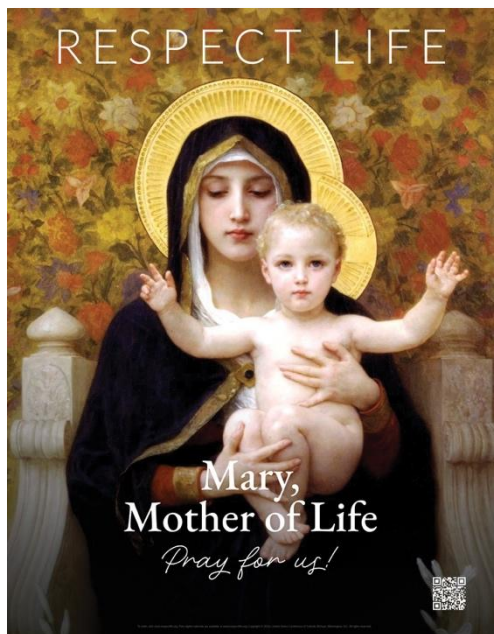


WORD OF LIFE: OCTOBER 2026

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

Respect Life Month 2026: Mary, Mother of Life



The 2026 Respect Life Month resources have been developed to assist you in helping parishioners understand and value the gift of human life and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life.

A variety of materials are [available to order in print](#) or to download online.

Visit respectlife.org/respect-life-month!

Resources

- Poster ([Order](#))
- Prayer Card ([Order](#))
- Novena
- Respect Life Month Action Guide
(a sample timeline, action ideas & more!)
- Respect Life Reflection
- Graphics
- Homily Helps for Respect Life Sunday
- Pro-Life Articles

Sample Pulpit Announcements

Option 1 (October 17-18)

Join Catholics nationwide praying a Respect Life Month novena October 22nd through the 30th. See the bulletin for more information.

Option 2 (any weekend in October)

Every October, the Church in the U.S. celebrates Respect Life Month. We reflect on the gift of *every* human life and how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. See the bulletin for more information.

Sample Bulletin Announcements

Option 1 (October 17-18)

Join thousands of Catholics praying a Respect Life Month novena Thursday, October 22 – Friday, October 30. Get daily prayers, reflections, and more. Sign up at respectlife.org/celebrate

Option 2 (any weekend in October)

It's Respect Life Month!

Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month. Visit respectlife.org/celebrate

View, download, and order Respect Life materials! www.respectlife.org

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WORD OF LIFE – OCTOBER 2026

Intercessions for Life

October 4th

For all Catholics:
that on this Respect Life Sunday,
the Lord will strengthen our resolve
to protect the gift of every human life;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**
*(Also observed in the U.S. as
Respect Life Sunday)*

October 11th

For those nearing the end of life:
may they receive care that
respects their dignity as they prepare in hope
to share eternal life with Christ;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

October 18th

For women and men suffering after
participating in an abortion:
may the Church's abortion healing ministry
help them find peace and healing
through God's endless mercy;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

October 25th

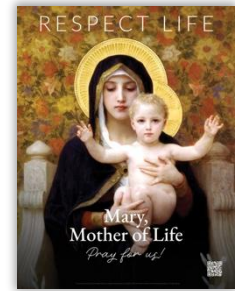
May the Lord help us to understand more deeply
the challenges of pregnant and parenting moms
and to respond with increased care and support;
let us pray to the Lord:

**Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

Bulletin Quotes

October 4th

“When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary responded with her fiat, “May it be done to me according to your word” (Lk 1:38). Mary conceives Christ in her womb, becoming the mother of God, the mother of Jesus. Jesus himself tells us that he is “the way and the truth and the life” (Jn 14:6). In becoming the mother of Jesus, Mary becomes the *mother of life*. Mary’s acceptance in this unforeseen moment demonstrates how each of us must welcome the gift of new human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices.”



[Download](#) | [Read Online](#)

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: “Mary: Mother of Life”

October 11th

“An old Irish proverb says, ‘It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.’ Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life’s end, we may not know how best to ‘shelter’ them. Here are some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them: usccb.org/end-of-life-care.”

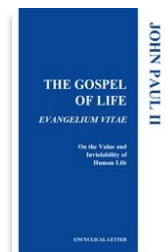


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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Caring for Loved Ones at Life’s End

October 18th

“I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”



[Read Online](#)

Pope Saint John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
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October 25th

“The witness of our Blessed Mother [in the Gospel account of her visit to her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth,] invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. ...Mary’s witness is an invitation to step out in love and compassion. It is a summons to *make haste* to help vulnerable women who may be isolated and alone.”



[Download](#) | [Read Online](#)

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: Called to Serve Moms in Need
respectlife.org/called-to-serve-reflection

WORD OF LIFE – OCTOBER 2026

Bulletin Art

You are welcome to use these and other downloadable images from the [online Respect Life image gallery](#), provided they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!

Sunday, October 4th, 2026



[Download image](#) / [Additional images](#)

Corresponding announcement:

It's Respect Life Month!

Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month. Visit respectlife.org/celebrate.

Sunday, October 18th, 2026

**respect life
month
novena**



OCTOBER 22-30
respectlife.org

[Download image](#)

Corresponding announcement:

Join thousands of Catholics praying a Respect Life Month novena Thursday, October 22 – Friday, October 30. Get daily prayers, reflections, and more. Sign up at respectlife.org!

Sunday, October 25th, 2026



[Download image](#)

Corresponding quote:

The witness of our Blessed Mother [in the Gospel account of her visit to her pregnant cousin, Elizabeth,] invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own parishes and communities. Read more at respectlife.org/called-to-serve-reflection.

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