

WORD OF LIFE

January 2014

Intercessions for Life

January 5th Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

For all Christians on the Feast of the Epiphany,
that we might always see the image of Christ in others;
We pray to the Lord:

January 12th Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

For all baptized Christians:
May the Lord grant them the grace to live out their baptismal call with
renewed joy
and to recognize within this call a need to respect all life from
conception to natural death;
We pray to the Lord:



January 19th Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

For mothers considering abortion:
That through the intercession of St. John the Baptist, who praised the Lord as an unborn infant,
the Lord might give them courage to welcome the gift of their child;
We pray to the Lord:

January 22nd Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

For all elected officials:
That the Holy Spirit would inspire them to enact laws that defend and promote the right to life of all
human beings, especially those not yet born;
We pray to the Lord:

January 26th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

For families whose homes have been darkened by miscarriage,
that the light of Christ will pierce through their suffering and bring them hope;
We pray to the Lord:

January 22: Day Of Prayer For The Legal Protection Of Unborn Children

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of [prayer](#) and penance for [abortion](#), called the “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.”

Full relevant section from the GIRM: “373. Masses for Various Needs and Occasions are used in certain situations either as occasion arises or at fixed times.

Days or periods of prayer for the fruits of the earth, prayer for human rights and equality, prayer for world justice and peace, and penitential observances outside Lent are to be observed in the Dioceses of the United States of America at times to be designated by the Diocesan Bishop.

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the “[Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life](#)” (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, or the Mass “For the Preservation of Peace and Justice” (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.”

For more information, visit <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/resources/january-22-day-of-prayer.cfm>

Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life

The “Mass for Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life” is included in the Roman Missal, Third Edition that began around the United States and most of the English-speaking Catholic world on the First Sunday of Advent in 2011.

This Mass was created specifically for the needs of the United States and may be used for occasions to celebrate the dignity of human life.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) no. 373 has been altered to allow this Mass to also be said on January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday), the [Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children](#). The relevant change in the GIRM reads: “The liturgical celebrations for this day may be the Mass ‘For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life’ (no. 48/1 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with white vestments, or the Mass ‘For the Preservation of Peace and Justice’ (no. 30 of the Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions), celebrated with violet vestments.”

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WORD OF LIFE JANUARY 2014

Bulletin Briefs

“Human life must always be defended from its beginning in the womb and must be recognized as a gift of God that guarantees the future of humanity.”

— Pope Francis, Letter to Brazilian families for National Family Week, August 6, 2013

“You are called to stand up for life! To respect and defend the mystery of life always and everywhere, including the lives of unborn babies, giving real help and encouragement to mothers in difficult situations. You are called to work and pray against abortion.”

— Blessed John Paul II, Address at Central Park, New York, NY, 1995

“Don’t forget that He whom the whole universe cannot contain, was "hidden" in the womb of the Holy Virgin for nine months. Once you realize this, you will be awe-filled for the double mystery that God has confided to you: to conceive a human being made to God’s image and likeness, and to give birth to him...”

— Alice von Hildebrand, Philosopher, “Letter to a Young Girl”

“Destruction of the embryo in the mother’s womb is a violation of the right to live which God has bestowed on this innocent life. To raise the question whether we are here concerned already with a human being or not is merely to confuse the issue. The simple fact is that God certainly intended to create a human being and that this human being has been deliberately deprived of his life. ”

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran theologian and pastor who died in a concentration camp after resisting the Nazis, *Ethics*

“To be a mother is to nourish and protect true humanity and bring it to development.”

— Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein), “The Significance of Woman’s Intrinsic Value in National Life”

“God, author of all life,
bless, we pray, this unborn child;
give constant protection
and grant a healthy birth
that is the sign of our rebirth one day
into the eternal rejoicing of heaven...”

— Excerpt from the [Blessing of a Child in the Womb](#)

Life Facts:

By Weeks 5-6, although the child in utero is only an inch long, his or her mouth, nose and ears are already taking shape. Her heart beats about 100 times a minute.

By Week 9 of life, the child in utero has a fully developed heart and his or her eyes are completely formed.

Join the Bishops’ Call to Prayer and Fasting for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.

Visit www.usccb.org/pray or text “fast” to 99000. Join the Movement!