

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

DID YOU KNOW?

"In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373).

More Information: uscgb.org/january-22

INTERCESSION

May all preborn children be protected in law and welcomed in love.

PRAYERS

Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be

REFLECTION

Today, we mourn the many children's lives ended by abortion and remember in prayer those who suffer the aftermath. We pray that children in their mothers' wombs would again be protected in law and do penance in reparation for abortions that have been committed in our world.

In his encyclical *Evangelium vitae (The Gospel of Life)*, Pope John Paul II said, "may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer" (EV 100). May that prayer arise in our hearts today and each day forward until every human being is protected in law and welcomed in love.

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ACTS OF REPARATION

(Choose one.)

- Fast from one meal today.
- Offer this brief "Prayer for Life" for all preborn children whose lives are at risk. (The prayer is also available at uscgb.org/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.*

*readiness to nurture and
sustain your precious gift
of life.*

*Awaken in every heart
reverence for the work of
your hands, and renew
among your people a*

*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.*

- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.

ONE STEP FURTHER

More women and girls consider abortion than we may realize. They are our relatives and friends, people who work with us or for us. Even if someone identifies as being pro-life, the shock of an unexpected pregnancy, the devastation of a difficult prenatal diagnosis, shame, pressures, or fears may influence her to consider abortion.

If someone shared with you that she was pregnant and hadn't ruled out having an abortion, would you know how to respond in a loving way that is life-affirming for both her and her baby? Learn about the four steps of the L.O.V.E. Approach™*: *Listen and Learn, Open Options, Vision and Value, and Extend and Empower* (respectlife.org/l-o-v-e).

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