection.cfm) |

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**Bulletin Art**

*You are welcome to use these and other downloadable images from the online* [**Respect Life image gallery**](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/respect-life-image-gallery.cfm)*, provided they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!*

**Sunday, February 2, 2020**



Download: [English](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2015/upload/2015-rlp-shareable-graphic-8.jpg) | [Spanish](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2015/upload/shareable-graphic-8-2015-rlp-spanish.jpg)

A picture containing sky, outdoor, nature

Description automatically generated**Sunday, February 9, 2020**

Download: [English](http://cms.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/upload/JPII-quote.png) | [Spanish](http://cms.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/word-of-life/upload/JPII-quote-spanish.png)

**Sunday, February 23, 2020**



* Download: [English](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/upload/rlp-18-meme-cherished.jpg) | [Spanish](http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/upload/rlp-18-cherished-sp-500x500-jpg.png)