

# Nine Days of Prayer

for the protection of human life and  
for prolife candidates in the 2024 General Election

October 28 – November 5, 2024

Please join Right to Life of North Macomb County as we pray that voters – especially those of faith – will elect candidates who will defend and promote the God-given, unalienable right to life of all human beings, born and unborn, from conception to natural death. Together, we can build a Culture of Life and transform our nation.

## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 1

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for October 28

*May every person's life be protected and cared for from conception to natural death.*

*Our Father...*

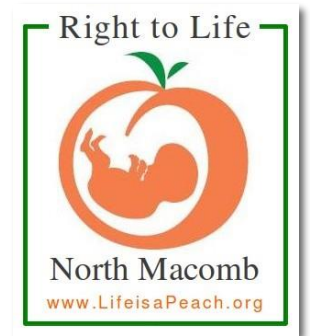
### Reflection

God has loved you from all eternity and longs for a close relationship with *you*. In Scripture, He says, “Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you” (Jer 1:5). God has made you in His image and likeness, allowing you to share in and reflect His own glory. You were chosen by God, created *out of love* and *for love*. Your life is sacred, unique, irreplaceable, and good. And this reality is true for every human person. Each time we encounter another, we are standing on holy ground.

Human life is sacred at every moment and in every circumstance. The vulnerability of new life, the frailties of old age, and the challenges we face in between never diminish our God-given dignity. The life each of us has been given is always worth living. It is a gift that we are called to cherish and protect because God has willed us to exist through His love. And the same is true for the lives of others. Understanding our own goodness and dignity helps us see the sacredness of every human person. In response, we are called to treat each person accordingly—to welcome, care for, protect, and defend the gift of every person's life from its very beginning to its natural end.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Fast from one meal today.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 2

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for October 29

*May every child in his or her mother's womb be protected in law and welcomed in love.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

Scripture tells us that God fashioned human life in His image and likeness as the crown of all creation—but He didn't stop there. His love for us was so great that He became human, further elevating the dignity of our humanity. Jesus was conceived in Mary's womb and, like each one of us, grew and developed as a preborn child beneath the shelter of His mother's heart. This simultaneously reveals the undeniable humanity of preborn children and the intrinsic value of all human life.

Abortion tragically rejects these truths, ending the life of a child and harming those involved in a variety of ways. Like the mother of Jesus, we are called to welcome, protect, and nurture the gift of new life from its first and most fragile moments. Following Jesus means caring for and protecting those who are most vulnerable and helping others to do the same. May each of us work to ensure life is protected and cherished in our laws and in our hearts.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Disconnect today. Use your phone only for essential tasks and communication. Mute notifications and alerts. Allow God to speak to you in the silence.
- Read and meditate on Psalm 139. Reflect on God's particular and perfect love for you. Consider the incomprehensible dignity of every human life and how God is calling you to protect it.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 3

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for October 30

*May all who suffer after participation in abortion find healing in Christ's unending mercy.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

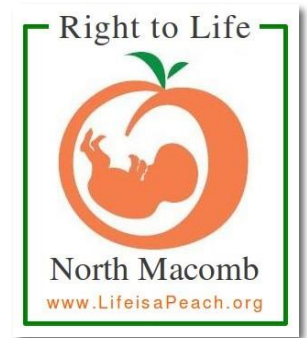
From the beginning of creation, throughout Scripture, and most perfectly in the life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus, God has revealed Himself as love itself. In His infinite love for us, God desires nothing more than to forgive our sins and offer us His mercy. Many sadly believe that abortion is "the unforgivable sin," but God desires to forgive *every* sin, including the sin of abortion.

No sin is unforgiveable, and no sinner is beyond redemption. We have all failed and we are all in need of God's mercy. It is for this very reason that Christ suffered, died, and rose again. Christ came to offer us His infinite love and mercy, and we can receive it in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Throughout salvation history, God has welcomed repentant sinners with special joy. In the parable of the lost sheep, Jesus assures us that, "there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need of repentance" (Lk 15:7). Jesus never rejects a humble and contrite heart. With confidence, let us run into the outstretched arms of Christ's mercy.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Abstain from your usual coffee, tea, or favorite beverage today.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention.



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 4

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for October 31

*May pregnant and parenting moms find life-affirming help for themselves and their children through the Christian community.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

Mary traveled to the hill country “in haste” to visit her cousin Elizabeth (Lk 1:39). Despite being unexpectedly pregnant herself, Mary responds to the news of Elizabeth’s pregnancy with *urgency*, embarking on a journey that was probably difficult and spending the next three months at Elizabeth’s side.

Mary’s example invites us to become more aware of the needs of pregnant and parenting moms in our own communities. A woman with an unexpected pregnancy may have any number of fears and challenges: facing judgment from her friends and family, losing her job or housing, or being abandoned by the father of her child. The needs and challenges of single mothers can be immense, and resources are often not apparent for those most in need of support. Mothers in difficult circumstances should see the Church as a place for friendship, help, and support. Mary’s witness is an invitation to each of us to step up in love and compassion. It is a summons to *make haste* to help mothers who may be isolated and alone. May we, the body of Christ, do all we can to provide mothers, children, and families with the support they need to flourish.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Fast from television and social media today. Spend some time praying and reflecting on how God may be asking you to help build a culture of life in your home, workplace, or church community.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 5

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for November 1

*May all people with disabilities be treated with respect and their lives protected.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

We live in a culture that idolizes productivity, efficiency, and independence, often measuring a person by what he or she can *do*. These and other false standards are used to determine whether someone’s life is considered worth living. But God’s love—individual, real, unchanging—is the true source of our dignity. Because His love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives.

The Gospels recount that Jesus constantly drew close to those who were ill or had a disability. He calls us to care for others, especially those who are in need—material or otherwise—and reminds us, “Whatever you did for one of these... you did for me” (Mt 25:40). Looking through the eyes of His love, we can see in every person his living image. Every person is a *wonder* of God’s creation, reflects God Himself, and has been created for eternal life with Him. Every person, every life is a gift. Let us bear witness to this truth in our words and actions.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Sleep without your pillow tonight. Offer this small sacrifice for today’s intention.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 6

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for November 2

*May all who are ill or nearing death receive care that meets all their needs and upholds the gift of their lives.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

Some people, in desperation, tragically seek to end their lives through assisted suicide. But they typically don't want to die. Instead, they have fears of helplessness, pain, or dependency. They may fear being perceived as a "burden" by their family. The patient requesting assisted suicide often asks, "Does anyone care enough to talk me out of this request and support me at this difficult time?" Assisted suicide offers only false compassion and a misguided sense of mercy. Rather than addressing the patients' problems, assisted suicide eliminates the life of a patient in need of authentic care.

People who are ill or dying should receive care that meets their needs and upholds the gift of their lives. Palliative care (which is not limited to the dying process) and hospice care embody a comprehensive and integrated approach that seeks to provide physical, psychological, social, familial, and spiritual support for those who are sick or dying. We need to surround those going through serious illness or the dying process with love, support, and companionship. Every life is worth living.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Incorporate small acts of service this day: let someone go ahead of you in line; complete a chore for a family member; be patient in traffic; text a friend to let them know you are praying for them; or take time to ask how a coworker is doing and listen attentively.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 7

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for November 3

*May healthcare always respect God's design and protect His gift of human life.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

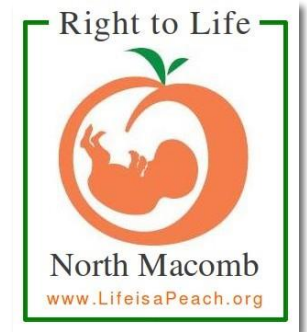
Jesus' care for those who were sick provided a model for all healthcare. His healing mission wasn't limited to physical afflictions. Rather, He reached people at the deepest level of their existence, healing them in mind, body, and soul, calling them to new life in Him.

Healthcare professionals have been entrusted with a special vocation to share in carrying forth God's life-giving and healing work. The care they give must be in keeping with the well-being of the person in mind, body, and spirit and always have as its goal the protection of human life—never its destruction.

Yet in an age of rapid scientific and technological developments, as well as profound social change, this is not always the case. There are many instances in healthcare settings in which God's design for the human person is violated. Abortion, assisted suicide, and euthanasia are just some examples among many. Authentic healthcare must always have as its goal the service and care of human life, and never its destruction.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Sacrifice snacking today. Enjoy three small, simple meals but refrain from eating in between.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today's intention



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 8

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for November 4

*May our nation end its use of the death penalty, bearing witness to the dignity of every human life.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

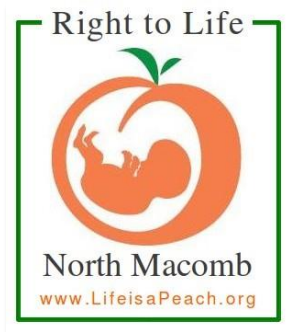
We believe and put our hope in a merciful and loving God, conscious of our own brokenness and need for redemption. Our Lord calls us to imitate Him by witnessing to the inherent dignity of every person, including those whose actions have been despicable. “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Mt 5:7) and “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Mt 9:13).

God refuses to take Cain’s life as punishment for killing his brother. But God’s justice requires that Cain live the rest of his earthly life as a wanderer, reminding us that not even a murderer loses his personal dignity, and God Himself pledges to guarantee this. Thus, the paradoxical mystery of the merciful justice of God is shown forth.

As the culture of death threatens to select who does and who does not deserve life, we must uphold that *all* human life has invaluable dignity and worth. As Christians, we are called to witness to the Gospel of life, hope, and mercy.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Embrace silence today. Refrain from listening to music or podcasts during mundane moments of your day like commuting, cooking, or cleaning. Instead, turn your attention to God’s voice without noise or distractions.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention



## Nine Days of Prayer - Day 9

With the General Election almost upon us, let us pray for the protection of human life and for prolife candidates:

### Special Intention for November 5

*May Christians and people of all faiths help build a culture that cherishes every person as a precious gift from God.*

*Our Father...*

### Reflection

Human life is under attack in countless ways in our culture today. In the face of so many threats to life, we may become discouraged and wonder how we can make a difference. As Christians, we depend not on our own strength, but on God and His Spirit moving within us.

Changing the culture is a process of conversion that begins in our own hearts. We are called to draw close to Jesus, willing to be instructed in His truth and transformed by His love. When we encounter Christ, experience His love, and deepen our relationship with Him, we come to a greater understanding of our own worth and that of others.

As we become more united with Jesus, it becomes easier to perceive how He is guiding us. God has given each of us particular gifts, and with those gifts He entrusts us with a role and duty within our community.

There are many ways to help build a culture that cherishes the gift of human life, including service, advocacy, education, and civic engagement, for example. With prayer as our essential foundation, may God guide each of us in how we are uniquely called to contribute to a culture of life.

### Acts of Reparation (choose one)

- Talk to your pastor or elder about ways your church can help promote and defend an authentic culture of life in the community.
- Offer some other sacrifice, prayer, or act of penance that you feel called to do for today’s intention

