

WORD OF LIFE: OCTOBER 2021

Recommended dates are provided, but you are welcome to use these materials at any time!

Respect Life Month 2021: St. Joseph, defender of life



The 2021 Respect Life Month resources are to assist you in helping Catholics understand, value, and become engaged with building a culture that cherishes every human life.

A variety of materials are available to order in print or to download online. Visit [respectlife.org/respect-life-month!](https://respectlife.org/respect-life-month)

Featured Resources

[Respect Life Month Action Guide](#)

(a sample timeline, action ideas, & more!)

[Respect Life Reflection](#)

[Graphics](#)

[Homily Helps](#)

Poster ([Download](#) / [Order](#))

Prayer Card ([Download](#) / [Order](#))

Sample Pulpit Announcements

Option 1: Respect Life Sunday (October 3)

Today is Respect Life Sunday, which kicks off Respect Life Month. We consider more deeply why *every* human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects it. See the bulletin for more information.

Option 2: Respect Life Month (any weekend in October)

Every October, we celebrate Respect Life Month. We consider more deeply why *every* human life is valuable and reflect on how to build a culture that protects life from conception to natural death. See the bulletin for more information.

Sample Bulletin Announcement

Option 1: Respect Life Sunday (October 3)

Today is Respect Life Sunday!
Join Catholics nationwide in celebrating Respect Life Month! respectlife.org/celebrate

View, download, and order Respect Life materials! www.respectlife.org

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Intercessions for Life

October 3rd

For all Catholics:
On this Respect Life Sunday,
may we resolve anew
to protect the gift of every human life;
We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time**
*(Also observed in the U.S. as
Respect Life Sunday)*

October 10th

May God grant us the wisdom and courage
to lovingly protect His gift of human life
at every stage, in sickness and in health;
We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-eighth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

October 17th

That the life of every person,
from conception to natural death,
will be protected in our laws
and cherished in our hearts;
We pray to the Lord:

**Twenty-ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

October 24th

For women and men suffering after abortion:
May the Church's abortion healing ministry,
Project Rachel, help them find forgiveness and
peace through Christ's endless mercy;
We pray to the Lord:

**Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

October 31st

For those nearing the end of life:
May they place their faith in Christ
and be strengthened in hope
for eternal life with Him;
We pray to the Lord:

**Thirty-first Sunday
in Ordinary Time**

October 3rd

“St. Joseph’s ‘yes’ to the Lord meant that regardless of the hardship and personal sacrifice to himself, he consistently chose to put the needs of Mary and Jesus before his own. Joseph’s devotion helps reveal to us our own call to show special care for the lives of those whom God has entrusted to us.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: St. Joseph, Defender of Life
respectlife.org/reflection-joseph

October 10th

“An old Irish proverb says, ‘It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.’ Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life’s end, we may not know how best to ‘shelter’ them. Here are some concrete ways we can compassionately care for them: usccb.org/end-of-life-care.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Caring for Loved Ones at Life’s End

October 17th

“Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God’s humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child... Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“A Prayer to St. Joseph, Defender of Life”
respectlife.org/prayer-to-st-joseph

October 24th

“I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The Church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. ...But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. ...The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.”

Pope Saint John Paul II, Evangelium vitae, no. 99. © 1995, Libreria Editrice Vaticana.
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October 31st

“Those who die in God’s grace and friendship live forever with Christ. Heaven is a true and lasting relationship with God that is beyond all earthly description and understanding.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
“Catholic Considerations for Our Earthly Passing”
www.usccb.org/end-of-life-considerations

Project Rachel is the Catholic Church’s ministry of healing and reconciliation to those who have been wounded by a past abortion. Call in strictest confidence: 508-791-HOPE (4673). Trust in God’s mercy!

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