

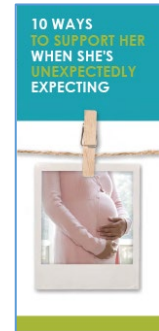
WORD OF LIFE: DECEMBER 2024

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

FEATURED THIS MONTH...

Advent

The season of Advent is a time of anticipation that directs our hearts and minds to preparing for the celebration of the Lord's birth on Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time. During this time of preparation and expectant waiting, we also remember expectant mothers who are preparing for the birth of their children. This Advent season, consider highlighting the article "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting." (It is available in a variety of formats at the bottom of [this webpage](#).)



[Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

Patronal feast day of the United States of America (observed December 9th, 2024)



On December 9, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. * (This feast is a holy day of obligation for dioceses in the United States.) On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of fertilization: "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb" (Ps 139:13).

The Immaculate Conception is sometimes confused with the Annunciation. This [bulletin insert](#) can be used to help differentiate these two important celebrations. On this solemnity, consider praying Pope Francis' [Prayer for the Immaculate Conception](#): "We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness."

** Normally celebrated on December 8, this year the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception falls on a Sunday and is therefore transferred to December 9.*

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Intercessions for Life

December 1st

Inspired by the example of the Blessed Mother,
may we, like Mary, have the courage
to say “yes” to God’s gift of human life,
let us pray to the Lord.

December 8th

For women who are unexpectedly pregnant:
May they be filled with trust in God’s providence
and lovingly welcome the gift of their child,
let us pray to the Lord.

December 9^h

May God help us prepare the way of the Lord
by acting with tenderness and compassion,
especially toward the most vulnerable among us,
let us pray to the Lord.

December 15th

For all victims of human trafficking:
May they find hope and healing
in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives
and release to prisoners,
let us pray to the Lord.

December 22th

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child:
May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph
and follow their example
of cherishing and protecting human life,
let us pray to the Lord.

December 25th

For all Christians:
May the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ
awaken in our hearts wonder
at the precious gift of every child,
let us pray to the Lord.

December 29th

For all families:
As the domestic Church,
may they pursue holiness,
pass on the faith, and persevere in love,
let us pray to the Lord.

First Sunday of Advent

Second Sunday of Advent

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Third Sunday of Advent

Fourth Sunday of Advent

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Bulletin Quotes

December 1st

“*The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
respectlife.org/live-the-gospel-of-life



[Download](#)

December 8th

“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.” Learn how at respectlife.org/support-her.

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”



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

December 15th

“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”

USCCB, “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”

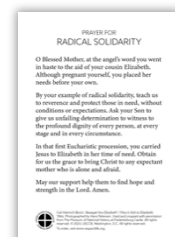


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December 22nd

“O Blessed Mother, at the angel’s word you went in haste to the aid of your cousin Elizabeth. Although pregnant yourself, you placed her needs before your own. By your example of radical solidarity, teach us to reverence and protect those in need, without conditions or expectations... Obtain for us the grace to bring Christ to any expectant mother who is alone and afraid.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Prayer for Radical Solidarity (www.respectlife.org/prayer-for-radical-solidarity)

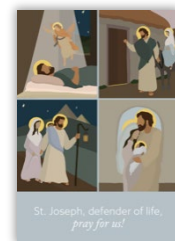


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December 29th

“Dearest St Joseph... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life (www.respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph)



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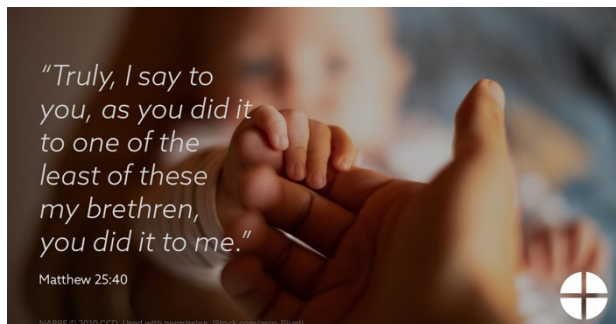
WORD OF LIFE - December 2024

Bulletin Art

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Sunday, December 1st, 2024

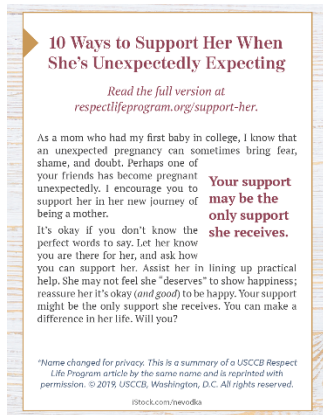
Featuring [“Live the Gospel of Life”](#)



- [Graphic](#)
- [Bulletin Insert](#)

Sunday, December 8th, 2024

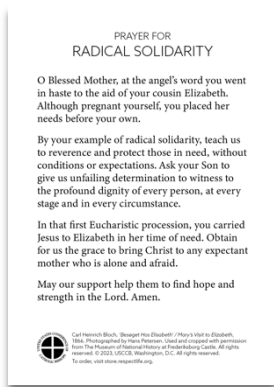
Featuring [“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”](#)



- [Bulletin Box](#)

Sunday, December 29th, 2024

Featuring [Prayer for Radical Solidarity](#)



- [Graphic](#)

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