

Every April, Catholic parishes and schools across the United States participate in National Child Abuse Prevention Month. While dioceses work year-round to prevent abuse, during this month a special emphasis is placed on the importance of learning how to protect the vulnerable from this evil.

Together, for the next nine days, let's pray that the vulnerable are protected from abuse, and that survivors of abuse may be accompanied on their paths to healing.

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# Novena

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## for Protection and Healing from Abuse

### Intercessions

- Day 1:** May the most vulnerable be protected from all types of abuse and exploitation.
- Day 2:** May those who have been sexually abused receive comfort and healing.
- Day 3:** May those who work with children and young people be vigilant in protecting them from harm.
- Day 4:** May those who provide help for the abused act with wisdom and compassion in their healing ministries.
- Day 5:** May all families strive to provide safe and nurturing environments for children and young people.

**Day 6:** May all those who have committed abuse acknowledge the harm they have done, repent, and accept justice that ultimately comes from God.

**Day 7:** May those who have been abused receive the courage to tell their story, and may they be believed and supported.

**Day 8:** May Church leaders, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, promote justice and healing for survivors of abuse.

**Day 9:** May our Holy Father, Pope Francis, fulfill his role as good shepherd and protect the most vulnerable in his flock.

### Prayers

*Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, Glory Be, Prayer for Healing*



### Prayer for Healing

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God of endless love,  
Ever caring, ever strong,  
always present, always just:  
You gave your only Son  
to save us by the blood of his  
cross.  
Gentle Jesus, shepherd of  
peace,  
join to your own suffering  
the pain of all who have been  
hurt  
in body, mind, and spirit  
by those who betrayed the  
trust placed in them.

Hear our cries as we agonize  
over the harm done to our brothers and sisters.  
Breathe wisdom into our prayers,  
soothe restless hearts with hope,  
steady shaken spirits with faith:  
Show us the way to justice and wholeness,  
enlightened by truth and enfolded in your mercy.  
Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,  
heal your people's wounds  
and transform our brokenness.  
Grant us courage and wisdom, humility and grace,  
so that we may act with justice  
and find peace in you.  
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.