

OUR LADY OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH



SPIRITUAL ADOPTION

By participating in Spiritual Adoption, you offer your spiritual support and ask for God's protection, through the intercession of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, of all unborn children in danger of being killed through abortion.

What is Spiritual Adoption?

- Encourage prayer for babies in danger of abortion.
- Educate adults and children about the development of the pre-born child.
- Provide support and assistance for mothers in need.

Please share the love of life given you by the Lord of all life and join in spiritually adopting a baby.

How does Spiritual Adoption Work?

It's very simple, when you enroll in Spiritual Adoption, you pledge to pray this simple prayer written by the Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen every day for nine months: "Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn child whom I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

You may also choose to name your spiritually adopted child and insert their name into your prayer, making it even more personal and meaningful. If you name your spiritually-adopted child, please pick up a name card near the displays in church or the parish office and drop it in the baby basket at either the Queen of the Rosary (near Divine Worship) or St. Julian (near the Pieta) worship site.

Who may participate in Spiritual Adoption?

Anyone who is concerned about abortion and is willing to pray for babies in danger of abortion, "that they might have life and have it to the full!" (John 10:10) QR School and Religious Education classes may spiritually adopt a child as a class, or individuals may adopt a child by dropping a card in the baby baskets in church.

Who benefits from Spiritual Adoption?

Everyone! While it isn't always possible to see the particular effects of prayer, we know through Scripture that God wants us to pray, and we know by faith that He answers all prayers.

Annually on Father's Day, we conclude Spiritual Adoption with a Baby Shower Fundraiser to benefit Heather's House, a local residential crisis pregnancy center run by Aid for Women. Flip over to check the progress of your spiritually-adopted baby throughout the campaign.



MONTH 1. During this first amazing month of life, your baby will grow to 10,000 times her original size at conception. By the third week after conception, her tiny heart begins to beat. Your daily prayers are so critical at this time as the physical reality of the baby becomes known to her mother and the relationship between mother and child begins to develop.



MONTH 2. Your spiritually adopted baby is now two months old and about 2 inches long. Your baby is making progress developing all of their external features and internal organs. Their brain is functioning at 40 days. Their eyes, nose and mouth are all in place. Everything your baby needs to survive after birth is already present by the end of the 8th week. They flip, jump, and hop ... their first dance steps!



MONTH 3. Your spiritually adopted baby can now squint, swallow and move their tongue. They sleep and awaken. Fingernails and toenails form. They now have their own unique set of fingerprints. Sensitive to touch, they will tightly grasp an object placed in the palm of the hand. They breathe amniotic fluid to help develop and strengthen the respiratory system, but gets needed oxygen through the umbilical cord.



MONTH 4. Your spiritually adopted baby's brain has begun maturing — a process that will continue until he or she is about 14 years old. Their eyelids are now sealed shut and will reopen at seven months. Their taste buds are working. Nutrients consumed by his or her mother are passed on to the baby within an hour or two. Three hundred quarts of fluid a day are sent to the baby via the umbilical cord. Fine hair begins to grow on their head, eyebrows and eyelashes. Facial expressions similar to their parents can be seen at this time. This month REMs (rapid eye movements) have been recorded—a sign of dreaming!



MONTH 5. This month marks the halfway point to birth, and your spiritually adopted baby is very active. Sleep habits develop and the baby's mother can feel him or her move and stretch, particularly when mom is resting. The baby is big and strong enough to kick hard enough for mom to notice. Up to now, although he or she swam with ease in his or her watery world, the baby was too small for the mother to detect. Babies born at this age have survived.



MONTH 6. We are now at the end of the second trimester. Your spiritually adopted baby weighs almost two pounds! She sits up straight now to accommodate her internal organs which have moved into their final place in her little body. Babies born prematurely at this time have a very good chance of surviving.



MONTH 7. Beginning this month your spiritually adopted baby uses all four senses. Eyelids open and close, and their eyes look around. The baby can taste, touch, cough, yawn and hiccup. He or she now recognizes his or her mother's voice. His or her grip is even stronger now than it will be after birth. The hair on their head is growing longer and the downy covering on the rest of the body is disappearing. During this time the baby will receive antibodies from his or her mother providing immunity to a wide variety of diseases.



MONTH 8-BIRTH. In the last two months your spiritually adopted baby continues to gain weight. He or she is developing a layer of fat that will keep him or her warm after birth. In the ninth month, the baby will shift to a head-down position, preparing for birth. Their lungs are now fully developed and capable of making the transition to breathing air. After birth he or she will continue the human growth process for approximately the next 80 years.