

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

22 JANUARY 2024

DIOCESE OF COVINGTON, KY

HOLY ROSARY FOR LIFE

When all have gathered the Leader begins:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. R/. Amen.

In the Gospel of St. John the Lord Jesus tells us, “I came that they might have life and have it more abundantly.”(Jn. 10:10) Today “a great prayer for life is urgently needed; a prayer which will rise up throughout the world”, that will enliven within every human heart the need to protect those among us who are the most vulnerable – the unborn, the elderly, those with special needs, and those who are ill. And so, we join the faithful in the Diocese of Covington, and indeed throughout the world, in praying that all men, women and children may have the abundant life promised to them by God.

Leader continues:

Mary is the Mother of Life. We turn to her now, pleading for her intercession for us before her Son as we pray her Most Holy Rosary.

Leader:

The Joyful Mysteries

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead

R/. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Hail Mary...

Hail Mary...

Glory be to the Father...

Assistant Leader One:

The First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation of Our Lord

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-33, 38)

[brief pause]

As an angel proclaimed the conception of Christ in Mary's virginal womb, so do mothers and fathers learn to cherish the gift of their child. Let us pray to the Mother of all the Living that every child be treasured and protected from the first moment of conception as a great and wondrous gift of God.

Our Father...

Hail Mary... (x10)

Glory be to the Father...

[pause for silence]

Assistant Leader Two:

The Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:39-45)

[brief pause]

As the child in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy when the Blessed Virgin, pregnant with the Son of God, came to meet her, so may our hearts leap with joy at the wonders of all life.

Our Father...

Hail Mary... (x10)

Glory be to the Father...

[pause for silence]

Assistant Leader Three:

The Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity of the Lord Jesus

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.” (Luke 2: 6-12)

[brief pause]

In the birth of every child, we see the birth of Christ Jesus in the Bethlehem stable. Let us commend all new mothers and fathers and every newborn child to the protection and intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and Mother of all Christians.

Our Father...

Hail Mary... (x10)

Glory be to the Father...

[pause for silence]

Assistant Leader Four:

The Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” (Luke 2:25-32)

[brief pause]

As Christ was consecrated to God at his presentation in the temple, so may we consecrate all life to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God.

Our Father...

Hail Mary... (x10)

Glory be to the Father...

[pause for silence]

Assistant Leader Five:

The Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, “Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” And he said to them, “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he said to them. (Luke 2:41-50)

[brief pause]

As the Christ Child was found in the temple by the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, so we pray for all those lost and forgotten. May the Gospel of Life impel us to find them when they are most in need and to lead them home to a place where they are treasured, protected, and loved.

Our Father...

Hail Mary... (x10)

Glory be to the Father...

Leader:

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, O most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O Most Holy Mother of God... R/. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. **R/.** Amen.

Leader concludes the prayer:

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

PRAYERS FROM THE USCCB

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. R/. Amen.

A PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH, DEFENDER OF LIFE

Dearest St. Joseph,
at the word of an angel,
you lovingly took Mary into your home.
As God's humble servant, you guided
the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem,
welcomed Jesus as your own son
in the shelter of a manger,
and fled far from your homeland
for the safety of both Mother and Child.

We praise God that as their faithful protector,
you never hesitated to sacrifice
for those entrusted to you.
May your example inspire us also
to welcome, cherish, and safeguard
God's most precious gift of life.

Help us to faithfully commit ourselves
to the service and defense of human life
—especially where it is
vulnerable or threatened.
Obtain for us the grace
to do the will of God in all things. R/. Amen.