

Supplications for Vigil for Nascent Human Life

Let us pray to God, the Father of Life and Font of all Mercy:

Lord, have mercy on all who have sinned against life.

You knit us in our mother's womb,

**Preserve all children from bodily harm
From the moment of conception.**

Your Son ennobled all human life when he became flesh in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

**Enlighten our minds to see the dignity of every human life
From its earliest embryonic beginnings.**

You are author of science and knowledge,

**Bring an end to the destruction of human embryos
In research facilities and IVF clinics.**

You are the law-giver and ruler of the world,

Help us to overturn unjust laws that permit the destruction of innocent lives, and guide our public officials to defend the littlest among us.

You love those who are afflicted,

**Help parents of unborn children with disabilities
To cherish the baby you have entrusted to their care.**

You Son, Jesus, healed the sick,

**Guide all doctors to be guardians of life,
Especially the lives of unborn children with serious health conditions.**

Lord, you are love and mercy itself,

**Draw all who have acted against innocent human life
To repentance and forgiveness,
And heal them through an outpouring of grace.**

Prayer of John Paul II

O Mary, bright dawn of the new world,
Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life
Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy.

Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time.

Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely,

in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen. —*Evangelium Vitae, 105*



VIGIL FOR ALL NASCENT HUMAN LIFE

Vigil of First Sunday of Advent
Saturday, 27 November 2010

Marian Hymn: *Hail Holy Queen*
Breaking Bread #207

RECITATION OF THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

The First Joyful Mystery - The Annunciation of Our Lord

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-33,38)

As an angel proclaimed the conception of Christ in Mary's virginal womb, so do mothers and fathers learn every day of the conception of their child. Let us pray to the Mother of all the Living that every child be treasured and protected from the first moment of conception as an inestimable and wondrous gift of God.

The Second Joyful Mystery - The Visitation

During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." (Luke 1:39-45)

As the child in Elizabeth's womb leaped for joy when the Blessed Virgin, pregnant with the Son of God, came to meet her, so may our hearts leap with joy at the wonders of new life promised in every expectant mother.

The Third Joyful Mystery - The Nativity of Jesus

While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy

that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:6-12)

In the birth of every child we see the birth of Christ Jesus in the Bethlehem stable. Let us commend all new mothers and fathers and every newborn child to the protection and intercession of the Mother of God and Mother of all Christians.

The Fourth Joyful Mystery - The Presentation in the Temple

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." (Luke 2:25-32)

As Christ was consecrated to God at his presentation in the temple, so many we consecrate all children to that holiness, purity, and innocence by which they lead us to God. "A little child shall lead them."

The Fifth Joyful Mystery - The Finding in the Temple

Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, and when he was twelve years old, they went up according to festival custom. After they had completed its days, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety." And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. (Luke 2:41-50)

As the Christ Child was found in the temple by the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, so we pray for all children, especially those lost and forgotten. May the Gospel of Life impel us to find them when they are most in need and to lead them home to a place where they are treasured, protected, and loved.