

The Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Pro-life Litanies

Litany 1

(Note: The response to these intercessions is “Lord, hear our prayer” or whatever the community usually uses. Additional intercessions for local or current needs should be added to the following which may be freely adapted to particular circumstances.)

Pastor: God has called us to listen to his word. Let us make our prayers known to him.

Deacon or Reader: Our response is: “Lord, hear our prayer.”

For all the leaders of the church, that their witness for life might inspire us and make us strong; We pray to the Lord:

For the President of the United States and for all who advise him, that God might give them the wisdom to lead us with justice, and compassion for those who are weak, broken and defenseless; We pray to the Lord:

For the members of the Supreme Court, that like holy Solomon, they might temper justice with compassion and proclaim by their lives a dedication to what is right and true; We pray to the Lord:

For all who work for justice, that one in mind and heart, we might follow the way of Jesus; We pray to the Lord:

For all mothers, for those who carry their child within the embrace of their womb, that God might fill them with strength, hope and joy; for mothers who have lost children to abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth, that God would be with them in their grief and bring them healing; We pray to the Lord:

For all doctors, nurses and health care providers, that their love for life might heal, strengthen and nourish; We pray to the Lord:

For all families throughout the world and for peace, that it might live in the hearts of all God’s children; We pray to the Lord:

Intercessions for the Poor, the Old and The Dying

For those who have grown old or weak or sick, that we might learn to value their wisdom and cherish their lives;

For a growing love of justice and life, that God’s will might reign in our hearts;

For an end to selfishness and racism, that we might love all whom God sends to us;

For those who would kill themselves in fear and in pain; That Christ's love for them might give them hope;

For a Just Nation

Intercessions

For the President of the United States and all who advise him, for our Senator _____ and our Congressman _____ that they may defend life from conception to natural death;

That God might inspire the hearts of men and women to the vocation of government service, filling their hearts with a love for the Gospel of life.

For the citizens of the United States of America, that they might choose rightly, with a love for truth, justice and love;

An Old Testament Litany for Life

Lord, have mercy!

Christ, have mercy!

Lord, have mercy!

Respond to each: Lord; you give us life!

You breathed life into Adam

You formed Eve from flesh

You saved Noah from the flood

You heard the cry of innocent blood

You spared the life of Cain

You filled Sarah's old womb

You gave Abraham a son

You preserved the life of Jacob

O Shepherd of Joseph

You punished those who took life

You place before us life and death

You restore lost life

You nourish the aged and weak

You delivered Saul from David

You redeemed the life of David

You gave Solomon length of days

You raised the child by Elijah's cry

We are precious in your sight

You made the Syrian clean

You have Job steadfast love

You show us the path of life

You deliver us from the wicked

You give us length of days

You deliver us from the sword
Stronghold of my life
You root out fear
You restore us from the pit
You redeem the life of your servants
You rescue us from the lions
O Fountain of life
O Light of life
You know the measure of our days
O God my life
You give me a priceless life
Upholder of my life
You lead us in the light of life
Your love is better than life
You preserve us from the enemy
You redeem us from oppression
Your promise gives me life
You preserve us from the enemy
You redeem us from oppression
Your promise gives me life
Your steadfast love spares us
In justice you give us life

LITANY 2

(Note: The response to these intercessions is “Lord, hear our prayer” or whatever the community usually uses. Additional intercessions for local or current needs should be added to the following which may be freely adapted to particular circumstances.)

EUTHANASIA

Pastor: God, the Creator of all things, has given us stewardship over life: We are to foster it and protect it. Let us ask his help in our appointed tasks.

Pastor: May the Church treasure the lives of the powerless as God treasures them, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

May those who have lost consciousness or the ability to communicate receive what is due to them as God’s children: the protection of the law, the respect of doctors and nurses, and the abiding love of their families, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

May the families of those who are unconscious never despair of God’s goodness and never forget that the life of their loved one is always precious to him, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

May all who attend the sick see in patients who are aged, unconscious, and gravely debilitated God's precious gift of life, entrusted to their stewardship, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

May we who profess to follow Christ never see a person's productivity, physical dexterity, or mental acuity as the measure of the quality of their life, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Pastor Father of mercies, the wondrous quality of human life comes from you. By your grace, help us to reverence and protect the lives of those who are silenced by age or illness, or who suffer intensely. For our reverence proclaims your mastery over life and death, and the protection we give shows the sacred dignity of every human person. We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.

ABORTION

Pastor: The destruction of innocent unborn human life contradicts God's very purpose in creating us. Let us intercede for our society, that its terrible defiance of God's will may come to an end.

Pastor: Let us pray that as the Church defends unborn life, it may proclaim the Gospel's teaching with clarity and firmness, as a service to a dangerously confused world. For this, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Let us pray that the plight of the unborn will move our civil leaders to risk unpopularity and support these children's inalienable right to life. For this, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Let us pray that women considering abortion will heed the call of the Holy Spirit to share life. For them, in their fear and confusion, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Let us pray for the conversion of doctors, nurses, and others who provide abortion services. That their eyes will be opened to the effect of their actions, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Let us pray for the evangelization of our society. That we may examine the causes of unwanted pregnancy in the light of Gospel truth, let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Let us pray for the healing of women who have had an abortion: through the ministry of the Church may they find reconciliation with their God and with themselves. Let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Let us pray for all infants who have died in abortions. May Jesus recognize them as his own and bring them to the heavenly place where all violence is at an end. Let us pray to the Lord. **R.**

Pastor: Father of mercies, defend the work of your hands against untimely and undeserved death. Save the unborn who bear your image, and cleanse our society of the scourge of abortion, which obscures your likeness in those who practice it and those who tolerate it. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

LITANY 3: LITANY FOR HOLY INNOCENTS

O Gracious Father, who formed us in our mother's womb,

Have mercy upon us.

O Ever living Savior, who came that all men might have life.

Have mercy upon us.

O Gracious Spirit, Lord and giver of life,

Have mercy upon us.

O Lord Jesus, who forgave those who hurt you, forgive our direct and passive participation in the abortion of life.

Forgive us, O Lord.

For the misuse of the gift of our sexual nature,

Forgive us, O Lord.

For not honoring children as a gift from you, created in your image,

Forgive us, O Lord.

For separating in heart and mind the birth of a child and the sexual union of man and wife,

Forgive us, O Lord.

For our lust, expressed through adultery, fornication, abuse, self-indulgence, and fantasy,

Forgive us, O Lord.

For neglecting the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual development of the children you have given us,

Forgive us, O Lord.

As you forgave the man caught in adultery,

Forgive us, O Lord.

As you forgave the thief on the cross,

Forgive us, O Lord.

As you forgave those who participated in your death,

Forgive us, O Lord.

As you forgave the apostles who left you alone,

Forgive us, O Lord.

Lord Jesus, who will come to be our judge, we ask you to hear us and send your Holy Spirit upon the Supreme Court of our land, that they will reverse their decision with respect to abortion,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

O God our Father, you who gave Moses the law to guide the people of Israel, we ask you to hear us and guide the Congress and State Legislatures to adopt such laws that will protect children who are not yet born and aid mothers who wish their children to live,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

For your Body, the Church that it may be an instrument of forgiveness, comfort and healing, that through it, means will be made available by which fathers, mothers, and babies will be saved,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

For _____, that you will give us clear guidance of your will for us, the actions we should take, and the people we should help,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

For all women with child who are fearful and undecided, give them the love and courage to give birth to their baby,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

For all fathers who are ashamed and fearful of what they have done, give them a heart of compassion and courage to exercise responsibility to care for the child they have helped create and to encourage and help the woman who bears it,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

For all families who adopt a child, that by your grace they will raise this child to love you and all that you give them,

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

For all unwed mothers who keep their babies, that by your grace and providence, a father's love will be provided the child and a husband's love be provided for the mother.

We ask you to hear us, O Lord.

O Gracious Father, spare our country this city from your wrath and judgment for our sins. Spare us and forgive us for the sake of your Son, Jesus.

Heavenly Father, ever merciful and compassionate, have mercy and forgive those who have had abortions and those who perform them. Change their hearts, and though we hate the sins you hate, give us a heart to also love as you do those persons for whom your Son died and rose, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God, our Father, we give you our thanks for the gift of life. Through your ever present Spirit, restore in us, our children and those to be born, your image which we see in Jesus Christ your Son, in whose Name, we pray.

LITANY 4: THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy."

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For those in positions of public trust, especially George our President, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For the end of legalized abortion and the protection of all unborn children from an untimely death, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all counselors advising abortion and doctors performing them, that their hearts would be turned toward the children and their minds enlightened about the sanctity of all life, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all women contemplating abortion, that they would hear God's Word to unborn children: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you"; we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all women who have had abortions, that their grief would be consoled and their scars healed, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For Crisis Pregnancy Centers around the world and others working to provide alternatives to abortion, that they would be strengthened in your service and bold in their witness, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For this congregation, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary who when faced with an unexpected pregnancy said, "Let it be to me according to your word," and in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our Lord,

People: Lord, have mercy.

LITANY 5

(Scripture passages from the New International Version)

Leader: So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

PEOPLE: We praise you, O Lord God Almighty, because you did create us, your human creatures, and YOU created us in your own image.

Leader: The Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7)

PEOPLE: We praise you O Lord, because you created us in your own image and breathed into us your breath of life, the life of God himself.

Leader: Whoever sheds the blood of man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man. (Genesis 9:8).

PEOPLE: O blessed Lord, help us always to recognize that life is a precious gift from you, to be respected, protected, and preserved.

Leader: I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life. (Deuteronomy 30:19-20)

PEOPLE: Blessed Lord, may we always make the right and wise choice of life, instead of death and may we always love you, our God, in whom we find life.

Leader: Whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the Lord, but whoever fails to find me harms himself; all who hate me love death. (Proverbs 8:35-36)

PEOPLE: O blessed Lord Jesus, we would find you and in finding you find life. May we always turn aside from thie ways of death, and love you who are I the giver of life.

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ declared, "I am the resurrection and the life," and he also said, "I am the way, the truth and the life." He also promised, "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." The Apostle John affirmed, "In him was life, and that life was the light of men." (John 11:25; 14:6; 10:10; 1:4.)

PEOPLE: Lord Jesus, may we all experience the fullness of your life, and may we ever rejoice and praise you for the gift of our own lives, infused and inspired by your divine life. May we work and pray for the time when physical life will not be denied to anyone and when all people can have the opportunity to receive the abundant life you have promised.

Leader: Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb...On each side of the river stood the tree of life...and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. (Revelation 22:1-2)

PEOPLE: Blessed Lord Jesus, King of our lives, may the water of life flow through us, and may the tree of life bring healing to our lives, our nation, and our world. Grant, we beseech you O merciful Father in heaven, that the healing of our nation from the awful sin of abortion begin with us.

ALL: We worship and adore you, Eternal Father, for creating us and it sustaining us by your own life. We worship and adore you, blessed Savior, for laying down your life for us. We worship and adore you, O divine Spirit of God, for your life-giving witness in our hearts. O blessed Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, renew in us our gratitude for the gift of life and may we always treasure this gift as from you. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray. AMEN.

LITANY 6: A Litany for NOEL

Heavenly Father, we enter into your courts with thanksgiving and praise, approaching the throne of grace with confidence, not on our own merits, but by the merits and meditation of our great High Priest, Jesus the son of God, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need:

For your faithful people, that we might be protected as we bear witness to your truth, May the angels of God watch over us and the Holy Spirit be a shield round about us to keep us from all assaults of the enemy.

For all those in positions of leadership, both in our country and in our church, May their eyes be opened to the evil of abortion and may they have the courage to take a stand for righteousness and life.

For all the preborn children who have violently died before they even had a chance to live, May our gracious and merciful savior receive them into His loving arms in the glorious Kingdom of God.

For all of the mothers and fathers who arms are empty and hearts are broken because of their choice to abort their children,
May they come to healing and wholeness in Christ as they repent of their sin and receive grace and forgiveness. Please touch their hearts in a fresh way today, Lord, and give us grace to minister to them.

For those who promote the practice of abortion either by choice or by default,
May the Holy Spirit convict them of their sin and bring them to true repentance and amendment of life.

For our witness today, that above all else You will be exalted,
May all that we do and all that we say bring honor and glory to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.