

Feast Day for the Legal Protection of the Unborn

Dioceses throughout the United States observe the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22nd. It is a day set aside in a particular way to pray for pre-born children and to pray for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon the gift of life and to thank God for that gift.

"Every human life, unique and unrepeatable, valid in itself, constitutes an inestimable value. This must always be announced again, with the courage of the word and the courage of actions," said Pope Francis.

January 22nd was chosen for the day because it is the day that U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion in 1973. In 2022, the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision overturned Roe v. Wade, but pre-born children are still threatened in many states.

Prayer for Life

Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty and fashion human lives in your image and likeness.

Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands, and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life.

Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever. Amen

(Source: USCCB)

Prayer to St. Joseph, the Defender of Life

Dear 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.

Amen.



St. Joseph, defender of life,
pray for us!