



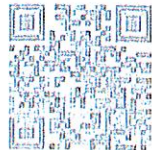
9 DAYS FOR LIFE

JANUARY 16-24

Pray to protect human life!

Join Catholics nationwide in prayer for the protection of human life! You can download the novena to get the daily prayers and reflections by email or text message.

9DAYSFORLIFE.COM



Anniversary of Roe v. Wade: On January 22, 1973, the Supreme Court legalized abortion throughout the United States in its companion decisions Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Since then, millions of children have lost their lives; millions of women and families have been wounded by abortion.

On June 24, 2022, the **Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization** decision overturned Roe v. Wade, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect preborn children. While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now, state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to preborn children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM), no. 373, designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "**Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**." The Church directs: *In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 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.*

While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now, state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to preborn children. Great prayer and advocacy is very needed. A day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life is also a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. We are each called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

The act of abortion rejects God's gift of life. Abortion destroys the life of a child, lovingly knit together in his or her mother's womb, and for someone who has participated in abortion, the loss of a child can form a hole in their heart so deep that sometimes it seems nothing can fill the emptiness. As a human and Christian family, we grieve the loss of so many lives. Yet, even in our grief, we know there is hope.

Christ came for the very purpose of redeeming our sins, offering us His forgiveness, and giving us His peace. Jesus comes to free us from the bonds of sin. And there is no sin that is beyond God's mercy. It is never too late to seek the Lord's mercy and healing through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His greatest desire is to forgive us, pouring out His infinite mercy upon us so that we may be healed. If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. You can find out more information about the Church's ministry for healing after abortion by visiting hopeafterabortion.com.

We are all sinners. But with the grace of God, we can become saints. We can be lights to the nations, sharing the truth about the irrevocable dignity of the human person. Where sin abounds, God's grace abounds all the more. Therefore, let us take courage and offer prayer and penance, that all human life would be welcomed in love and protected in law.