



Respect Life Month is an initiative of the US Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), the hierarchy of Catholic Bishops who promote the common good which the Church offers humankind. Although October is dedicated to “Respect Life”, every day of the year is dedicated to the Church’s mission to live the heart of Jesus’ message, the Gospel of Life; to teach reverence for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death and organize for its protection

This year’s theme is “Mary, Mother of Life” featuring the beautiful image, *Virgin of the Lilies* by William-Adolphe Bouguereau. The message, “Mary, Mother of Life,” reflects on Our Lady’s distinguished role as mother of all the living. The life of the Blessed Mother teaches us to respect each human life in every stage and circumstance. We ask her intercession in helping all of us to recognize the gift of human life, even when that gift is unexpected or calls us to make sacrifices. Mary, Mother of Life will lead us fearlessly into the heart of Jesus.

Pray.

Prayer is not about doing but about being with God who gave you life and holds you in existence with His love. This year’s prayer is a litany seeking the intercession of the Blessed Mother in her distinguished role as mother of all the living; the model of self-giving love. This year’s Litany prayer cards can be found at the church entrance and online. Pray for life. <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/litany-blessed-virgin-mary-mother-life>

Novena for Life October 22-30, please sign up. <https://www.respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena>

Learn.

Form your mind and conscience to understand the issues that are a violation against human life. Some of these issues are listed below. Form your heart to fully receive God’s love for you and every human life.

Abortion Pills harms and risks including risk to Human Trafficking

https://www.usccb.org/resources/What_Are_Abortion_Pills.pdf

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/sl/iLd6hbl>

Abortion Pill Reversal

24/7 hotline 877-558-0333

<https://abortionpillreversal.com/contact>

Post Abortion Help

Sisters of Life: <https://sistersoflife.org/healing-after-abortion/>

Project Rachel: <https://hopeafterabortion.com>

Physician Assisted Suicide (MAiD/Medical Aid in Dying) is authorized in 13 states and Washington D.C. Learn the issue, understand Catholic teaching and guidance and pay attention to updates locally through the CT Catholic Conference.

<https://ctcatholic.org>

<https://www.catholicendoflife.org/>

<https://sistersoflife.org/end-of-life/>

Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Healthcare Services (updated December, 2025)

https://www.usccb.org/resources/ERDs-7th-ed-Approved_2025-11-12.pdf

Serve.

There are many ways to serve. An initiative of the USCCB, Walking with Moms in Need is an effort at the local level to become aware of and connect mothers to community resources and support. Our parish already has many ways to support mothers. SJB Respect Life website will be updated soon with an extensive list of resources. In the meantime, please contact Catherine Shannon (cathshan@gmail.com) with questions.

Take Action.

Stay updated on the laws, proposed legislation and policies that impact human life and dignity, parental authority and religious freedom. Sign up for notifications so that you can respond to our elected officials at the state and federal levels.

Federal: <https://www.votervoice.net/USCCB/register>

Connecticut: <https://action.ctcatholicpac.org/join>