

## **Novena for Life**

## **Day 1 – Conception**

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: Jesus said “ I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” John 10:10

Leader: Let us pray.

God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies and the God of all Consolation, we thank you for the gift of life. May we all treasure that gift throughout our earthly lives.

We pray for the women who, by your will, will conceive life this day. May they, like Mary, cherish the gift of new life, and rejoice in God their savior. Conform their choice of their baby to your choice of them as mothers. Grant each woman the support in this choice of a loving father of their child.

We pray for all doctors and nurses, who are committed to upholding all life in the womb. We thank you for the great knowledge of the processes of life and the skills you have revealed to them. We pray for all those doctors and nurses, who in the name of women’s freedom are prepared to destroy life in the womb. Give to them a true fear of God. Open the eyes of their hearts and minds, we pray O God, that they may repent of being agents of death even in the presence of new life. We ask all of these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Prayer to Celebrate the Gospel of Life.

## Day 2 – Birth

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: “And she gave birth to her first born son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the Inn”  
Luke 2:7

Leader: Let us pray.

Father in Heaven, we thank you for the gift of life in the womb. May we all venerate it for the miracle that it is.

We thank you for all who, like Mary, will give birth this day. Grant them all safe delivery, a minimum of pain, and the support of doctors, nurses, midwives, spouses and family members.

We pray for all whose delivery is complicated. Grant wisdom to all who attend them and empower them through their ordeal. Give them a sense of your loving presence, a presence that drives out all fear.

Father, our hearts aches for all those whose infant lives are terminated this day in pain and anguish. Thank you that they too are on an endless journey that cannot be terminated by human actions. May they joyfully enter the family of the holy innocents and find there forgiveness and compassion for all those who denied them life on earth. Grant them a joyful reunion with their mothers one day. We ask all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

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## Day 3 – Infancy and Childhood

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom and the favour of God was upon him.” Luke 2:40

Leader: Let us pray.

God and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ, grant to all babies and children the grace to increase in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour. Bless, we pray all families. May they find in the Holy Family an example and inspiration for true parenting. Bless their homes that loving wisdom and discipline may flourish, each young life loved and valued in their uniqueness.

Grant Father, to single parents, special grace to raise their children single handedly, and the support they need through grandparents and through the church and their communities. Expose we pray all abuse of children by members of their families, or persons in authority. Grant wisdom and vigilance to all teachers, child care-givers and social workers. Stir the consciences of all those who abuse children by violent words and actions that assault their bodies and their souls. Grant to them repentance. We earnestly pray for the healing of souls and bodies of children so abused. Grant to each one the grace to be able, in your time to forgive the perpetrators of their agonies. We pray for all who accompany them on their lonely journey. We ask all these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

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## Day 4 – Youth and Coming of Age

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: Jesus said to them; “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” Luke 2:49

Leader: Let us pray.

We pray for all young people seeking their identity including their sexual identity and their eternal destiny. By God’s holy protection, may none stir up or awaken love until it is ready (Song of Songs 2:7). Grant protection over them that they may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil, including the lure of casual sex, addictive substances, abortion.

Send forth Christian witnesses as labourers in this great harvest of souls, that each young person may know they have been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him in love. Give wisdom, patience and forgiving love to parents, teachers, counselors in challenging times.

Bless we pray, the catechism classes in all our parish communities and all confirmation preparations, that the power and love of the Holy Spirit may be poured into each young heart. May our bishops, priests and deacons, women religious and lay pastoral ministers be shining examples to our young people as they faithfully minister word and sacrament.

And we pray for all who seek to bring back into the fold of community life, those young people who have gone astray – for all police officers, youth workers, addiction councilors, prison officers. Give to them your compassion, O God as they perform the office of Good Shepherds. We ask these prayers through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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## Day 5– Working People

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: Jesus answered them “My Father is still working, and I also am working.”  
John 5:17

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, thank you that you are always at work making all things new and that your son, the carpenter of Nazareth and the inaugurator of your Kingdom on earth continues your work.

Thank you too, that you give each of us talents and gifts to be used in your service for subduing the earth and in order to provide for ourselves and our families and share with the human community. To this end, we pray for work opportunities to be opened up for everyone and for a just wage for all who are prepared to work diligently according to their abilities. We pray that all places of work will embody a spirit of collaboration rather than aggressive competition and foster eternal values. Let there be vigilance in maintaining safe working environments. We pray for all who are injured in the course of their work, that they might receive a just compensation. May employers treat their employees justly and fairly, knowing that they have a judge in Heaven (Col. 4:1) And since unemployment, almost always wounds its victim’s dignity and threatens the equilibrium of their lives and that of family (CCC 2436), we pray for all who, seeking work, find themselves unemployed. Keep them patient and long suffering in their affliction. We ask these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

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## Day 6 – Marriage, Parenting and Family Life

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved his church and gave himself up for her. Wives, be subject to your husbands as you are to the Lord. Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger.” Ephesians 5: 22-24

Leader: Let us pray.

Father in Heaven. In the Holy Family, you provided for your Son here on earth. You also gave to us an example of how spouses and children can live together in loving sacrifice and service. pour out your Holy Spirit upon all husbands and wives and children that they may live together in harmony in the midst of all of the pressures of modern living. May they be careful how to live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of their time together, because the days are evil. We pray especially for those marriage relationships where love has grown cold and frequent quarreling occurs. Shield your children who live amongst anger and hatred. Help them to forgive their parents.

Provide loving support for those relationships that are stressed through the care of family and friends and councilors. May the blood and water flowing from the pierced heart of Jesus heal, restore and reconcile these relationships. And Father, we pray for the divorced and separated. Give them hope and comfort that comes from knowing that you hold them in your care and will continue to unfold your loving purposes for their lives. We ask all these prayers through the precious name of Jesus our Lord. Amen. Prayer to Celebrate the Gospel of Life

## Day 7 – Middle Age and Retirement

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: "I cry out to God most high. To God who fulfills his purposes for me."

Psalm 57:2

"In that renewal there is no longer Jew or Greek, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free, but Christ is all in all." Col. 3:11

Leader: Let us pray.

We thank you that you are building in your son, the just society, the Kingdom of God where each and every person you have created – indeed the whole creation – may find its rightful and honoured place. We thank you too that your church is at the heart of this new creation for she is the very Body of your son here on earth. We pray that those who have felt excluded or actually been excluded from this communion of your chosen ones as a result of their sexual identity, gender, race, culture, disability etc. will find it in their hearts to forgive this exclusion. For our part, we deeply regret that we have not been as welcoming to all as was your Son, who was the friend of all and especially of outcasts and sinners. We pray for those in your church who are approaching retirement or are already retired, who are no longer parenting and find themselves with time on their hands. May they cry out to you to fulfill your purposes for them in their lives. We pray for all service organizations in your church. Knights of Columbus, Catholic Womens League, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Kanes Kitchen, that they may fruitfully channel this desire to sacrifice and serve your people, especially the poor, sick and the needy. Prosper their work and inspire their members, we pray.

And we ask these prayers in the all prevailing name of your Son, our LORD, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer to Celebrate the Gospel of Life

Day 8 – The Elderly

Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: "The righteous flourish like the palm tree. They are planted in the house of the Lord; they flourish in the courts of our God. In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the Lord is upright."

Psalm 92: 12-15

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, we thank you that your faithfulness is from age to age and that therefore the promise to the elderly that they shall bear fruit even in old age stands forever.

May your church ever encourage the elderly to continue to live fruitful lives in performing the role of grandparents and volunteers in society. In this way, may they grow old gracefully and be appreciated by all as a repository of wisdom and experience, a true wealth of the nations. We pray that as a society we shall always be welcoming and supportive of the elderly, bearing one another's burdens as St. Paul counsels us and so fulfil the law of Christ. (Gal 6:2) We pray for our government too, our Prime Minister, our premiers and all in authority that they may promote life, not only of the elderly but the life of the baby in the womb. The life of the young, the poor and the vulnerable in our society. We pray for hospitals and nursing homes and for the healing, restorative, merciful work they undertake. Bless Father, we pray, the hands and minds of doctors, nurses and chaplains. May they ever be and see themselves to be-channels of your healing and peace. And we pray for all who work within the justice system of our country, our police officers, our lawyers and judges, our parole officers and prison staff. May they be agents of your justice, seeking the maintenance of law and order in our society and the healing and restoration of the victims of crime and the reform and restoration of offenders to their rightful place in society. We ask all of these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our LORD. Amen.

Prayer to Celebrate the Gospel of Life

Day 9 – The Dying



Leader: In the Name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit. Amen. Our Father...

Leader: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones. – Psalm 116:15

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. – Phil. 1:21

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection of the dead. Phil 3: 10-11

Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit. – Luke 23:46

Leader: Let us pray.

Father, we thank you for the assurance we have through the death and resurrection of Jesus that just as you breathed life into us at our conception so at death our life will continue with you into all eternity. As our death is precious to you, may natural death be honoured and respected by everyone in our society. We pray that in the light of moves in our society to promote assisted suicide we will be aware of the dangers involved, dangers that human dignity will be eroded and abuses of the elderly and vulnerable take place. We pray that palliative care will be more available in our country, care that can change a patient's request for death into an appreciation for their final precious moments of life. We pray for all who counsel and care for the dying and especially for Christians, that they may bear witness to those walking through the valley of the shadow of death, that they need fear no evil, for the Lord is with them – his rod and staff comforts them. We ask all of these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ – our Lord. AMEN+

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