

Novena for Life

Join Fr. Maruskin Council's K of C *Novena for Life* Begins Today with Mother of Sorrows' 5 p.m Mass

As part of the Knights of Columbus Faith in Action program, Fr. Maruskin Council will launch its annual Novena for Life today with the 5 p.m. Mass at Mother of Sorrows Church in Peninsula. We will pray the novena's first day's prayers after Mass.

The novena will conclude with the 8 a.m. Mass on the Feast of the Annunciation, Monday, March 25. We will pray the novena's final day's prayers after Mass. The Novena for Life article in the Council's March newsletter incorrectly reported the novena's conclusion in conjunction with a 7 p.m. Mass at Holy Family. Of course, Holy Family's Lenten series is scheduled for that time instead on March 25, precluding an evening Mass on the Feast of the Annunciation. For 2019, the Diocese of Cleveland is observing the Annunciation as a solemnity, rather than a Holy Day of Obligation. Therefore, the parish will celebrate its only daily Monday Mass at 8 a.m., as usual.

For your reference, here are the prayers for each day of the novena, which we have adapted from the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' **9 Days for Life Novena**. We will pray the daily **intercession, followed by an Our Father, three Hail Marys, one Glory Be and Pope St. John Paul's Prayer for Life, printed below the daily intercessions**

Day 1: May a Culture of Life grow ever stronger in our communities.

Day 2: May all people embrace the truth that every life is a good and perfect gift and is worth living.

Day 3: May all who have experienced sexual abuse receive justice healing and God's peace.

Day 4: May God's peace fill the hearts of all who travel upon the path of adoption.

Day 5: May each person suffering from the loss of a child through abortion find hope and healing in Christ.

Day 6: May all victims and survivors of human trafficking find freedom, refuge and healing.

Day 7: May those who long to welcome a child into their family be filled with trust in God's loving plan.

Day 8: May those nearing life's end receive medical care that respects their dignity and protects their lives.

Day 9: May the tragic practice of abortion come to an end.

St. Pope John Paul II's *Prayer for Life*: O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life. Look down, O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, of the poor, whose lives are made difficult, of men and women who are victims of brutal violence, of the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude through their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life. Amen.