

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



"It's not love that keeps your marriage alive.
It's marriage that keeps your love alive."
—Oscar Wilde, writing to a young wife and groom from his prison cell in 1842

Marriage Pays
Economically: Married individuals have more wealth and financial stability.
Personally: Married folks have more happiness, more lifelong thriving love, longer lives and better health.
For Children: Children with both parents at home do vastly better in school and have far less trouble with the law, teen pregnancy, and addiction.

We can do better
Taxpayers spend at least \$112 BILLION annually on divorce and unwed childbearing.
40 percent of all American babies are now born outside of marriage.
72 percent of African-American babies are now born outside of marriage.
Married adults dropped from 79% in 1970 to 57% today.

How Can Marriage Keep Love Alive?
At www.NationalMarriageWeekUSA.org
Locate a marriage course near you—we've posted them state by state.
We have resources to help your marriage, or for you to help others.
Tools you can use—Quizzes, Kits and Tips.
Read the research. Support the cause.

February 7-14
National Marriage Week USA
Life's Strongest Marriage

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](#)
- [Prayer for Married Couples](#)

Resources for the celebration of National Marriage Week will continue to be added to the [USCCB website](#). Other resources can be found at www.foryourmarriage.org/celebrate-national-marriage-week.

Related Pro-Life Resources

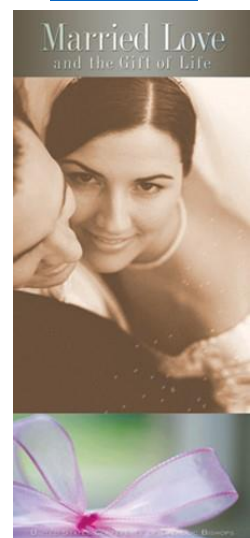
[Healing within Marriage from an Abortion](#)



[Seven Considerations while Navigating Infertility](#)



[Married Love and the Gift of Life](#)



View, download, and order the 2019-2020 Respect Life Program materials! www.respectlife.org

Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

WORD OF LIFE – February 2020

Intercessions for Life

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:

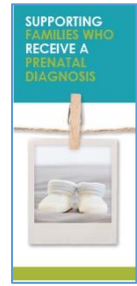
Ash Wednesday

Bulletin Quotes

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”

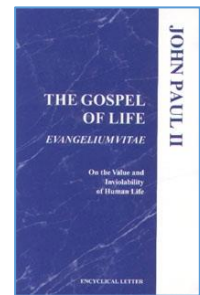


[Order](#) | [Download](#)

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](#) | [Read Online](#)

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](#) | [Read Online](#)

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



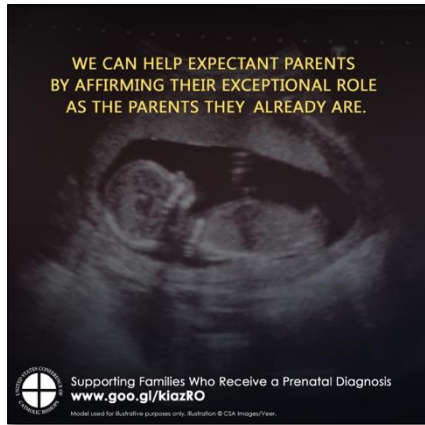
[Order](#) | [Download](#)

WORD OF LIFE – February 2020

Bulletin Art

You are welcome to use these and other downloadable images from the online [Respect Life image gallery](#), provided they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!

Sunday, February 2, 2020



Download: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Sunday, February 9, 2020



Download: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

Sunday, February 23, 2020



• Download: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

View, download, and order the 2019-2020 Respect Life Program materials! www.respectlife.org

Copyright © 2019, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.