

# WORD OF LIFE: DECEMBER 2018

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

## Intercessions for Life

### December 2<sup>nd</sup>

For all unborn children:  
That their families will prepare  
to welcome them with joy  
and awareness of the many gifts  
children bring into the world;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**First Sunday of Advent**

### December 8<sup>th</sup>

May our Blessed Mother help us trust in God,  
that we may peacefully care for those  
whose lives are entrusted to us;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

### December 9<sup>th</sup>

For expectant mothers:  
That the Lord will provide for all of their needs  
and prepare them to welcome their children with joy;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

### December 16<sup>th</sup>

For unborn children:  
That by the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe,  
their human dignity will be recognized, respected, and  
protected by all from the moment of conception;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Third Sunday of Advent**

### December 23<sup>rd</sup>

For married couples who long  
to welcome a child into their family:  
May the coming of the Christ Child  
bring hope and peace;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

### December 25<sup>th</sup>

For all Christians:  
That the wondrous birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
will awaken our hearts to the priceless gift of every child;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas**

### December 30<sup>th</sup>

For all families:  
That the courage to be examples  
of love and holiness in our world  
will guide parents and children throughout each day;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Feast of the Holy Family  
of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

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## Bulletin Quotes

### December 2<sup>nd</sup>

“Every life is a good and perfect gift. Many know this on an intellectual level, but those who love someone with a disability see it in their loved one's face in a particular way. Our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they *are*, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“A Perfect Gift,” [www.usccb.org/perfect-gift](http://www.usccb.org/perfect-gift)



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### December 9<sup>th</sup>

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Not sure how to help or what to say? Learn ten tips at [www.usccb.org/support-her](http://www.usccb.org/support-her).”

“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



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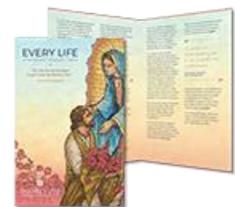
### December 16<sup>th</sup>

“In 1531, when the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory, the Mother of God appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman, now known as Our Lady of Guadalupe.

She sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

2018-19 Respect Life Reflection, [www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection](http://www.usccb.org/respect-life-reflection)



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### December 23<sup>rd</sup>

“To couples who cannot have children of their own, you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others.”

Pope Saint John Paul II, February 13, 1982 Homily. © 1982 Libreria Editrice Vaticana. Used with permission. [www.goo.gl/jLDs4e](http://www.goo.gl/jLDs4e)

**December 30<sup>th</sup>**

“Blessed Joseph,

You took Mary and Jesus into your home. You followed the precepts of the Law, presented Jesus in the Temple, taught him skills at the plane and the lathe, and, daily, you shared traditions which were built on the covenants he came to fulfill.

Hear the prayers of the siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and entire families of children who have been adopted.

May they be a source of loving welcome and a fount of faith.

Through Christ our Lord.

St. Joseph, descendant of David, pray for us.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“[Novena to St Joseph for Those on the Path of Adoption.](#)”



ADOPTION NOVENA

NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH:  
FOR THOSE ON THE PATH  
OF ADOPTION

Invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, we pray that the Lord will bless all who travel upon the path of adoption. And, recalling the mercy which God our Father has shown to us, we also ask that, through our words and actions, they may encounter the outstretched hands of his mercy. May all know the care of the Father, whose love for each person "gushes forth from the depths naturally, full of tenderness and compassion, indulgence and mercy" (*Misericordiae vultus*, 6).

FOR MOTHERS WHO PLACE THEIR CHILDREN FOR ADOPTION

SCRIPTURE

Pharaoh then commanded all his people. "Throw into the Nile every boy that is born, but you may let all the girls live."

Now a man of the house of Levi married a Levite woman, and the woman conceived and bore a son. Seeing what a fine child he was, she hid him for three months. But when she could no longer hide him, she took a papyrus basket, daubed it with bitumen and pitch, and putting the child in it, placed it among the reeds on the bank of the Nile. His sister stationed herself at a distance to find out what would happen to him. Then Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe at the Nile, while her attendants walked along the bank of the Nile. Noticing the basket among the reeds, she sent her handmaid to fetch it. On opening it, she looked, and there was a baby boy crying! She was moved with pity for him. She named him Moses; for she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Exodus 1:22 - 2:6, 10

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## WORD OF LIFE - December 2018

### Bulletin Art

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**Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

Featuring “[A Perfect Gift](#)”

- Bulletin Insert: [Color](#) | [Grayscale](#)
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**Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Featuring “[10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting](#)”

- Bulletin Insert: [Color](#) | [Grayscale](#)
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