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**PRAYERS FOR THE BENEDICTION ON LIFE SUNDAY****OPENING PRAYER**

**Celebrant:** God our loving Father, as we celebrate today as Life Sunday, we thank you for the gift of life. You formed us in our mother's wombs, and call us home to heaven, we pray that you guide and protect all human life from conception to natural death, and lead this nation in the ways of truth and of love. May our prayers and praises rise unto you with Jesus our Lord, in the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever,

*All: Amen.*

**PETITIONS**

(Read by volunteers)

Each day, Lord Jesus, thousands of babies are killed, participants in your passion. Each day, Lord Jesus, those who have grown very old, alone and abandoned, participate in your passion. Keep us awake, O Lord, that we might watch with you and accept the cup God gives to us in every moment of our lives. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

Hear our prayer, heavenly Father, for all who cooperate in the evil of abortion. For nurses and clerks, for doctors and aides, for relatives and friends, for spouses and parents: Give them clear vision, Lord, to see the evil before them, Give them the grace of repentance and true contrition, that they may turn from their sin and vow to never cooperate with this evil again. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

Each day, Lord Jesus, thousands of babies are killed, participants in your passion. Grant eternal peace to the innocent victims of abortion, and gently soften the hearts of the parents who took their lives. Grant them repentance, healing and peace. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

Each day, Lord Jesus, those who have grown very old, alone and abandoned, participate in your passion. Hear our prayers for all we crown with thorns, O Lord: especially for the elderly, whom we scourge with our neglect. Fill our hearts with a love for them. In their weakness, may we see your suffering, in their pain may we find your cross. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

Open the ears of all women to your plea for life, O Lord. Grant them the grace to turn away from the sin of abortion and to walk with you this way of the cross. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

Your tomb, Lord Jesus, was not an end. In the glory of the paschal morning your empty tomb stood testament to your glorious destruction of sin and death. Destroy the culture of death, O Lord: Obliterate it in the light of your risen glory, that all who live and breathe might give you glory and celebrate the miracle of the life they have received from you. For you are Lord, forever and ever.

*All: Amen.*

### **LITANY FOR LIFE**

#### **Recall the story of the Annunciation (Luke 1: 26-38)**

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Bring joy to expectant parents when they learn they have conceived:  
Foster the love of each mother for the child of her womb  
Strengthen each father's love for his unborn child.  
Banish all fear from the hearts of new parents.  
Give us the grace to accept your holy will.

#### **Recall when there was no room in the Inn (Luke 2: 1-8)**

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Look with love on all pregnant mothers with nowhere to turn.  
Give the grace of patient endurance to young fathers who feel alone.  
Give rest in our homes and hearts to all frightened parents.  
Let us never turn away the stranger or the person in need.  
Give us rest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.  
Give us rest in the ever present care of Mary, our Mother.

#### **Recall the Blessed Birth of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 1: 18-25)**

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Bless each child awaiting birth into this world.  
Protect the child who waits in a mother's womb.  
Sanctify those who prepare mothers for the day of birth.  
Bring joy to the mother who first feel her child stir.  
Bring peace to parents who await their child's birth.  
Stir joy within the hearts of all expectant parents.

#### **Recall the Angels and the Shepherds in the field (Luke 2: 9-14)**

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Teach us to proclaim to the world the Good News of Life.  
 Make us messengers of your good news to all who are in need.  
 Send us to the poor that they might know your love.  
 Teach us perfect joy that we might convert the world with love.  
 Shepherd us to those most in need of your Gospel.

**Recall the Adoration of the Shepherds** (Luke 2: 15-20)

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Give us true wonder at the mystery of birth.  
 Give joy to parents and grandparents at the birth of each child.  
 Teach us to honor and support expectant mothers.  
 Teach us to honor and support expectant fathers.  
 Let us see the face of Jesus in the birth of each child.

**Recall the Journey of the Magi** (Matthew 2:1-9)

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Give us the strength for the journeys you call us to make.  
 Help us to follow your stars and see the wonders you set before us.  
 Let us seek Christ, the star which never sets, every moment of our lives.  
 Grant wisdom that we may never be lost on our pilgrimage to you.  
 Bring us into a deeper experience of the Gospel of Life incarnate in Jesus your Son.

**Recall the Adoration of the Magi** (Matthew 2: 10-12)

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

Let us bring the best gifts of our lives to honor new life.  
 Grant us the will to give all in the service of Christ.  
 May we bring all our possessions to the service of him, who brought us life.  
 May we adore the infinite miracle present at the birth of each child.  
 May we support and sustain all new parents.

**Recall the Blessed Mystery of the Incarnation** (Phillipians 2: 6-11)

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Lord, have mercy!**

May we never cease to wonder at the joy of new life.  
 May each newborn child be received as proof of God's eternal love.  
 May each newborn child be cherished as an infinite treasure.  
 May each newborn child be preserved, nourished and loved.  
 May the birth of Christ, the Son of God, give us perduring strength.

**Recall our Joyful Hope in Awaiting his Return** (Romans 8: 18-21)

*After a pause for silent prayer, pray these invocations:*

Your Response will be: **Come, Lord Jesus!**

To a world so burdened by sin and death, come to lead us home  
To a world where children lie in danger of death, come to lead us home  
To a world where we take the life of the unborn child, come to lead us home  
To we who seek to defend the Gospel of life, come to lead us home

**BENEDICTION**

*(For Malayalam group, sing the Malayalam Song)*

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be His Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true man.  
Blessed be the name of Jesus.  
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.  
Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in His angels and in His Saints.