

November:
The Gift of Adoption
National Adoption Awareness Month

Opening Prayer:

Let us pray...

Dear Lord, only You know what thoughts a mother has when faced with an unplanned pregnancy. May the Holy Spirit comfort her and bring her to those who will show compassion and love. Give strength to those who are waiting to adopt and to those who are choosing to place their child for adoption. For those who have chosen other options, help them find forgiveness in Your mercy. Help us to love them and not judge them. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.



Spiritual Adoption: A Reflection- Your Baby is 2-months old!

I want to thank you again for continuing to pray for me. I am so blessed by your prayers. I am now 2 months old and I am about 2 inches long. That is still very tiny but now you would be able to see my eyes, nose and mouth if you were able to see me in here. I have a sense of smell already! I can't wait to use my senses to experience life once I am born.

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: Adoption is the best choice for an unplanned pregnancy when the parents can't raise the baby themselves.

Bible Verse:

"And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me."
Matthew 18:5



Theme: If a mother can't care for her baby, another family can adopt the baby. There are many families who can't have a child of their own and are waiting to adopt a child.

Did you know?

November is National Adoption Month!



Discussion:

- Some mothers may have feelings of fear when they learn they are pregnant with child. Some moms are scared to raise their babies for different reasons.
- They may think that they won't be able to care for their child. They may feel that they don't have the finances to provide for their baby.
- We need to pray that these women can find hope in God and His plan for them and their unborn baby.
- When a mom is pregnant with her baby, we know that God planned that baby and has a purpose for him or her.
- Adoption is the best choice for the parents and their baby when the parents decide not to raise the child themselves.
- With adoption, a woman gives her baby life and finds a loving home for her child. A mother's love is very unselfish, and women have a natural instinct to care for and protect their babies.
- It is not easy to place a baby for adoption, but it brings peace to know that adoptive parents will love and care for their child. Adoption brings great joy to couples who can't bear children on their own.
- To be able to adopt a child is HUGE gift to many families. For newborn babies in the USA, the wait to adopt varies, but could take years.
- REMEMBER...Jesus was adopted by his father, St. Joseph. Joseph is a saint because he was a special earthly father to Jesus, and Jesus was a gift to Joseph too.

Questions?

Write the answers in your journal.

- Who has a pet? Most of us adopted our pets from a shelter or a friend. Although our pets are adopted we love them very much.
- What are some things we do for our pets? Why? Adopting a pet is somewhat similar to adopting a child, but adopting a child is a lot more special because the parents are adopting a baby who was created in the image and likeness of God.
- How many of you know someone who has been adopted? Can you imagine the world without that person being a part of it? We are so thankful that a family adopted him/her to give them a life of hope.
- Do you think it would be easy for a mom to place her baby for adoption? Why or Why not?
- Discuss the importance of Joseph, Jesus' foster father.



6th Grade-8th Grade Additional Discussion:

- Discuss the Safe Haven Law applicable to your state.

Adoption and Abortion

- God created life for his purpose and by placing a child for adoption, the mother is honoring God and the Gift of her child.
- A mother's love is very unselfish in nature. By giving her baby to an adoptive family, she is making the choice she believes is best for her child.
- This will bring great joy to an adoptive family.
- In the end, the mother will also find joy and peace in herself.
- When a mother chooses abortion, there is no joy.
- This mother will experience shame, guilt, and fear.
- If the mother chooses abortion, she will never forget that day.
- Most women regret their abortions and need psychological help during their lifetime for this choice.
- Women who have chosen abortion can find forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the grace and mercy of Jesus.
- They may also find hope and healing through programs like Project Rachel. (<https://hopeafterabortion.com>).
- We must also help them in forgiving themselves by praying for these women.

- What sources of pressure might a woman feel that prompts her to consider abortion? How can we help mothers choose adoption?

6th Grade-8th Grade Optional Discussion:

Pregnancy from Rape

- Pregnancy from rape is extremely rare.
- The rape itself is traumatic.
- By aborting the innocent baby, the incident just became more horrible for the mother.
- She will now have to cope with the rape and the loss of the baby.
- Use the story of Rebecca Kiessling- <http://rebeccakiessling.com>



Activity: Baby in a Bubble

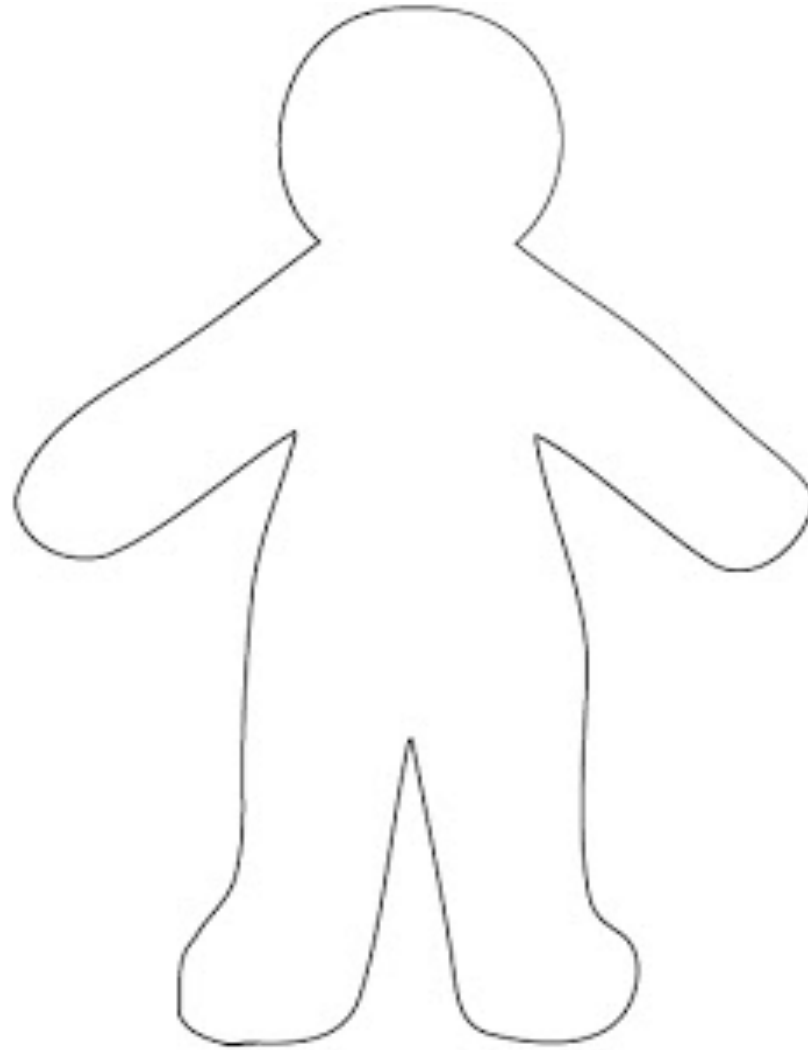
- The student will color and cut out their own little baby. This baby represents the baby they are praying for in the Spiritual Adoption Program. (If the children have not spiritually adopted a baby, still discuss the importance of praying for unborn babies.)
- Once the baby is colored, have the students place the baby in the bag representing the womb.

Option:

You may decorate your cut out of your "Precious One" baby model & write a prayer for them in the text box.

Discussion:

Just as children are adopted, we have spiritually adopted babies at the beginning of the school year. Each of us is that child's "spiritually adopted parent." We are called to pray daily for their protection. The baby is in a special bag (bubble) so that he or she will be protected while we are praying for him or her. The bag (bubble) represents the womb of the mother. Share how this correlates with a baby inside his or her mother's womb. Just like a baby who is adopted, we have a responsibility to pray for our baby daily and the baby's parents.



Dear Jesus, _____

Love, _____

6th-8th Grade Additional Activity: Bookmarks for Women Who Have Had Abortions

- Have the students create bookmarks with inspirational quotes or prayers.
- Allow the students to use their bibles to find appropriate scriptures.
- They can also paste prayer cards or images onto the bookmarks.
- The bookmarks can be donated to Project Rachel (<https://hopeafterabortion.com>) or contact the local Respect Life Office to arrange the donation.

Discussion:

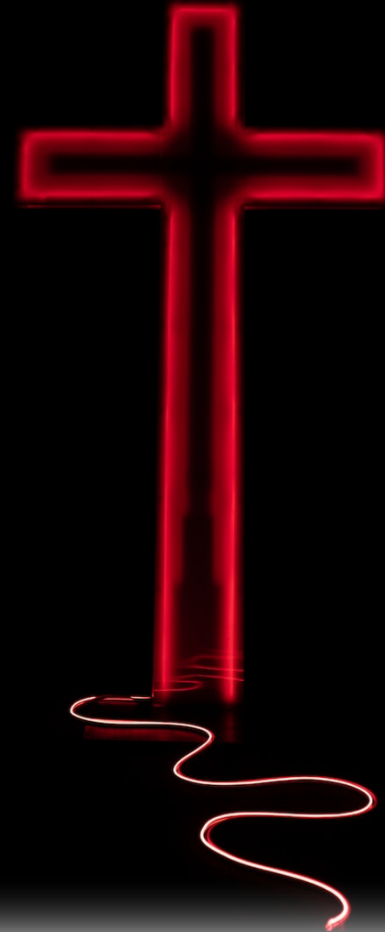
Discuss the various quotes and scripture verses that they have chosen to put on the bookmarks and why those were chosen.



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.

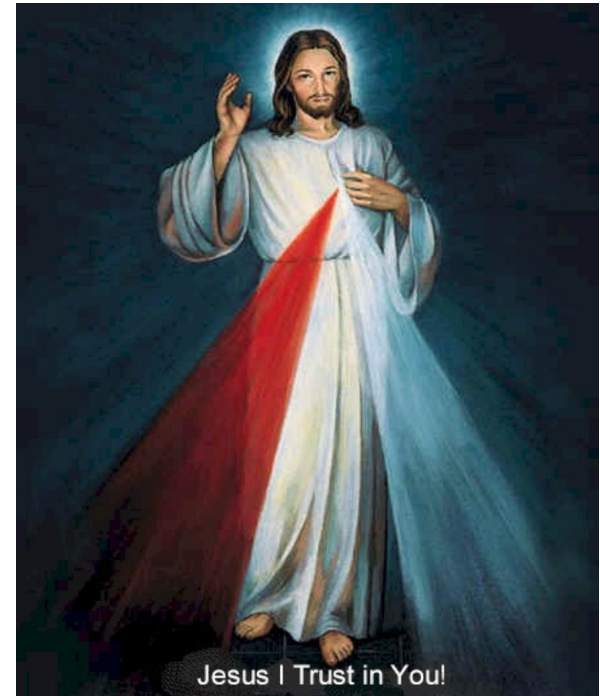


Spiritual Works of Mercy

Novena for November

Let us pray...

Dear Jesus, please help all mothers and fathers who have a baby soon to be born. Many of them are scared for many reasons. May they know that You care for them and their babies and that You will help them through any troubles they have. Please help those mothers who feel that the most loving thing for their babies is to place them with parents who will adopt their babies. Also, help those families who adopt these precious babies. May these new families know Your love, and may these babies grow in Your love always. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.





Virtue: **FORTITUDE (Courage or Bravery):**

ensures firmness in difficulties and consistency in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life.

- Fortitude enables us to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. It deposes one even to renounce and sacrifice his life in defense of a just cause. (CCC1808)

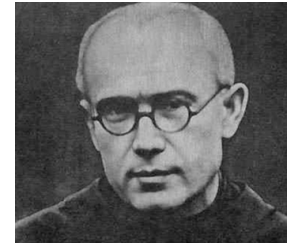
Pro-Life Saints

These six men and women are known for their heroic witness to the sanctity of human life and the need to protect the unborn:

St. Gerard Majella- Redemptorist lay brother was falsely accused of being the father of a baby. He is the patron saint of pregnant women, mothers, unborn children and the pro-life movement.



St. Maximilian Kolbe- a Polish Franciscan friar and priest sent to a German concentration camp during WWII. He offered to take the place of a prisoner who was sentenced to death. He suffered for two weeks before being killed.



St. Gianna Molla- an Italian mother, wife, doctor, and devoted Catholic. She made the choice to have a surgery to save both her life and the baby's life. She died giving birth to the baby.



St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta- was a courageous nun who started her own order to serve the poor in India. She was heroic in her actions to help the poorest of the poor, the sick, and unwanted children. She opened orphanages to help the children.



Pro-Life Saints Continued

Our Lady of Guadalupe- The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in Mexico City, December 9, 1531. She took the form of a young and pregnant Aztec princess (Notice the sash around her waist). Millions of Mexican people converted to the Catholic faith which put an end to human sacrifice. She is the patron saint of the pro-life movement.



Pope Saint John Paul II- was a Polish youth who received an underground seminary education during WWII. He was elected bishop of Poland and elected Pope. The theme of his papacy was respect for human life from conception to natural death. He defended the unborn and promoted education to help people understand the sanctity of human life in all forms.

