A Prayer for Pregnant Mothers

O Blessed Mother, you received the good news of the incarnation of Christ, your Son, with faith and trust.

Grant your protection to all pregnant mothers facing difficulties.

Guide us as we strive to make our parish communities places of welcome and assistance for mothers in need.

Help us become instruments of God’s love and compassion.

Mary, Mother of the Church, graciously help us build a culture of life and a civilization of love, together with all people of good will, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.

*Cf. Evangelium vitae 105 © Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Adapted with permission. All rights reserved.

The Historic Overturning of Roe

With the U.S. Supreme Court historic overturning of Roe v Wade this summer, we are all grateful to God that we can now begin the healing process of the thousands of lives we have lost and the years of abortion on demand as the law of our land. As the issue of life vs. death has been returned to the states for their determination, we must also continue to pray for hearts and minds of our nation’s people to come to recognize the dignity of all human life.

It is very exciting for those of us who have been fighting for life and praying for the unborn and their mothers for nearly half a century. But for young women and girls who have unplanned pregnancies it can potentially bring feelings of worry, fear, and even despair. As Catholics, we are called to support these women by being the earthly hands and feet, and loving arms of Jesus.

Now that Roe has reversed the national “right” to abortion and many women are troubled, not knowing where to turn, there is an even greater call for us to serve these pregnant and parenting moms in need through our church parishes, as individual Christians, and within our local communities. “The witness of our Blessed Mother, while pregnant with Jesus, travels to the hill country in haste (Lk 1:39) to help her cousin Elizabeth is an example to all of us to help moms in need. Following Mary’s example, we must ask ourselves how can we lovingly support mothers in welcoming and caring for God’s gift of life” (USCCB).

To Learn How Your Parish Can Begin Walking With Moms In Need

Visit these websites for resources, materials, and educational guides and videos

• Nola Respect Life — nolacatholic.org/usccb-respect-life-program; nolacatholic.org/walking-with-moms-in-need;
• Archdiocese of New Orleans — nolacatholic.org/prolifenola; nolacatholic.org/news/archbishop-reacts-to-dobbs-decision
• Walking With Moms In Need — https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/

Attend the Jazzed for Life Symposium with the theme “Called to Serve Moms in Need” for all Respect Life parish coordinators, pastors and interested Catholics on Saturday, September 10 (see announcements for details); and Contact the Respect Life Office for hands-on help in starting a Walking With Moms In Need ministry in your parish.

Monthly Focus Topics

September — Stem Cell and Human Cloning
October — RESPECT LIFE Month
November — Adoption Awareness

Announcement

A spotlight shines on all schools that have joined the Footprints For Life program developed by our very own Natasia Kissinger, Respect Life co-coordinator, and founder and president of Choose the Child.

Footprints For Life is designed to build a culture of life in our children through a Kindergarten-8th grade student program that covers USCCB Respect Life topics age-appropriately. It incorporates Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy into the study of these issues, and can be easily integrated into existing curriculum with each lesson. Organized for the school year Sept. to May, each month contains everything needed to create class discussions and complete fun activities with students as they learn to pray for, respect, and support those in need.

"Footprints for Life" program received the Imprimatur by Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond, Archbishop of New Orleans on April 1, 2019.

Natasia Kissinger nkissingerg@gmail.com 504-339-5384
ChoosetheChild.com choosethechild.com/footprintsforlife

“There is no footprint too small that it can’t leave an imprint on this world.”
More Spots of Light

Spotlights are Beaming Brightly on more than 200 CYO members of St. Angela Merici, St. Benilde, St. Catherine of Siena, St. Clement of Rome, St. Dominic, St. Edward the Confessor, St. Francis Xavier, St. Luke the Evangelist, St. Peter (Covington) and St. Pius X (New Orleans) for their participation in the 2022 Rose Rally held overnight in July at St. Angela Merici. Archbishop Gregory Aymond commended the teens for their pro-life stance amongst adversity and walked the track for life with them. While the group enjoyed costuming, themed concession stands, walking laps, and prayerful activities including midnight Mass, adoration and spirited fellowship, they also did a tremendous job fundraising for Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats & Catholic Charities Pregnancy Services — earning $22,500!!!

Liturgy & Prayer

USCCB Word of Life

Monthly parish resources online or by email including special features on each month’s RL topic, intercessions for Prayers of the Faithful, links to prayers and educational materials, and downloadable quotes/graphics for bulletins, websites, and social media in English and Spanish.

September https://www.usccb.org/resources/word-life-september-2022
Eng usccb.org/resources/word-of-life-2022-09.pdf
Span usccb.org/resources/palabra-de-vida-2022-09_0.pdf

Special Events

ACCESS Jazzin’ Jubilee
50th+ Anniversary Celebration

Join in a special celebration commemorating the 50+ year milestone of ACCESS – New Orleans first crisis pregnancy program – at the 6:30 p.m. Reception & Dinner at Metairie Country Club

Gala guests will share stories of the past, hear remarks by Archbishop Gregory Aymond and special guest speakers, and take part in silent & live auctions with many gift items that give a nod to ACCESS’ 50th.

Choir of Angels patron donors are invited to a pre-celebration at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Canizaro.

Make your reservations now at CCANO.org/50thAnniversary
For information please call (504)832-1503.

Liturgical Readings

More Spots of Light

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Liturgical Readings
Calendar Continued

OCTOBER — RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Oct 2 — RESPECT LIFE SUNDAY

Respect Life Month

As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

respectlife.org/respect-life-month

USCCB developed an action guide for Respect Life Month that includes actionable parish resources, suggested ways you can use materials, a sample timeline, bulletin announcements, intercessions, homily helps, and activities for building a Culture of Life. In English and Spanish.

www.usccb.org/resources/respect-life-month-action-guide

Watch this webinar to learn how to help your parish observe Respect Life Month in October. USCCB staff walk through their website and the resources that are available, which highlight the call to serve moms in need.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZW1Wd4051Bw

Ways to celebrate Respect Life Month include reflection on living the corporal and spiritual works of mercy with care for moms and respect for life; pledge to prayerfully support pregnant women in your community; pray intercessions for human life throughout the month of October; learn more about Respect Life topics; share graphics to raise awareness of Respect Life month on social media; and stay connected to get the latest news and updates, action alerts, prayers, and more.

respectlife.org/celebrate

The 2022-2023 Respect Life Program Theme is “Called To Serve Moms In Need”.

www.respectlife.org/called-to-serve

“[E]very human life, unique and unrepeatable, has value in and of itself; it is of inestimable value. This must always be proclaimed anew with the courage of the Word and the courage of actions. It calls us to solidarity and fraternal love for the great human family and for each of its members.” — Pope Francis on the 25th Anniversary of Evangelium Vitae (March 25, 2020)

Sept 10 — Jazzed For Life RL Symposium 8:30-11:30am CYO Gym 2241 Mendez St. (behind Transfiguration of the Lord Church). Theme is “Called to Serve Moms in Need” with Most Rev. Gregory Aymond, guest speakers on USCCB’s Walking With Moms In Need, resource materials, continental breakfast, networking among RL parish coordinators, visiting pro-life ministries reps, and prayer. RSVP to https://www.ccano.org/jazzed-for-life-rsvp/

Sept 11 — National Family Planning Class in Spanish A NFP class will be offered in Spanish in two parts on September 12 and October 17 at 7:00pm St Jerome Parish Hall, 2402 33rd St. in Kenner. Class is free, but donations for materials are welcome. Presenter is Karen Canales. Couples wishing to register should contact St. Jerome Parish at 504-443-3174 or sijeromepsh@arch-no.org.

Se ofrecerá una clase de Planificación Familiar en español en dos partes en septiembre y octubre. Las parejas que deseen inscribirse deben comunicarse con la parroquia de San Jerónimo al 504-443-3174 o sijeromepsh@arch-no.org. Fechas: Lunes, 12 de septiembre, 7:00 p.m., Lunes, 17 de octubre, 7:00 p.m. Lugar: Parroquia San Jerónimo, Sala Parroquial, 2402 33rd St. Kenner, LA 70065. Costo: gratis, pero se aceptan donaciones para los materiales. Presentador: Karen Canales. Contactar para inscribirse.

Sept 12 — HALOS ~ Healing After Loss to Overdose or Suicide moderated support group meeting 7:00pm. St. Margaret Mary Slidell. Contact Donna 985-201-2143.

Sept 12, 19, 26 — Holy Rosary for America 6:30pm St. Matthew the Apostle 10021 Jefferson Hwy., River Ridge.

Sept 15 — Sarah’s Laughter Infertility & Loss Support Group facilitated meeting 6:30pm St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church, 6017 Camphor St. in Metairie.


Sept 24 — NOLA Catholic Youth Conference (formerly World Youth Day) 9:00am-5:00pm Archdiocese CYO/Youth & Young Adult Ministry’s one-day conference for high school students with Fr. Andrew Gutierrez as emcee; keynote address; Mass celebrated by Archbishop Aymond; workshops; music; confession; adoration; and more. Jesuit High School, 4133 Bank St., N.O. Deadline to register is by 5:00pm on Fri., Sept. 9th. For packet go to www.cyo-no.org/index.php/events-programs/world-youth-day-nola. Questions? Contact CYO 504-836-0551 cyo@arch-no.org.

Sept 25 — Family Day in Archdiocese of New Orleans to provide parishes the opportunity to gather their families renew friendships, form new ones, and cultivate an appreciation for the importance and goodness of family life. This year’s theme is “Rise to the Occasion”! For resource packet and digital assets to promote the day in parishes visit nolacatholic.org/familyday. Questions? Contact M&FL 504-861-6243 or mfl@arch-no.org.

Sept 25 — God’s Special Children 18th Anniversary Holy Mass 2:00pm special Mass for children with disabilities, their families, and friends at St. Francis Xavier Church, 444 Metairie Rd. Reception following Mass in St. Joseph room. 504-834-0340 godsspecialchildren.org/

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Sept 11 — Annual Mass for Victims and Survivors of Violence 11:00am at St. Louis Cathedral with a reception following in St. Anthony’s Gardens.

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**Resources for Moms**

Respect Life Office — Find resources for women’s health care, fertility/infertility, pregnancy care centers, alternatives to abortion, and post abortive healing at https://nolacatholic.org/womens-health-care

In addition, *Walking With Moms In Need NOLA Resource Guide* has an extensive contact list of resources to help moms experiencing difficulties in their lives. https://arch-no.org/walking-with-moms-in-need

Catholic Charities ANO — “Faith in Action” Provides many services and care to support the most vulnerable among us. ecano.org/program-directory/

*A Difficult Choice - Louisiana’s Pregnancy Help Resource* — Website connects to pregnancy care centers in LA that offer free and confidential services before, during, and after pregnancy. Find helpful information on adoption, stages of fetal development, and crisis-related resources for food, clothing, shelter, baby and maternity items, financial & material support, legal services, health, counseling, and more. For immediate assistance, call any time 1-855-449-4003 or visit ADifficultChoice.com

Safe Haven Law — Louisiana’s law provides a safe, legal, last resort to abandonment allowing a parent to give up custody of a newborn up to 60 days old by bringing the baby to an emergency designated facility or Safe Haven site. LouisianaSafeHaven.com

**Action Alerts**

Oppose the Women’s Health Protection Act of 2022 and Ensuring Women’s Right to Reproductive Freedom Act

“These extreme bills seek to impose unregulated abortion on federal and state levels no matter what laws are currently in place. Both bills passed the House on 7/15/22.

S.4504 Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act of 2022 facilitates transporting children and abuse victims across state lines for abortions.

Please urge your U.S. Senators to oppose all of the above bills if they reach the senate floor.” Taken from website humanlifeaction.org/take-action/action-alerts/

**Save the Dates**

Dec 6 — St. Vincent Infant and Maternity Guild Christmas Luncheon and Mass
Jan 14 — New Orleans Proudly Pro-Life Gala
Jan 17-22 — Archdiocese Youth Trip to March For Life
Jan 20 — March For Life in Washington DC
Jan 23 — Memorial for the Unborn

**Calendar Continued**

Sept 28-Nov 6 — 40 Days For Life campaign aims to end abortion through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful all-day vigils in front of abortion businesses. https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/

Oct — Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month
Oct — Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Oct 2 — God’s Special Children Mass 2:00pm St. Francis Xavier Church 444 Metairie Rd.

Oct 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 — Holy Rosary for America 6:30pm St. Matthew the Apostle River Ridge.

Oct 4 — St. Vincent Infant and Maternity Guild Fall Luncheon and Mass Doors open 10:30am, Mass 11am at Chateau Country Club, 3600 Chateau Blvd., Kenner. For information, contact Cindy Bowman 504-571-5718.

Oct 7 — Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary
Oct 7 — Woman’s New Life Gala for Life 8:00pm club XLIV, Champions Square with Patron Party at 7:00pm. Please join WNLA as they recognize Lenny Delbert, Sr. as this year’s Gala for Life Honoree for his tremendous generosity. Enjoy live music, delicious cuisine from local restaurants and a silent auction in support of this pro-life health center serving women with unplanned pregnancies. Parking and entrance on Girod St. For info & tickets see https://e.givesmart.com/events/q3K/

Oct 10 — HALOS ~ Healing After Loss to Overdose or Suicide moderated monthly meeting 7:00pm.

Oct 13 — Red Bird Ministry for Grieving Parents support group meeting 6:30pm at Our Lady of the Lake Church cafeteria, Mandeville. Jewell Bayhi 504-330-5974

Oct 20 — Sarah’s Laughter Infertility & Loss Support Group 6:30pm St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church.

NOVEMBER—ADOPTION AWARENESS

Nov 1 — Solemnity of All Saints
Nov 6 — God’s Special Children Mass
Nov 7, 14, 21, 28 — Holy Rosary for America
Nov 8 — Election Day
Nov 10 — Red Bird Ministry for Grieving Parents
Nov 11—Veterans Day
Nov 14 — Healing After Loss to Overdose or Suicide
Nov 17 — Sarah’s Laughter Infertility/Loss Group
Nov 19 — National Adoption Day

Nov 19 — PULSE Immersion Retreat NOLA 8:00am-8:00pm LA Right To Life’s training program for high school and college students to become pro-life leaders. Early-bird discount registration is $25 until Nov. 6, after it’s $30. Price includes all meals, t-shirt, and educational materials. Ashley@ProLifeLouisiana or 504-754-8807.

Nov 20 — Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (Christ the King Sunday)

Nov 20 — Global Celebration of Young People (formerly World Youth Day) All encouraged to celebrate youth and young adults on Christ the King Sunday. www.usccb.org/topics/world-youth-day/annual-celebration

“...young people are indispensable bearers of the dynamics of the Kingdom of God, the hope of the Church and the world.” — St. John Paul II