

## SAMPLE TIMELINE

January all too often seems to race by before we know it. Returning to our regular schedules after the holidays is never easy. As the New Year unfolds, make a resolution to help your faith community begin the New Year by praying for the protection of human life.

The key to success will be getting an early start and planning ahead. Because the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* falls during the month of January, much of the planning and preparation needs to take place before or during the holidays. We have provided a sample timeline to help you prepare for the January Respect Life events, taking into consideration the holiday bustle. While these steps apply most directly to a parish coordinator, they can be adapted to help you think about key steps you can take to plan ahead in whatever capacity you serve the Church.

### NOVEMBER

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |

### DECEMBER

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

### JANUARY

| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
|    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |

#### Mid-November

- ◆ Begin by visiting [respectlife.org/action-guides](https://respectlife.org/action-guides) to review and familiarize yourself with the new materials. Download any resources you hope to utilize in January. This can include bulletin announcements, intercessions, the 9 Days for Life novena, graphics, homily notes, and the like. Begin to brainstorm about how you would like to use the provided materials to pray for life in your community.
- ◆ Request an appointment with your pastor for later in the month to discuss the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and 9 Days for Life.

#### Early December

- ◆ Meet with your pastor. Remind him about the upcoming Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (January 22), and let him know about the 9 Days for Life novena, if he is unfamiliar with it. Let him know what resources are available, such as homily notes, liturgical resources, options for readings on January 22, and prayer intercessions. Share information with him about 9 Days for Life and any ideas you may have about promoting it in your parish. Request permission for setting up a display table in the vestibule or other visible area the weekend before the start of the novena. This will allow you to highlight 9 Days for Life and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children when the entire parish community is gathered together. Also, be sure to ask permission for any bulletin submissions you have in mind and for any other special activities you would like to plan. Answer any questions he may have, such as how parishioners can sign up for 9 Days for Life. Most importantly, *ask what you can do to help*. Sometimes directly sending him resources, such as homily notes, will save him time.
- ◆ Following your conversation with your pastor, contact your parish office to open the lines of communication. Share the results of that conversation and what you are requesting from them for observing the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and participating in 9 Days for Life. Many parishes need content several weeks in advance to be able to

include it in the weekly bulletin; ask about bulletin submission policies and deadlines, and share what content you hope to have featured during the month of January. This will help your parish plan ahead and allot the necessary space in the bulletin. Again, most importantly, *ask what you can do to help.*

## Mid-December

- ◆ Complete all bulletin submissions for the month of January. This includes the flyer and/or bulletin announcement for 9 Days for Life and the announcement for the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Consider including the short reflection “[Living Out Christmas in the New Year](#)” in your bulletin or newsletter the weekends before the novena begins.
- ◆ Start recruiting volunteers to help you staff the table after each Mass the weekend before the start of the novena to help answer questions, share Respect Life resources, or assist in other ways. If internet access will be available, you may even want to consider having a computer or tablet available for parishioners to sign up for the novena on the spot at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com). This helps ensure that they won’t forget before they get home, and they’ll automatically receive reminders when the novena begins.

## First Week of January

- ◆ Touch base with your pastor to offer further assistance and confirm any plans you may have made. Reconnect with the appropriate parish staff members regarding your bulletin submissions, table display, and any other plans. This is the time to tie up any loose ends, verify that all content has been received, finalize plans, and determine whether there are any follow-up tasks to be completed.
- ◆ Begin gathering materials for your table display. Make copies of the 9 Days for Life flyer to have available at the table. For those who may not be able to access the novena electronically, print copies of the novena to have on hand. For tips on setting up a display table, visit [www.respectlife.org/action-guides](http://www.respectlife.org/action-guides).

## Weekend(s) Prior to Start of 9 Days for Life

Set up your table prior to the Saturday Vigil Mass. Coordinate with your team of volunteers to make sure friendly faces are available to share information about 9 Days for Life and the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Make sure to leave your contact information (email or phone) at the table in case any visitors have questions or need more information while you’re not there.



# BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

## 9 Days for Life

(Suggested Weekends: Two Weekends Before the Start of 9 Days for Life)

### ◆ Option 1

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, *9 Days for Life*, [\[insert dates\]](#). Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

### ◆ Option 2

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide praying the annual *9 Days for Life* novena, [\[insert dates\]](#). Sign up today at [www.9daysforlife.com](http://www.9daysforlife.com)!

## Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend Before the Day of Prayer)

### ◆ Option 1

This [\[insert day of week, month, date\]](#), the Church in the United States observes the annual “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” This day is set aside to pray for the legal protection of human life and to do penance for the violations to human dignity through abortion. We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance. More information: [respectlife.org/january-22](http://respectlife.org/january-22).

### ◆ Option 2

**Did You Know?** This [\[insert day of week\]](#), January 22, the Church in the United States observes the annual “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children.” We are called to observe this day through prayer and penance. [respectlife.org/january-22](http://respectlife.org/january-22)

## Healing after Abortion

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend Before the Day of Prayer)

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, compassionate help is available. Visit [HopeAfterAbortion.org](http://HopeAfterAbortion.org).

## PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 9 Days for Life

(Suggested Weekends: Two Weekends Before the Start of 9 Days for Life)

#### ◆ Option 1

You're invited to join thousands of Catholics nationwide in prayer for the respect of human life during a special novena called *9 Days for Life*. Visit [9daysforlife.com](http://9daysforlife.com) to sign up to receive daily intentions from January [insert start date] through the [insert end date].

#### ◆ Option 2

You're invited to join Catholics nationwide in praying for the respect of human life. The annual *9 Days for Life* novena will take place from January [insert start date] through the [insert end date]. See the bulletin for more information.

#### ◆ Option 3

Join Catholics nationwide in a special Respect Life novena called *9 Days for Life* from January [insert start date] through the [insert end date]. Please see the bulletin for more information.

### Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

(Suggested Weekend: Weekend Before the Day of Prayer)

#### ◆ Option 1

[Insert day of the week] is the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children," which Catholics are called to observe through prayer and penance. Please see the bulletin for more information.

#### ◆ Option 2

[Insert day of the week] is the annual "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children." Catholics are called to observe this day through prayer and penance.

## INTERCESSIONS

These sample intercessions were written for use during the month of January to help observe the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (January 22); however, many can be used throughout the year. These intentions are appropriate for inclusion in the Prayer of the Faithful at Sunday Mass.

They can also be printed in the weekly bulletin, included at a local Respect Life march or rally, featured in email newsletters, shared on social media platforms, or prayed during personal or family prayer times.

For the legal protection of unborn children and for loving support for their mothers before and after their births;  
**We pray to the Lord:**

May all who suffer from participating in abortion turn to God's loving forgiveness;  
**We pray to the Lord:**

For public servants:  
May God grant them the humility, wisdom, and courage to defend all human life;  
**We pray to the Lord:**

For our nation:  
May God unite us in peace and respect for each other and reverence for all human life;  
**We pray to the Lord:**

May friends and families of women with difficult pregnancies provide loving, life-affirming support for both mother and child;  
**We pray to the Lord:**

