



9 DAYS OF PRAYER FOR LIFE

January 16th – January 24th, 2026



The **9 Days for Life Novena** is a special Catholic prayer initiative focused on the **sanctity and protection of human life** — from conception to natural death. It's typically promoted by the **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** and is most often prayed each January, around the **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn**

Children (January 22), which marks the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

The reasons why we pray this novena include:

1. Prayer for the protection of human life:
The novena calls Catholics (and all people of goodwill) to pray for an end to abortion and for a deeper respect for every human person — born and unborn, young and old, healthy and ill.
2. Spiritual solidarity:
It unites the faithful across the country (and even worldwide) in a shared act of prayer, penance, and petition. Each of the nine days focuses on a specific intention related to life — such as parents facing unexpected pregnancies, those suffering after abortion, or leaders and lawmakers.
3. Personal conversion and renewal:
Beyond praying for others, the novena encourages participants to reflect on how they personally uphold the dignity of life in their actions, relationships, and choices.
4. Acts of reparation and charity:
Many participants also include acts of fasting, service, or sacrifice as spiritual offerings for the cause of life — making the novena not just prayerful, but transformative.
5. Hope and healing:
The novena isn't only about preventing abortion; it also emphasizes God's mercy and healing for those who have been wounded by abortion or other life-related issues.

In short, the 9 Days for Life Novena helps Catholics align their hearts more closely with Christ's love for every human life — praying for change in hearts, laws, and culture.

Day 1 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: At every stage and in every circumstance, we are held in existence by God's love. The presence of an illness, disability, or other challenging situation never diminishes the value of a human life. God does not call us to perfection of appearance or abilities, but to perfection in *love*. Christ invites us to embrace our own lives and the lives of others as true *gifts*.

Abortion tragically rejects the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift, deserving protection. This violent practice ends the life of a human being at its very beginning and horribly wounds all those involved. But Christ came that we “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10), taking on human flesh for the sake of our redemption. May our culture experience the power of God's transforming love, that all eyes may be opened to the incredible beauty of every human life.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Take a break from television and movies today. Consider spending some of that time praying with today's reflection.
- Pray the short prayer “Every Life is Worth Living,” reflecting on the gift of human life.
 - *Heavenly Father, thank you for the precious gift of life. Help us to cherish and protect this gift, even in the midst of fear, pain, and suffering. Grant us the humility to accept help when we are in need, and teach us to be merciful to all. Through our words and actions, may others encounter the outstretched hands of Your mercy. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

Day 2 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May each person suffering from participation in abortion find forgiveness, hope, and healing in Christ.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: Countless children's lives have been ended by abortion, and countless parents and family members suffer guilt, grief, and regret—often in silence. Yet God's greatest desire is to forgive. No matter how far we have each strayed from His side, He says to us, “Don't be afraid. Draw close to my heart.” Be assured that it is never too late to seek God's forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Consider the parable of the Prodigal Son. After repenting of sinning against his father, he returns from far away to seek forgiveness and work as a servant. But his father sees him approaching, runs to warmly embrace him, and hosts a banquet to celebrate his

return. So, too, does God welcome all His children who come to Him in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with contrite hearts, no matter how serious the sin. Let us turn confidently to Our Lord, Who is love and mercy.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Abstain from meat today.
- Pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy for today's intention
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

Day 3 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May every pregnant mother receive compassionate care and support as she nurtures the life in her womb.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary, she opened her heart to receive his message that she would conceive the Son of God in her womb. As a young bride who had not yet lived with her husband, Mary knew that her pregnancy presented many challenges. Despite this knowledge, she faithfully responded, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38).

Like the Blessed Mother, women who unexpectedly become pregnant often face significant challenges. They, too, are called to place their trust in God and faithfully respond to His *gift* of new life. And we are called to walk with them in their time of need. As Jesus taught us, when we love and serve others, we are loving and serving Him.

May all expectant mothers be encouraged by Mary's example and receive support and grace in lovingly welcoming their children into the world.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Pray for pregnant and parenting moms in need in your local community, and ask the Lord how you can help them by using your unique gifts.
- Pray the Angelus today

VI. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

R/. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

VI. Behold the handmaid of the Lord,

R/. Be it done unto me according to your Word.

Hail Mary...

VI. And the Word was made flesh,

R/. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

VI. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,

R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts: that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

Day 4 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May every father of a preborn child lovingly support the mother of his child in welcoming new life.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: Fatherhood has its origins in God, who chose to reveal Himself to us as Our Father, sending his only Son for the sake of our salvation. Fathers therefore have a special role “in revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God” (*Familiaris consortio* 25). Fathers are called to exhibit “generous responsibility for the life conceived under the heart of the mother” (*FC* 25). They are uniquely entrusted with the protection and defense of both mother and child and, in this way, in safeguarding the sanctity of human life.

As evidenced in our world today, the role of the father “is of unique and irreplaceable importance” (*FC* 25). Often women choose abortion because they do not have the support of the child's father, or—even worse—the father of the child pressures her to make the decision to abort. At the same time, it is important to acknowledge with compassion that men can also be overwhelmed by an unexpected pregnancy and that society increasingly tells them that they should have no say in their children's lives. In the face of these false messages, we pray that fathers of preborn children will find courage in the example of Saint Joseph—who embraced the role of father amid difficult circumstances—and offer loving, life-affirming support to the mothers of their children.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Give up sleeping on your pillow—or even your bed—tonight. Offer this small sacrifice for the intention that fathers of preborn children will courageously answer their call to support both mother and child.
 - Pray a decade of the Rosary for all fathers of preborn children, that through her intercession, Our Lady may inspire in them the virtues of Saint Joseph.
 - Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.
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Day 5 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May every pregnant mother choosing adoption receive grace and support in embracing this loving option.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: Mothers placing their children for adoption often face many challenges along the way. One of the greatest obstacles can be perceiving adoption as abandonment. But a mother who determines that making an adoption plan is best for her child isn't deserting her child. Rather, she is following the example of Christ's sacrificial love on the Cross in choosing a life-giving option that she has determined is ultimately in the best interest of her child, even at great cost to herself. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us that, in the face of fears and trials, we can "hold fast to the hope that lies before us. This we have as an anchor of the soul, sure and firm" (Heb 6:18-19). We pray that each expectant mother will be filled with "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding" (Phil 4:7) as she decides which life-giving option is best for her child. Let us all cling fast to the anchor of hope, for we have received "a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, 'Abba, Father!'" (Rom 8:15).

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Do you have a sweet tooth? Or do you prefer salty snacks? Pick your favorite kind of treat, and give it up for the day.
 - Look up one of the Scripture passages from today's reflection, and spend some time with it in prayer. What is the Lord saying to you?
 - Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.
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Day 6 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May all who support or participate in abortion experience a conversion of heart to seek and receive the Lord's boundless mercy.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: When God fashioned the human person in His own image and likeness, He destined us for eternal life with Himself. Yet because of the sin of our first parents, death entered the world. The book of Genesis recounts the first occasion in which a person takes the life of another, as Cain violently kills his brother Abel. This instance of brother rising up against brother "at the very dawn of history is thus a sad witness of how evil spreads with amazing speed" (*Evangelium vitae* 8).

Since this time, disregard for human life has continued to spread. When we, like Cain, allow sin to find a place in our hearts, we become blinded to the truth. Sometimes this blindness might be so deep that we fail to recognize the undeniable humanity of preborn children. We may even tragically believe the lie that abortion is an act of compassion. But we know that "life, especially human life, belongs only to God: for this reason whoever attacks human life, in some way attacks God himself" (*EV* 9). Let us pray that

all who support abortion will encounter the transforming love of the Father and, with repentant hearts, seek His mercy.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Smile. Ask God today for the grace to be extra joyful and to share the light of Christ with those most in need of His love and mercy.
- Make an act of faith, hope, or love.

O my God, I firmly believe that you are one God in three divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that your divine Son became man and died for our sins and that he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches because you have revealed them who are eternal truth and wisdom, who can neither deceive nor be deceived. In this faith I intend to live and die. Amen.

- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

Day 7 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May all preborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: Today, we mourn the many children's lives ended by abortion and remember in prayer those who suffer the aftermath. We pray that children in their mothers' wombs would again be protected in law and do penance in reparation for abortions that have been committed in our world.

In his encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*), Pope John Paul II said, "may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer" (EV 100). May that prayer arise in our hearts today and each day forward until every human being is protected in law and welcomed in love.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Fast from one meal today.
- Offer this brief "Prayer for Life" for all preborn children whose lives are at risk.

Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty, and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Ame

- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

Day 8 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May civic leaders work for the protection of all human life, in every stage and circumstance.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: The Declaration of Independence boldly affirms that first among our inalienable rights is the right to life, given to us by the Creator. Yet despite being so solemnly proclaimed, the right to life is today threatened and often denied, particularly at the moments when life is most fragile. Our laws should—first and foremost—protect life. Even with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, many states still do not recognize children in their mothers' wombs as persons and still claim that abortion is a right. Further, many political leaders work actively to increase access to abortion. Some falsely describe it as health care and even as a basic human right. Laws and policies that legalize or promote an intrinsic evil like abortion violate the virtue of justice.

Those who work as public officials and civic leaders have a duty to serve the common good, and therefore have a profound obligation to safeguard this most fundamental right to life. Through our own prayer, witness, and civic participation, we can encourage our leaders to truly answer their call to protect the rights of all people. For “there can be no true democracy without a recognition of every person’s dignity and without respect for his or her rights” (*Evangelium vitae* 101).

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Sacrifice some of your free time to do a small act of service, such as making breakfast for a family member, writing a note of encouragement to a coworker, or praying for the intentions of a friend.
- Sometimes restrictions on religious freedom constrain our efforts to live out the Gospel of life. We must be free to live out our Catholic faith in the public square. Offer this Prayer for Religious Liberty, that Christians may always be free to respect, protect, and defend human life.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention.

Day 9 – 9-Days of Prayer for Life

Intercession: May all who defend life find strength and renewal in the Holy Spirit.

Prayers: *Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be*

Reflection: God has carefully, tenderly created every person in His own image and likeness, to be in a loving relationship with Himself. From each tiny child knit within a mother’s womb, to every person approaching death, all are loved perfectly and completely by God: “It is therefore a service of love which we are all committed to

ensure to our neighbor, that his or her life may be always defended and promoted, *especially when it is weak or threatened* [emphasis added]" (*Evangelium vitae* 77).

In a world in which those who are most vulnerable are so often overlooked and disregarded, Christ calls us to embrace and uphold the unconditional dignity of every human life. In answering this call, we help to build "a new culture of life, the fruit of the culture of truth and of love" (*EV* 77). May the Holy Spirit continually renew us as we strive to faithfully defend God's gift of life.

Acts of Reparation (Choose one.)

- Do you love your cup of coffee? Abstain from caffeine today, or try your coffee black.
 - "Unplug" for some time today, and reflect on how God may be asking you to help build a culture of life in your home, workplace, or Church community.
 - Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.
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