**MEDIA ADVISORY: “9 Days for Life” Unites Hundreds of Thousands in Prayer for the Protection of Life**

WASHINGTON - Catholics nationwide are invited to pray “9 Days for Life,” an annual Respect Life novena starting Tuesday, January 16.

In the Catholic Church, a ‘novena’ consists of prayers over nine successive days, and this particular novena is an opportunity for prayer and reparation in observance of the annual [Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children](https://www.usccb.org/january-22) on January 22.

Participants may access the novena and also subscribe to receive the daily prayers by email or text message in English at [9daysforlife.com](https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup) or in Spanish at [respectlife.org/9-dias-por-la-vida](https://www.respectlife.org/9-dias-por-la-vida).

Sponsored by the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the novena began in 2013 in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*—the Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal throughout the United States. While the Supreme Court’s 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*returned the issue of abortion to the people’s elected representatives at federal and state levels, continuing efforts are needed to protect children and their mothers from the tragedy of abortion. This is the twelfth year the novena is taking place. Since the novena began, it has reached hundreds of thousands of people in over one hundred countries spanning six continents.

The overarching intention of the novena is the end to abortion. Each daily prayer intention highlights a related topic and is accompanied by a reflection, educational information, and suggested daily actions. A [resource kit](https://www.respectlife.org/leaders-resources) is available, featuring the daily prayer intentions and reflections, among other materials. A [press kit](https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-press-kit) is also available.

For additional information and updates throughout the novena, please follow us on [X](https://twitter.com/usccb) (formerly known as Twitter), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/usccb), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/usccb/).

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