

# WORD OF LIFE: DECEMBER 2020

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

## FEATURED THIS MONTH...

### Advent

The season of Advent is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to preparing for the celebration of the Lord's birth on Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time. During this time of preparation and expectant waiting, we also remember expectant mothers who are preparing for the birth of their children. This Advent season, consider highlighting the article "10 Ways to Support Her When She's Unexpectedly Expecting." (It is available in a variety of formats at the bottom of [this webpage](#).)



## [Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)

*Patronal feast day of the United States of America (December 8, 2020)*



On December 8, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin. (While normally a holy day of obligation, most dioceses continue to dispense the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass during the pandemic.) On this feast, we celebrate Mary's conception free from the stain of Original Sin, and we recognize that Mary's life began at the moment she was conceived in the womb of St. Anne. So, too, does every human life begin at the moment of conception, when it is lovingly knit together by God the Father.

The Immaculate Conception is sometimes confused with the Annunciation. This [bulletin insert](#) can be used to help differentiate these two important celebrations. On this Solemnity, consider praying Pope Francis' [Prayer for the Immaculate Conception](#): "We are in need of your immaculate gaze, to rediscover the ability to look upon persons and things with respect and awareness." You can also offer this [prayer for religious liberty](#), which seeks, on the front of the [prayer card](#), the intercession of Mary Immaculate.

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## **Intercessions for Life**

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

May God move us to prepare the way of the Lord  
by acting with tenderness and compassion,  
especially toward the most vulnerable among us;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**December 8<sup>th</sup>**

For women who are unexpectedly pregnant:  
May they be filled with trust in God's providence  
and lovingly welcome the gift of their child;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

For all victims of human trafficking:  
That they may find hope and healing  
in the Lord who proclaims liberty to captives  
and release to prisoners;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child:  
May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph  
and follow their example  
of cherishing and protecting human life;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**December 25<sup>th</sup>**

For all Christians:  
That the wondrous birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
may awaken our hearts to the priceless gift of every child;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

For all families:  
That as the domestic Church  
they may seek to pursue holiness,  
pass on the faith, and persevere in love;  
*We pray to the Lord:*

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**Solemnity of the Immaculate  
Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)**

**Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus,  
Mary and Joseph**

## Bulletin Quotes

### December 6<sup>th</sup>

“Jesus calls each of us to ‘care for the other as a person for whom God has made us responsible’ (EV 87). ...The encyclical *The Gospel of Life* recognizes the full range of threats against human life, from poverty and malnutrition to murder and war. Particular emphasis, however, is placed on threats to life at its beginning and end—precisely when it is most in need of protection. In modern times, children in their mothers’ wombs and those approaching the end of their lives are certainly among the ‘least of these’ in our world’s estimation.”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
2020-2021 Respect Life Reflection, [www.respectlife.org/reflection](http://www.respectlife.org/reflection)



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### December 13<sup>th</sup>

“O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery; Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free.”

USCCB , “Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita”



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### December 20<sup>th</sup>

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother.” Learn ten tips at [respectlife.org/support-her](http://respectlife.org/support-her).

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”



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### December 27<sup>th</sup>

“Like Our Blessed Mother welcomed Jesus, we are called to cherish and protect the gift of human life, at every stage and in every circumstance.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities  
“[Living Out Christmas in the New Year](#)”



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## WORD OF LIFE - December 2020

### Bulletin Art

You are welcome to use these and other downloadable images from the online [Respect Life image gallery](#), provided they are not altered in any way, other than the size. Thank you!

**Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Featuring [“Live the Gospel of Life”](#)



- [Graphic](#)
- [Bulletin Insert](#)

**Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Featuring [“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”](#)



- Bulletin Box: [English](#) | [Spanish](#)

**Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Featuring [“Living Out Christmas in the New Year”](#)



- [Graphic and Reflection](#)

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