



January

RESPECT LIFE RESOURCES

Ideas for Catholic Educators

RESOURCES

January Action Guide

Although developed primarily with parishes in mind, much of the content is adaptable to other settings, such as Catholic education. Contents include an introduction, “Simple Steps,” sample timeline, sample announcements, sample intercessions, homily helps, and a sample activity. The full guide, as well as additional resources referenced within it, are accessible in English and Spanish at

www.respectlife.org/action-guides.

9 Days for Life Novena

This novena for the protection of human life takes place Thursday, January 21-Friday, January 29. Each day’s intention is accompanied by a short reflection, links to additional information, and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Resources for leaders include novena printables, graphics, a flyer, and sample announcements. Subscribe to the daily emails or text messages and access these resources in English and Spanish at www.9daysforlife.com.

More...

Additional resources are available at www.respectlife.org, including an additional activity for younger students at www.respectlife.org/catholic-education.

ADAPTATION IDEAS

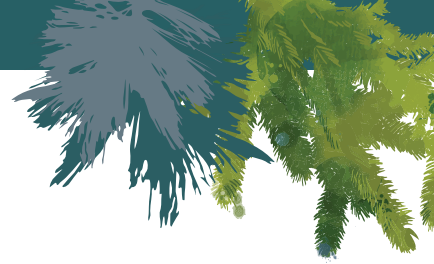
January Action Guide

- ◆ **Simple Steps (p. 2):** Invite students to sign up for the novena during class; ask the heads of related clubs to use the sample announcements to let members know about it; share a graphic and the link to sign up on your school’s social media platforms; let the chaplain, campus minister, and other teachers know about the novena. Because the topic of abortion is interconnected with so many dimensions of life (spiritual, interpersonal, socioeconomic, health and well-being, legal, and more), the novena’s relevance also goes beyond religious class. Be creative in helping your students understand how respect for human life is something to be integrated into every aspect of life.
- ◆ **Sample Timeline (p. 3):** Even though many suggestions in the timeline are parish-focused, take a moment to review it, and consider whether there might still be some elements you’d like to incorporate.

For example, use the reflection “[Living Out Christmas in the New Year](#)” to supplement a back-to-school conversation after the holidays. Or assign

students to read it and then write their own short personal reflection on what they've read.

If you are doing in-person learning, ask for volunteers to help you set up a table display highlighting the gift of human life during the *9 Days for Life* novena (January 21-29, 2021). Suggestions [can be found online](#).



- ◆ **Sample Announcements (p. 4):** Use these anywhere you communicate with your students, their families, and friends of your school: newsletters, social media, in the classroom, at meetings of school clubs, after assemblies or school Masses, etc.
- ◆ **Intercessions (p. 5):** Use these to start your class off with prayer during each day of the novena, and invite your students to add their own prayers for the protection of human life (for expectant mothers to get whatever help they need and to know they're not alone, for their grandparents, etc.). If you have a school Mass in January, include one or more in the Prayer of the Faithful. If an intercession seems relevant to another teacher's subject matter (like health or civics), invite them to include it in their prayer at the start of class.
- ◆ **Homily Helps (p. 6):** Share these with the priest who celebrates Mass for your student body or use them as the basis for a talk or reflection during an assembly, a special class topic, or part of a special event.

9 Days for Life

In addition to inviting your students to sign up, you could consider other ways to incorporate the novena into school life. Review the full content of the novena and make note of anything that you would like to highlight. Take note of the dates and consider what might fit into your lesson plans for that day.

- ◆ **Intention:** Include each day's intention in your prayer to start class, and say the *Our Father*, 3 *Hail Marys*, and *Glory Be*.
- ◆ **Reflection:** Spend 5-10 minutes discussing or having your students do free writing on it at the beginning of class. Assign them to research some aspect discussed in the reflection, such as, "What else does *Evangelium vitae* 100 talk about?" or, "What does '*Familiaris consortio*' mean in English?"
- ◆ **Acts of Reparation:** Consider whether any of the suggested actions could be done together in class or make up your own to do together. Invite your students to come up with their own ideas what to do in solidarity with one another.
- ◆ **One Step Further:** Use the referenced articles as starting points for supplemental assignments and activities. For example, you could assign your students to read the article featured in Day 2, "What to Do When a Friend is Considering Abortion," and have them research what life-affirming services are offered by your local Catholic Charities to help women who need support welcoming their children. Then on January 22, have a class discussion about what they learned and their reflections on it. What other types of help might a woman with an unexpected or challenging pregnancy need? Is there anything your school can do to help meet that need, like raising money for diapers to donate to the local pregnancy care center?

On Day Nine, January 29, the "One Step Further" directs to "[How to Build a Culture of Life](#)." Have your students read the article, and then come prepared with one to three ideas of specific actions they could take in response to the article. For example, in response to the statement that "God's love...is the true source of our worth, identity, and dignity," a student might come up with the idea of showing God's love by doing one act of kindness each day for the following week.