



# Friday Fast

For Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty

## February 15: First Friday of Lent

### Intention:

For our President, legislators, judges, and all in service to the common good, that through the gift of heavenly wisdom they may work to uphold religious freedom and conscience protection for all.

### Did you know?

The freedom of Catholic institutions like hospitals, charities, and universities to adhere to Catholic moral teaching in their health plans is still under threat. Plus, business owners and individuals with moral or religious objections to the Health & Human Services (HHS) sterilization, contraception, and abortifacient mandate receive no conscience protection. See the Bishops' statement on the new rule proposed by HHS on February 1, 2013 by clicking [here](#).

### Quick Links

- ⇒ [Call to Prayer webpage](#)
- ⇒ [Call to Prayer Facebook event](#)
- ⇒ [Past weekly intentions and reflections](#)

### Reflection:

In the face of powerful cultural trends which promote a “freedom of choice,” we need to remember that true freedom is a gift that has been paid for by the blood of Christ. Of the many freedoms given by Christ to His people, the freedom of religion is [the most cherished of American freedoms](#). Just last year, Pope Benedict XVI [reminded the U.S. bishops](#) of the need for “an engaged, articulate and well-formed Catholic laity... with the courage to counter a reductive secularism which would delegitimize the Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society.”

As we begin Lent, let us reflect with gratitude on the priceless gift of freedom. Paid for by His blood, it is our gift from Him, and we must work together to protect it. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother of Hope, unify our efforts in this time of prayer and sacrifice so that together we can build a civilization of love.

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