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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY 2021

*May 1st, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker to May 9th, Mother's Day*

*Join us for 9 days of prayer  
to Build Strong Catholic Families!*

*Imagine the possibilities when the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church  
comes together and moves as one body to pray for the building up  
and strengthening of the Catholic family, the domestic church.*

9 DAYS OF PRAYER.COM 

*A Sit Stand Kneel Initiative: Helping Catholics to better Learn, Live and Love their Faith.*

# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

*May 1st, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker to May 9th, Mother's Day*

## INSTRUCTION GUIDE FOR THE FAMILY NOVENA, 2021

*Intended for prayer within families but may also be prayed individually or in groups.*

### **What:**

Welcome to the Family Novena! In the history of Christianity, novenas have been offered traditionally as nine days of prayer prior to a great feast day, or for any special intention. Novenas are devotions, not sacraments, so they may be prayed by anyone at any time.

The first Christians who prayed a novena were the Apostles themselves when they gathered with the Virgin Mary in the Upper Room after the Ascension. Together, they “watched and prayed” for nine days prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit on the tenth day at Pentecost (Acts, Chapter 2).

### **Why:**

We must be clear *why* we pray this novena. In our current circumstances, there is hardly a greater need for our society than to strengthen the family. We no longer live in an age where the traditional model of family is accepted. The divine plan of the union of husband and wife who beget children in a lifelong, intact, consecrated marriage is under violent attack from every angle. Even the definition of gender is being redefined.

At the core of this problem is a *spiritual* reality, a challenge to the sovereignty of God over life, family, and society. The family itself is an image of the Blessed Trinity. In this novena we call on the power of God to sustain and renew the family, which is the “domestic church”, the first place where we learn human values and faith in God.

### **How:**

The nine days of prayers in the following pages are carefully structured to provide a complete prayer program on behalf of families and their concerns:

Each day provides a different prayer Intention; a specific Intercession for people; and a petition to a Patron Saint or saints of those for whom we pray. These are followed by the Prayer Offering of a decade of the Holy Rosary where we contemplate a mystery associated with the particular intention or petition of the day. Any family may pray the entire Rosary as per the Deeper Reflection section if so desired. On all nine days, the novena concludes with a Family Novena Prayer.

Ideally, the Family Novena should be prayed within families themselves, with parents taking leadership for the prayer and children participating in various ways. Families are encouraged to supplement each day with additional prayers, which are available in the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* prayer card, the companion to this novena.

The entire novena concludes with the Prayer to the Holy Family by Pope Francis.

The nine days of prayers provide a complete prayer program on behalf of families and their concerns. Any family may pray the entire Rosary as per the Deeper Reflection section if so desired.

## General Intention: *Strengthening the Domestic Church*

### Intentions

For fathers  
For grandparents  
For children  
For adopted children  
For aunts, uncles, cousins and in-laws  
For sick and suffering family members  
For deceased family members  
For extended family and friends  
For mothers

### Intercessions

For wisdom and prudence in parenting  
For our grandparents' health and wellbeing or the repose  
of their souls  
For obedience and joy in the development of body and soul  
For the grace of belonging and feeling loved  
For the virtues of faith, hope and love (charity)  
For perseverance and union with Christ  
For consolation and eternal salvation  
For strength in the mission of spreading true Christian values  
For courage in meeting the challenges of motherhood

### Saint(s)

The Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus and our Mother  
St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus and Patron of Workers  
Sts. Joachim & Anne  
St. Therese of Lisieux  
St. Kateri Tekakwitha  
St. Elizabeth  
St. Padre Pio  
St. Lazarus  
Holy guardian angels

### Deeper Reflection \*

Joyful Mysteries + Prayer to St. Joseph  
Joyful Mysteries + The Angelus  
Joyful Mysteries + St. Christopher Prayer  
Joyful Mysteries + Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel  
Luminous Mysteries + Acts of Faith, Hope and Love  
Sorrowful Mysteries + Prayer for the Sick  
Glorious Mysteries + Prayer for the Deceased  
Luminous Mysteries + Guardian Angel Prayer  
Glorious Mysteries + Salve Regina

\* For these prayers and others designed to strengthen the Catholic Family,  
go to the Official Companion Card, *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition*.



### Prayer to the Holy Family by Pope Francis

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
in you we contemplate  
the splendour of true love,  
to you we turn with trust.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
grant that our families too  
may be places of communion and prayer,  
authentic schools of the Gospel  
and small domestic Churches.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may families never again  
experience violence, rejection and division:  
may all who have been hurt or scandalized  
find ready comfort and healing.

Holy Family of Nazareth,  
may the approaching Synod of Bishops  
make us once more mindful of the  
sacredness and inviolability of the family,  
and its beauty in God's plan.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph,  
graciously hear our prayer.  
Amen.

Source: *Vatican website, 2013*



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

## DAY 1

May 1, 2021

*"St. Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood. It is precisely in this way that, as the Church's Liturgy teaches, he...is truly a 'minister of salvation.'"*

~ John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Guardian of the Redeemer*, 8.

### **Intention: For Fathers**

#### **Intercession: For wisdom and prudence in parenting**

The role of Christian fatherhood provides for both the material needs of families and the moral formation of children. Fathers create strong and faith-filled families by means of their diligent work and their consistent presence in the lives of their loved ones. Human fatherhood directly reflects the eternal Fatherhood of God over the whole human family. We pray for the health and wellbeing of all fathers. May the Lord bless their leadership of their families with an abundance of wisdom and prudence for this difficult task. May He also provide for their material needs so that their families might not feel oppressed by the circumstances of life and may be free to worship the Lord in fidelity and truth.

#### **Patron Saint: St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus and Patron of Workers**

We turn our hearts to you, O holy Joseph, in this year that the Church has consecrated to your honor! Hear our prayers and come to our assistance in all our needs. Bless all fathers and give them the strength to live up to the noble calling of holy marriage and Christian fatherhood. With you at our side we will always be protected from the dangers of the world and confidently walk with you and the Holy Family on the narrow road to Heaven.

#### **Your Featured Program Here**

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit, sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt ut labore et dolore magna aliqua. Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exercitation ullamco laboris nisi ut aliquip ex ea commodo consequat.

#### **Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Mystery of the Visitation) | Glory Be | Or...

#### **Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Joyful Mysteries and the Prayer to St. Joseph found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

### **Family Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

## DAY 2

May 2, 2021

*"The wise person is always growing, always learning...always connecting the past with the future. Elders share their stories, and in doing so, pass on what they have learned to future generations, through both words and example. Their wisdom does not die with them but guides and enriches generations to come."*

~ USCCB, *Blessings of Age*, Pastoral Message on Growing Older Within the Faith Community, 1999.

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### **Intention:** For Grandparents

### **Intercession:** For our grandparents' health and wellbeing, or for the repose of their souls

Grandparents play a critical role in the raising and formation of children, even if their influence is indirect. Their wisdom and presence in the family is a gift to the generations that follow them and an ongoing source of blessing. Their prayers are a treasure of hope.

We intercede for our own grandparents, that they may experience constant growth in holiness through prayer and faith. We also pray for the peaceful repose of our grandparents and ancestors who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. May the Lord bless all grandparents throughout the world: that they may feel loved and respected and continue to offer their wisdom to their families even to their final days.

### **Patron Saints:** Joachim and Anne

Hear our prayers, Saints Joachim and Anne! Give to all elderly people, especially to those who are sick and suffering, the knowledge that God is with them in all their needs. Help all grandparents to know their worth as and sources of insight and blessing to be handed on to future generations. Holy grandparents of Jesus, beloved parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we trust in your intercession for our families!

### **Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Joyful Mystery of the Annunciation) | Glory Be | Or...

### **Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Joyful Mysteries and The Angelus found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

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## **Family Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

DAY 3

May 3, 2021

*"For it devolves on parents to create a family atmosphere so animated with love and reverence for God and others that a well-rounded personal and social development will be fostered among the children. Hence, the family is the first school of those social virtues which every society needs."*

~ John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1981.

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### **Intention:** For Children

### **Intercession:** For obedience and joy in the development of body and soul

Children are the precious fruit of marriage and a blessing from God. There is not a negative word about children in scripture. In the divine plan, children are a reflection of the life-giving, overflowing love of the Trinity in which the love of two persons begets a third.

We pray that the dignity and person of every child will be respected in our society, from the moment of conception through the tender years of youth and into adulthood. May God bless all children of the world with abundant life in their years of human and faith development. May the Lord motivate the members of His Church to always keep the concerns of His littlest brothers and sisters before their eyes.

### **Patron Saints:** St. Therese of Lisieux

Dear St. Therese of the Child Jesus, you taught us the "Little Way" of childlike trust in Jesus and simplicity of heart, which helps us become like children in order to enter the Kingdom of God. Bless all children, especially those who suffer from neglect, distress, poverty, or need of any kind. Fill the lives of all children with joy and give them loving homes in which to grow into the persons Christ wishes them to be for the glory of God and the salvation of their souls. Amen.

### **Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Joyful Mysteries and St. Christopher Prayer found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

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## **Family Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

DAY 4

May 4, 2021

*"To adopt a child is a great work of love. When it is done, much is given, but much is also received. It is a true exchange of gifts."*

~ Address of Pope St. John Paul II to Meeting of Adoptive Families  
Organized by the Missionaries of Charity, September 2000.

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**Intention:** For Adopted Children

**Intercession:** For the grace of belonging and feeling loved

Not all children have the advantage of growing up in an intact and happy family. Many are even deprived of their parents at a young age and must go through the difficulties of the foster care system. Christian families are called to the greatest generosity in reaching out to the "least brethren" of Christ, especially the most vulnerable, and helping them in their needs. We ask the good God to come to the aid of all underprivileged children in whatever circumstances they may find themselves. May the Lord may provide for the needs of the weakest and most defenseless so that they may feel a sense of belonging and love through the charity of Christian families who help them, out of the generosity of their hearts.

**Patron Saints:** St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Dearest Lily of the Mohawks, one of the first believers in Christ during the evangelization of North America. You were victimized at a young age by neglect, mistreatment, and rejection by your family and people, all because of your belief in the Lord Jesus. Help all children who are abandoned and alone in this world. Give them all that they need to live normal and happy lives in Christian families that love and accept them, and bring them into union with the loving family of God, the Church. Amen.

**Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Joyful Mystery of the Finding of Jesus in the Temple) | Glory Be | Or...

**Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Joyful Mysteries and St. Michael the Archangel Prayer found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

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**Family Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

DAY 5

May 5, 2021

*"As experience testifies, whole civilizations and the cohesiveness of peoples depend above all on the human quality of their families. For this reason the duty in the apostolate towards the family acquires an incomparable social value. The Church, for her part, is deeply convinced of it, knowing well that 'the path to the future passes through the family.'"*

~ Pope St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Christifideles laici* (1988), 42.

**Intention:** For Brothers and Sisters, Aunts and Uncles, Cousins and In-Laws

**Intercession:** For the virtues of faith, hope and love (charity)

Even in the best of times, all families experience challenges and sorrows as part of living in this world. We must often depend upon our immediate family, particularly our siblings, to help us and support us. Our aunts, uncles, cousins, and in-laws can also be great sources of strength and support throughout life. We pray that the Lord will abundantly bless our closest family members with peace and the material sufficiency needed to meet all life's needs. Above all, may He fill their hearts with faith, hope, and charity to embrace the fullness of the Catholic faith and live as courageous witnesses of Christ in the midst of the world.

**Patron Saints:** St. Elizabeth

Holy St. Elizabeth! You were the first to hear the greeting of your dearest cousin, the Virgin Mary, as she brought the Unborn Savior to your home. How sweet was that greeting and the joy of your heart as you felt your own unborn child, John the Baptist, announce Christ's presence to the world! We beg you to fill all our immediate family relationships with that same perfect joy, even in trying times, and bring us all to the fullness of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Luminous Mystery of the Wedding Feast at Cana | Glory Be | Or...

**Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Luminous Mysteries and the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

## Family Novena Prayer

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

## DAY 6

May 6, 2021

*"All members of the family, each according to his or her own gift, have the grace and responsibility of building, day by day, the communion of persons, making the family 'a school of deeper humanity': this happens where there is care and love for the little ones, the sick, the aged; where there is mutual service every day; when there is a sharing of goods, of joys and of sorrows."*

~ Pope St. John Paul II, Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, 1981, 21.

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### **Intention: For Sick and Suffering Family Members**

### **Intercession: For perseverance and union with Christ**

No one is exempt from suffering or some form of illness in this world. When these crosses are laid upon the shoulders of our loved ones, we often share in their suffering by our closeness and sympathy for them. Yet, all suffering has meaning when it is offered as a sacrifice in union with our Blessed Savior's Passion and Death. We pray that our heavenly Father may hear our prayers for those family members who are going through sickness or trials of any sort, even if those difficulties have been brought on by their own decisions. We ask that He will grant us the grace to persevere through all these human challenges with the joyful assurance that our problems will ultimately find their strength in His Son, whose yoke is easy and whose burden is light.

### **Patron Saints: St. Padre Pio**

O blessed Padre Pio, you who shared the Passion of Christ mystically through the gift of the sacred stigmata. Bless all those in our family who suffer or are burdened in any way: financially, emotionally, or physically. Your constant sufferings and prayers brought many souls out of the darkness of sin into the light of Christ, and through them you taught to pray, hope, and never worry about the future. Bless us and obtain for us the grace to offer all our difficulties and sufferings in union with the Cross of Christ. Amen.

### **Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Sorrowful Mystery of the Crucifixion) | Glory Be | Or...

### **Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Prayer for the Sick found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

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## **Family Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

## DAY 7

May 7, 2021

*"It is not Death that will come to fetch me, it is the good God. Death is no phantom, no horrible specter, as presented in pictures. In the catechism it is stated that death is the separation of soul and body, that is all! Well, I am not afraid of a separation which will unite me to the good God forever."*

~ St. Therese of Lisieux (1873-1897)

### **Intention:** For Deceased Family Members

### **Intercession:** For consolation and eternal salvation

Death was not part of God's plan for mankind but "entered the world through the envy of the devil," says the Book of Wisdom. Those who live in families must often experience the deaths of family members, sometimes after a long life, and sometimes in circumstances of tragedy and suffering. We offer our whole hearts and souls to the Lord Jesus as we pray for our deceased loved ones who have preceded us into the Kingdom of Heaven. We pray for their purification and for their salvation, trusting entirely in the Mercy of God and in the merits of the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints. We ask the Lord to bless them and bring them finally into His eternal banquet where we hope one day to reunite with them in the glory of the Holy Trinity.

### **Patron Saints:** St. Lazarus

Dear St. Lazarus, close friend of our Lord Jesus, pray for us and our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. When the Lord chose to bring you back from the grave, He did so to manifest His power over life and death. Your friendship with the eternal Son of the Father is our hope that death never has the last word and that love for Christ conquers all things. Pray for our deceased loved ones, O holy Lazarus, that they may experience the resurrection you already share. Amen.

### **Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Glorious Mystery of the Resurrection | Glory Be | Or...

### **Deeper Reflection:**

Pray the full Rosary with the Glorious Mysteries and the Prayer for the Deceased found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.

## **Family Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

Loving Father of all family life, human and divine, look down upon us in your tender love and renew your blessing on the family as an image of the communion of Persons in the Holy Trinity. By your grace, strengthen the bonds of love and respect in our own families through heartfelt faith and fidelity to Christ. We also ask that you help those families who are suffering, divided, experiencing strife or lacking in resources. Give them grace and strength to bear the burdens of this life until we are all one day united as a single family in the kingdom of heaven. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Offer Additional Prayers from the *Prayers in the Pew: Family Edition* card.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

DAY 8

May 8, 2021

*"The Church firmly believes that human life, even if weak and suffering, is always a splendid gift of God's goodness. Against the pessimism and selfishness which cast a shadow over the world, the Church stands for life."*

~ Pope St. John Paul II, *Familiaris Consortio* (1981), 30

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**Intention:** For an increase in awareness and action among Christians

**Intercession:** For the Christian Church and pro-life community

The only institution that actively upholds the sanctity of human life in our modern world is the Catholic Church, joined by many other Christian churches in the confession of this universal truth. We must constantly pray for the Church to remain strong in her witness. We intercede for the hierarchy and clergy of the Church throughout the world that they may have the courage to lead all believers to "stand for life" whenever and wherever it is threatened.

**Petition for Virtue:** For Faith

May God pour out upon us the Theological Virtue of Faith, by which we are able to see the world and its problems with His divine vision. We ask that our Faith may move the mountain of the culture of death and transform it into a culture of life. We also pray that all in our society who do not believe in Jesus Christ as God and Lord of Life will embrace the Faith and become defenders of every human life.

**Life Program Intention:** Novena for Life Program

Lord, the protection of Life is a sustained prayer intention of the Church. Aid those facing great trials and help us to meet them where they are, to walk with them on their journey, and to intercede for them. Help us to joyfully proclaim the truth of God's love, purpose, and plan for each person as we strive to share Christ's love. As we devoutly recite our Novena for Life, let us be fully aware that changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own heart. Let us go forth with confidence knowing God is always with us. We ask this in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Glorious Mystery of the Descent of the Holy Spirit on Mary and the Apostles at Pentecost) | Glory Be

**Deeper Reflections:**

Pray the Sorrowful Mysteries and the Prayer to the Mother of Life on the *Prayers in the Pew: Pro-Life Edition Card*.

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## Pro-Life Novena Prayer

*To be recited each day of the novena:* God our Heavenly Father, Source of all life and goodness, Creator of all things, we turn to you with deep humility and ask you to restore respect for the sanctity of all human life in our society and in our world. The culture of death is so pervasive and powerful today that our only hope is to trust entirely in your grace to transform it into a culture of life. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



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# NOVENA *for the* FAMILY

## DAY 9

May 9, 2021

*"Abortion and euthanasia have become preeminent threats to human dignity because they directly attack life itself, the most fundamental human good and the condition for all others."*

~ **Living the Gospel of Life, A Challenge to American Catholics** (1998), 32

**Intention:** For the protection of the sick and vulnerable from euthanasia

**Intercession:** For the police and guards who protect abortion centers

In a culture of death, where the value of life is degraded, human beings on both ends of the life spectrum are subject to the greatest injustices. The unborn, the sick, the handicapped, and the elderly have a right to special care from a humane society. We also include in our intercessory prayers all those responsible for guarding or protecting attacks against the vulnerable at any place or stage of life. Send forth Your Spirit, O God to enlighten the minds and transforms the hearts of everyone in public service to come to know the priceless gift of every human life.

**Petition for Virtue:** For Fortitude

May God grant us the Cardinal Virtue of Fortitude, so that we may have strength to bear every trial and the firmness of will not to renounce our defense of life in times of testing. We also pray for those who are bring tempted to give in to the abortion decision and take the easy road. May God grant them Fortitude to resist the temptation of solving their problems through recourse to the injustice of killing the innocent.

**Life Program Intention:** Special Olympics

We pray, Loving God, we see You in those living with disabilities and give you thanks for loving parents who welcome and nurture them even in the face of obstacles. Guide our efforts to celebrate the worth and dignity of every human being through our Special Olympics program helping disabled athletes train for and compete in games around the world. Let us remain open to the gifts of each individual and may we understand that your body is incomplete when people are left behind. We pray through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

**Prayer Offering:**

Our Father | Ten Hail Mary's (Contemplating the Sorrowful Mystery of the Crucifixion) | Glory Be

**Deeper Reflections:**

Pray the Luminous Mysteries and the Prayer for the Defense of Human Life found on the *Prayers in the Pew: Pro-Life Edition Card*.

### **Pro-Life Novena Prayer**

*(to be recited each day of the novena)*

God our Heavenly Father, Source of all life and goodness, Creator of all things, we turn to you with deep humility and ask you to restore respect for the sanctity of all human life in our society and in our world. The culture of death is so pervasive and powerful today that our only hope is to trust entirely in your grace to transform it into a culture of life. We make this prayer in the Name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



For more info on Prayers in the Pew™  
please visit [SitStandKneel.com](http://SitStandKneel.com)

A Sit Stand Kneel Initiative.

**Your Logo Here**

# FAITH IN ACTION - LIFE PROGRAMS

Your California State Council is asking all Chapters to engage councils in this Novena for Life and to select two Life Programs to promote and implement.



### NOVENA FOR LIFE

Lead your community in the spiritual fight to establish a culture of life.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### MARCH FOR LIFE

Show public support for the right to life.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Celebrate the intrinsic worth and dignity of all people.

[LEARN MORE](#)

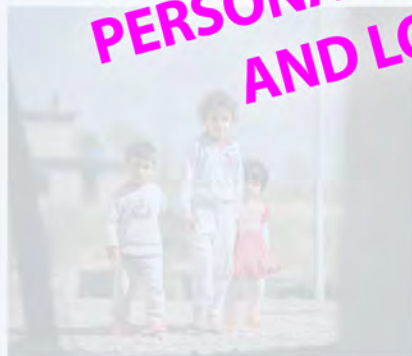


### ULTRASOUL

Provide material support for mothers, fathers, and their children.

[LEARN MORE](#)

**FEATURE YOUR  
PERSONALIZED PROGRAM  
AND LOGO HERE**



### CHRISTIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

Help save persecuted and at-risk Christians facing genocide all over the world, particularly in the Middle East.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### MASS FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Welcome individuals or families who might not normally feel comfortable participating in a regularly scheduled Mass.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### PREGNANCY CENTER SUPPORT

Build faithful families and communities through a variety of projects.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### SILVER ROSE

Share the message of Our Lady of Guadalupe and promote respect for life through this pilgrimage.

[LEARN MORE](#)