



LCRL PRAYER PARTNERS

JANUARY: SANCTITY OF LIFE

Each Life a Candle to Light the Future

From the very first cries of Virginia Dare in 1587, born at Roanoke Colony, the sanctity of life became intertwined with the story of America. Though the “Lost Colony” vanished, her birth symbolized hope in the wilderness—a fragile reminder that life itself was the most precious gift in the struggle to plant English roots in the New World. Years later, in Jamestown, Virginia Laydon’s survival through famine in 1609 testified to resilience. Her life was proof that families could endure even amid starvation and conflict. And in 1620, aboard the Mayflower, Peregrine White was born in Provincetown Harbor, the first English child of the Pilgrims in New England. His life embodied a living witness to liberty sought across the Atlantic.

These early births were not merely private joys; they were public signs of endurance. Each child represented the covenant of survival, the promise that fragile settlements could grow into communities, and communities into a nation. The sanctity of life was not an abstract principle—it was lived in the cradle, in the prayers of parents, and in the hope of posterity.

When the Declaration of Independence was penned in 1776, its most famous words—“life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness”—placed life first. The founders understood that liberty could not exist without the protection of life. Eleven years later, the Constitution echoed this truth in its preamble, pledging to “secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.” Posterity meant children yet unborn, the generations whose lives would be safeguarded by the new republic.

The sanctity of life has continued to shape the conscience of the United States. From abolitionists who defended the dignity of enslaved lives, to reformers who fought for the vulnerable, the principle that every life is sacred has remained a moral compass. Today, it still plays a vital role in public debate, reminding citizens that freedom is inseparable from protecting the most vulnerable.

The Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty carries this legacy forward, advocating for life as a cornerstone of religious freedom. By defending the unborn and affirming the dignity of every person, it echoes the conviction that animated the earliest colonists and the framers of the nation: that life is a divine gift from God, entrusted to a people who must cherish and protect it.

Thus, from the candle lit by Virginia Dare to the Constitution’s promise of posterity, the sanctity of life has been the heartbeat of America’s story—an enduring covenant of hope, liberty, and faith.

Let Us Pray:

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 1 Timothy 2:1-2 ESV

Father, You are the Lord of life. We give you thanks for the gift of children. By Your grace, enable all people to embrace all human beings, especially the most vulnerable; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Lord, we cry to You on behalf of the unborn, that their lives may be preserved with the full protection of the law and their care supported by the full resources of the medical arts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Let Us Encourage:

PRINT – PERSONALIZE – Pray

The LCRL asks that you would commit to pray for those people and organizations that labor on behalf of the unborn during the month of January.

Please see:

<https://lcmslife.org/>

There are many more national, regional, or local organizations that advocate for life, providing resources and opportunities for service.

You are encouraged to list the organizations near you on the book mark and intentionally pray for them during the month of January.

Thank you

Please feel free to personalize this bookmark with the name(s) of the organization(s) that you will pray for in January, cut it out and keep it in your Bible for handy reference.

Life –
Especially the Unborn

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