

Prayer Vigil for Life

On the 46th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade



A Remembrance Rosary

A reader will read the "We speak for" and "Prayer" prior to each decade of the Rosary. We invite you to follow along in this program or to close your eyes and enter into the words spoken.

Please join in for the following prayers:

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; on 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 there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

ALL: 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.

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OUR FATHER Who art in heaven hallowed be Thy Name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy Will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

ALL: Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

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HAIL MARY, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

ALL: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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ALL: OH MY JESUS, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

GLORY BE to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The First Sorrowful Mystery

The Agony in the Garden

We speak for Religious, the Clergy and the Lay Faithful

It is you, Jesus, who share in the agony of a pregnant woman who is scared and alone. It is you Jesus, who suffers with a couple stunned by an adverse prenatal diagnosis. It is you, Jesus, who shares in the agony of parents who grieve with guilt after an abortion. It is you, Jesus, who is little and vulnerable in the womb. Often we have been like Peter, James, and John, asleep during your time of agony. We come before you asking for forgiveness for the times that we have not prayed and sacrificed for our suffering brothers and sisters. When we have not taken seriously the responsibility of our faith. “To whom much has been given, much will be required.” Lk. 12:48. And you have lavished upon us so much: The gift of our Baptism, the gift of our salvation. Through Your Passion you won for us the victory; we ask forgiveness for not winning for you souls: the souls of the unborn, the souls of those tempted to abortion, and the souls of those complicit in the taking of human life. As a Christian people, called to radical love, we are sorry for our indifference, for our words that were insensitive and failed to give hope, for our actions that condemned rather than emphasized Your trustworthiness, Your providence, and Your mercy. This Church speaks her Yes to You tonight, Jesus, for the times when we said no to life.

Prayer

Father, we pray for all men and women of good will and particularly our own priests, religious, and laity that we may become ever brighter beacons of hope. Fill your Church with the gifts of zeal and courage to proclaim the Gospel of Life uncompromisingly and with great love. Awaken in the Church a spirit of compassion and fortitude to accompany all in agony in our culture.

The Second Sorrowful Mystery

The Scourging at the Pillar

We speak for all grandparents who have lost a grandchild to abortion

Jesus, you were scourged out of love for us. You love us just as we are. You do not cease loving us when we sin or fall short of our own expectations. We, as grandparents, are sorry if we created an atmosphere that did not give our children confidence that they are loved just as they are. We sorrow that our child thought she might be scourged at home if she told us about the pregnancy. We regret any environment of fear or hard-heartedness in our home. We ask forgiveness for the times when we failed to teach our children about the dignity of human life, for the times we did not pass down a faith that was alive and active. The home sets the foundation for our children's understanding of God, and Jesus, through Your Passion You revealed that we have a Good, Good, Father. We ask for forgiveness for the times our home failed to reveal a trustworthy, compassionate, and loyal God who cradles us close at those moments we feel scourged by the world. This Church speaks her Yes to You tonight, Jesus, for the times when we said no to life.

Prayer

Father, we pray for all grandparents and grandparents-to-be, that they might be given your wisdom and grace, as well as the emotional and spiritual support to embrace each grandchild as a gift to be treasured and nurtured. Lay your healing hand upon the hearts and souls of all grandparents suffering the loss of a grandchild through abortion. Particularly, we lift up to you all those who in some way share responsibility for the death of their grandchild. May they receive and accept your forgiveness and love.

The Third Sorrowful Mystery

The Crowning with Thorns

We speak for the medical and legal professionals

Jesus, you were crowned with thorns, pierced for our offenses. As professionals with the privilege to practice medicine and law, we are sorry for the times we have been complicit with the killing of a human being through abortion. You have given us gifted minds and hands to heal others and to ensure justice for all. But we have not used those gifts in support of life. And when we have failed to uphold life, we did so for a worldly crown—the crown of success, money, acclaim, and accomplishment. Forgive us Lord for dehumanizing the child in the womb. Forgive us for offering abortion as an option because it was easier than the commitment to serve someone in a difficult pregnancy. Forgive us for crafting philosophies, theories, and arguments that support abortion in pursuit of fame and recognition in our profession. Forgive us for not speaking up for life in front of our peers, especially when we knew the medical procedure or the law to be immoral. This Church speaks her Yes to You tonight, Jesus, for the times when we said no to life.

Prayer

Father, we lift up to you all men and women who now and in the future will serve others through the medical and legal professions. We pray that they be informed by and infused with the mission and power of the Divine Physician and the Holy Advocate. Particularly we entrust to you all those who have participated in the culture of death. Come Holy Spirit, scatter the darkness of their hearts and minds by Your Light, that they may encounter Jesus, the Wounded Healer and Wonder-Counselor.

The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery
Our Lord Carries the Cross to Calvary

We speak for all friends affected by abortion

Jesus, You carried Your Cross with complete trust in the Father. And though you fell three times, You continued to get up again. When our friend carried the cross of a difficult pregnancy, we regret that we did not counsel her to choose life. Forgive us, Jesus, for the times we did not become a Simon of Cyrene to a friend tempted to take the life of her child. It was easier to say that we would support her no matter what choice she made, than to help her shoulder the burden of the pregnancy. We thought we were helping. We thought it wasn't our place to tell her otherwise. We felt we could not offer her a better option. We thought that abortion would wipe her problems away. But we did not act like Veronica, who wiped the sweat and blood from Your face, Jesus. We did not see in our friend Your face, and risk everything to wipe away her fears with the truth that You make all things new, so that she might see that it was You growing within her. This Church speaks her Yes to You tonight, Jesus, for the times when we said no to life.

Prayer

Jesus, You have told us, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." Jn. 15:13. We entrust to you today all those who in their friendships have shared in the pain and loss of a friend's abortion. For friends who cooperated in the abortion through silence or direct assistance. For those troubled in heart and conscience, wishing they had done the "more" that might have somehow made the difference, and for those who tried as best they could to be a witness of your love and life, release them from all their guilt, anxiety and worry, through Your peace which surpasses all understanding. Teach us how to love one another as you have loved us.

The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery

The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

We speak for the mothers and fathers who have had an abortion

“Today there is a great silence over the earth, a great silence, and stillness, a great silence because the King sleeps ... God has died in the flesh, and the underworld has trembled.” (Ancient Homily, Holy Saturday) Jesus, You were crucified for our sins and died that we might have life. We regret that we did not know that our children would fulfill Your promise of new life. We were held captive by our fears when faced with a difficult pregnancy. We did not know that you came to free us from our pains, and this very cross of a crisis pregnancy was your means for our liberation. We ask your forgiveness. We long to know and experience your mercy. We need you, Jesus. Our children need you. We thought we needed a life without interruption, the acceptance of others. We thought we needed the world. We believed the lie that abortion fixes a mistake. We were scared to become parents. This Church speaks her Yes to You tonight, Jesus, for the times when we said no to life.

Prayer

God, our Father, enlighten and empower every man involved in a crisis pregnancy with a renewed understanding of their masculinity to live out their vocations as noble Men and Fathers providing for, protecting, reverencing, and loving the women and children in their lives. Sacred Heart of Jesus, we entrust to you every woman who has had, is in, or will experience a crisis pregnancy. May they come to know how marvelously you write straight with our crooked lines. Enable each woman to see your providential love at work in her life and the life of her unborn child. Send ambassadors of Your Mercy to all mothers and fathers who suffer the death of a child through abortion, that they may experience the renewing powers of your unconditional love and forgiveness. O Blessed Mother, we commend to you the children who have died, that you may swaddle them under the mantle of your love