

**January:
The Voice for the Voiceless**

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dear Lord, you are the ultimate leader of our nation. You have conquered sin by doing the will of your Father. Please help us to be a witness for life in all situations. Give us the strength to be a voice for the voiceless. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Spiritual Adoption: A Reflection- Your Baby is 4-months old!

Hi again! I want you to know how thankful I am that you are praying for me! I have taste buds now! I am getting bigger and stronger, but I am still very small. I only weigh about 8 ounces and am about 8-10 inches long. My mommy goes to the doctor to check on me and now she can hear my heart beating! She must be so excited to know that I am growing safely inside of her. I can't wait until I meet her and I will be able to go to school with friends like you.

Spiritual Adoption Prayer:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger."

- Prayer of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen



Objective: We are called to be a voice for others who can't be a voice for themselves- the unborn, the elderly, those who are homeless, disabled, or incarcerated.

Bible Verse:

*"For you will be his witness before all to what you have seen and heard."
Acts 22:15*



Theme: Children can make a difference. It is important for them to become a voice for the voiceless.

Did you know?

We are ALL called to be a voice for those who can't be a voice for themselves.



Discussion and Questions:

"But Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" - Matthew 19:14

- Why did Jesus say let the children come and do not stop them?

The Preamble and the Declaration of Independence states: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

- What are the three unalienable rights that are mentioned in the Preamble?
- What does each of these mean? Discuss each of these in detail.



We have a significant role in the legislative process. It is extremely important that we all become active in promoting and encouraging a God-pleasing decision on a bill by contacting our congressmen. There is no other issue that is more concerning, than the protection of all life from creation until natural death.

6th Grade-8th Grade Additional Discussion:

- Abortion- ends the life of a baby. This can be performed for the entire 9 months of the pregnancy in certain states. However, the laws are changing rapidly to protect the lives of the babies in their mother's wombs. It is important that we continue to pray for the end to abortion. (The methods of abortion are not discussed.)
 - Does God approve of abortion at any time? Why or why not?
- Share the following Bible verses that let the children know that abortion is wrong and is hurtful to God. Discuss each one. After discussing them, ask the students which one meant the most to them:
 - Deuteronomy 30:19
 - Exodus 20:13
 - Jeremiah 1:5
- Share abortion statistics (<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/induced-abortion-united-states>)
- Some students may ask about abortion in the event that the mother's life is in danger. In this case, the doctor needs to use all measures to save both lives.

6th Grade-8th Grade Additional Discussion:

- The *Roe v. Wade* decision was made on January 22, 1973. This decision made abortion legal. The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated January 22 as a special day of prayer and penance in reparation for the abortions that have resulted from *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision.
- On June 24, 2022, thanks to the prayers and works of many people, *Roe v. Wade* was Overturned! This day has been long-awaited for almost 50 years! This decision returned the legal decision of abortion to the people and their state legislators. Abortion is still legal in many places. It is important that we continue to pray for protection of unborn children and their parents.



Activity: Letters to elected officials

January is a great time to look for key life bills.

- As a group or individually, compose a letter asking the city, state, and nationally elected officials to defend life from conception until natural death.
- It is important to mention the humanity of all people from conception until natural death.
- Have students address the envelopes.

Suggestion: Email the president of the United States at <https://www.WhiteHouse.gov>.

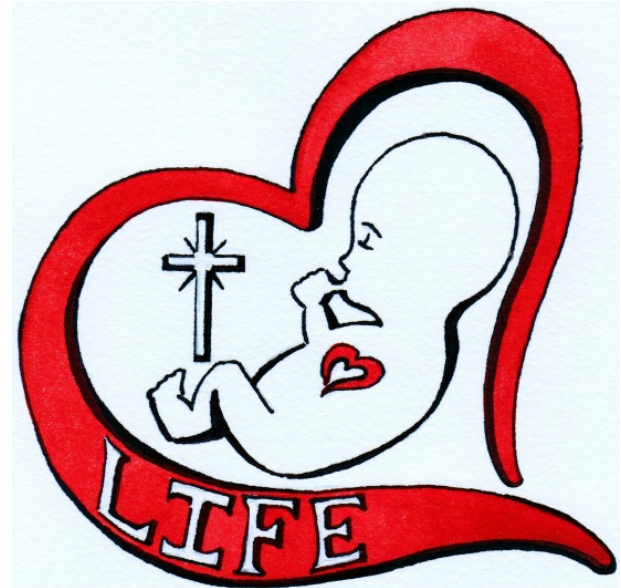


Discussion:

Discuss the importance of writing letters to elected officials.

Activity: Role-playing

- What will you do if you are faced with questions about abortion? How would you respond to support life?
- If someone says they think that it is safe and appropriate for a mother to have an abortion, ask the students at what point in the pregnancy do they think it would be wrong. Why do they believe this?
- What would you say to someone in these situations:
 - A friend who is 15 years old and learns she is pregnant
 - A mom learns that her baby has a disability
 - The parents are told that their baby has a genetic condition and will only live a few hours after birth



Activity: "It's Mardi Gras Time!"

For a fun and easy activity on teaching the children a Respect Life concept and about the Catholic roots of the King Cake and Mardi Gras, visit <https://www.choosethechild.com>.



Important Day:

***Roe v. Wade* Commemoration, January 22nd**

The Catholic bishops of the United States have designated January 22nd a "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of the Unborn Children." (January 22). This is a day of prayer for the millions of lives lost that have resulted from the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decisions, handed down on January 22, 1973, which made abortion legal in all states.



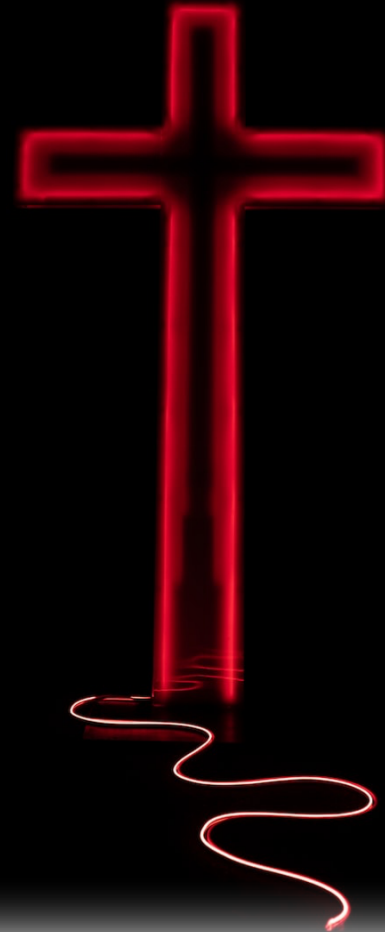
Respect Life Mass or Prayer Service:

Have a Mass or Prayer Service to commemorate January 22nd, the day abortion became legal. If the whole school has spiritually adopted a baby and you are going to do a "gender reveal" celebration, this would be the time to do that. A "baby shower" to celebrate the lives being saved through the spiritual adoptions can be held at this mass. The "baby shower" donations can be donated to the local pregnancy care center.

Closing Prayer:

Glory be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Holy
Spirit, as it was in the
beginning is now, and ever
shall be, world without end.

Amen.



Spiritual Works of Mercy Novena for January

Let us pray...

Dear Jesus, may all those who serve in our government always know that the most important thing to protect is all human life. Please help them to remember that every human life created by God is precious to God and that every single person needs our love and protection. May they only pass laws that protect all human life. May any laws that do not protect human life be thrown out. And may we always remember to pray for the work our government does. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



Virtue: JUSTICE: the moral virtue that consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. Justice toward God is called the "virtue of religion." Justice toward men disposes one to respect the rights of each and to establish in human relationships the harmony that promotes equity with regard to persons and to the common good. The just man, often mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures, is distinguished by habitual right thinking and the uprightness of his conduct toward his neighbor. "You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor."⁶⁸ "Masters, treat your slaves justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven." (CCC 1807)
... meaning... just behavior or treatment

