WORD OF LIFE: DECEMBER 2026

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* (December 8th, 2026)**



On December 8th, 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).

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."

SAINT OF THE MONTH

December 12, 2026: Our Lady of Guadalupe

In 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, a humble Mexican peasant. As a sign of Mary's presence, Juan Diego obediently gathered flowers to present to his bishop. When he unfolded his cloak of flowers, a miraculous image of the pregnant Virgin Mary appeared. May she intercede for all pregnant mothers and their children.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us!

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Intercessions for Life

December 6th
Second Sunday of Advent

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 8th
Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 13th
Third Sunday of Advent

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 20th
Fourth Sunday of Advent

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
The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

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 27th
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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.

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Bulletin Quotes

December 6th

"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"



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December 13th

"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 20th

"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)



Download | Order

December 27th

"In our families, we should cherish the values of the Gospel: prayer, frequent reception of the sacraments – especially Confession and Communion – healthy affections, sincere dialogue, fidelity, and the simple and beautiful concreteness of everyday words and gestures. This will make them a light of hope for the places in which we live; a school of love and an instrument of salvation in God's hands."

Pope Leo XIV, Angelus, Feast of the Holy Family 2025
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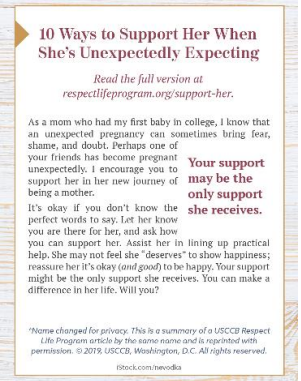
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Bulletin Art

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Sunday, December 6th, 2026
Featuring "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting"



- Bulletin Box

Sunday, December 20th, 2026
Featuring "St. Joseph, Defender of Life"



- Graphic
- Prayer Card
- Poster

Sunday, December 27th, 2026
Featuring Living out Christmas in the New Year



- Graphic
- Reflection

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