

PARISH SPIRITUAL ADOPTION PROGRAM

Monthly Bulletin Announcements

MONTH 1 – Developing Baby – “My heart is beating!”

Spiritual Adoption Program



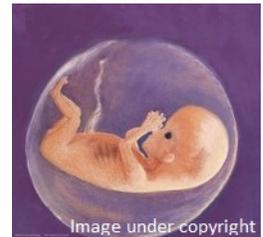
Your spiritually adopted baby has been quite active over the past month. Already your baby is 10,000 times bigger than at conception. Your baby has developed the foundations of his brain, spinal cord, and nervous system by the 20th day. His heart began to beat on the 21st day, pumping blood through its own circulatory system and the blood type can be different from his mother's. Your baby is most vulnerable during the next month of being aborted. Pray that the Lord of Life might move the heart of his mother to give him the most precious gift of all - - the gift of life.

Jeremiah 1:5 - "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you..."

MONTH 2 – Developing Baby – “I’m dancing!”

Spiritual Adoption Program

Your spiritually adopted baby is making progress developing all of her external features and internal organs. Her brain is functioning at 40 days. Her mother can hear her heartbeat now on an ultrasonic stethoscope. Baby-teeth buds are present at 6 ½ weeks. The central nervous system is functioning and 40 muscle sets begin their first exercises. From this moment, your spiritually adopted baby grows and refines her body. But everything she needs to survive after birth is already present by the end of the eighth week. She is now called a “fetus” a Latin word meaning “little one”. Ultrasound reveals that this little one can now spring, flip and jump – her first dance steps!



Psalm 139:13 - "You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb."

MONTH 3 – Developing Baby

-- “I can suck my thumb!”

Spiritual Adoption Program



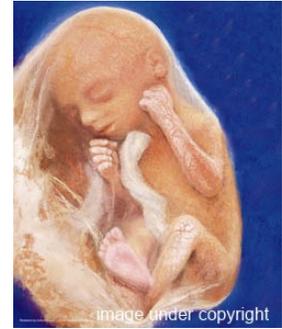
Your spiritually adopted baby is quite active in the womb now - - although his mother won't feel him for another couple of months. If his mother's womb had a window, you could watch your spiritually adopted baby squint, swallow and move his tongue. He can make a tight fist if you touch his palm. He is breathing amniotic fluid which continues until birth, although he obtains the oxygen his body needs through the umbilical cord. The baby you are praying for weighs one ounce. Early this month – at just 9 weeks – he began to suck his thumb.

Psalm 139:14-16 - "I praise you, because I am wonderfully made; wonderful are your works! My very self you know. My bones are not hidden from you. When I was being made in secret, fashioned in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be."

MONTH 4 -- Developing Baby -- "I had a dream!"

Spiritual Adoption Program

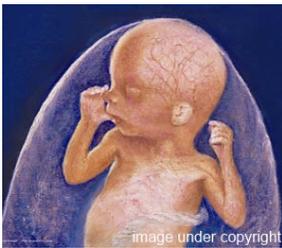
Well, your little spiritually adopted baby now weighs six ounces. She has fingernails and eyelashes. She has her own unique fingerprints, which will remain the same until she dies. Her taste buds are working. Her sense of hearing is developing and present at 14 weeks. There are no major developments anymore. At this month rapid eye movements (REMs) can be detected – a sign of dreaming. Your spiritually adopted baby is already well-formed, internally and externally. All she needs now is time to gain weight and grow strong. What a miracle she is!



Isaiah 49:1 - "Before birth the Lord called me, from my mother's womb he gave me my name."

MONTH 5 – Developing Baby – "Mommy felt me kick today!"

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Your spiritually adopted baby weighs over one pound now, and his mother can feel his movement. Before this time he was too small for her to feel. Although he swam with ease in his watery world, he needed to be big and strong enough to kick hard against the outside wall and dent it - - the inside wall of the uterus has little feeling. We are mid-way through the pregnancy now. Your prayers have helped your baby's mother continue with her pregnancy and seek the help she needs.

Isaiah 44:24 - "Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, who formed you from the womb: I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, I spread out the earth by myself."

MONTH 6 – Developing Baby – "I'm sitting up straight now!"

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Your spiritually adopted baby is developing quite beautifully now. Her weight is approaching 2 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. The medical advances in caring for extremely small newborn infants are extraordinary indeed. Don't forget to pray for your baby. Abortion is legal through all nine months and her mom might still feel pressure to abort.



Isaiah 44:24 - "Thus says the Lord, your redeemer, who formed you from the womb: I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, I spread out the earth by myself."

MONTH 7 – Developing Baby – "I can look around!"

Spiritual Adoption Program



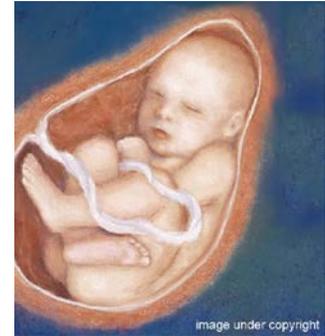
You are in the home stretch with your spiritually adopted baby. Beginning this month the baby uses all four senses. He can see, hear, taste, touch, cough, yawn and hiccup. He now recognizes his mother's voice, and ultrasound reveals that he likes to open his eyes and look around. During this time he will also receive antibodies from his mother protecting him from a wide variety of diseases.

Ecclesiastes 11:5 - "Just as you do not know how the life breath enters the human frame in the mother's womb, so you do not know the work of God, who is working in everything."

MONTH 8 – Developing Baby -- “I like to listen to my Mommy’s voice!”

Spiritual Adoption Program

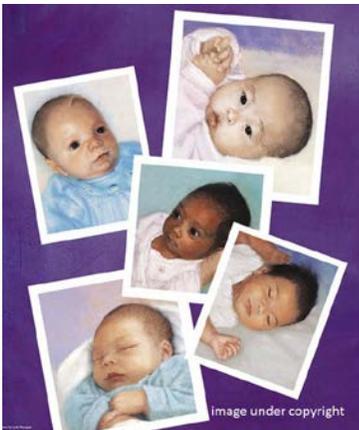
Now your spiritually adopted baby is finished developing and is concentrating on gaining weight; she might be making her mother uncomfortable with her size. She will need a layer of fat to help her stay warm after she leaves the perfect temperature inside her mother’s womb. For some weeks now she has recognized her mother’s voice. In a short time, her baby will be born. Your baby’s mother appreciated the prayers you have said for her and her baby throughout the pregnancy. It has not been easy, but your prayers have given her the grace she needed to bring her baby to term.



1 Samuel 1:27-28 - I prayed for this child, and the LORD granted my request. Now I, in turn, give him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he shall be dedicated to the LORD.

“Here I am!”

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SPIRITUALLY ADOPTED BABY!



Your spiritually adopted baby was born this month - - nine months after her mother conceived her. The only change at birth is a change in the external life support system of the baby. She is no different now than she before birth except that she breathes and eats differently. She is truly a miracle. She began as a 46-chromosome cell and has grown over the past nine months into this unique human baby we now can see. Never before in history, nor ever again, will anyone exist who is exactly like your spiritually adopted baby. Your prayers saved her life. Thank you on behalf of all of the little babies and their parents for your loving prayers that helped to bring them to birth “so that they might have life and have it to the full!”

Luke 2:10-14 - The angel said ... “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Special thanks to the Archdiocese of Baltimore for permission to adapt their spiritual adoption program for use in the Diocese of Venice.

Information on the developing baby was taken from: Abortion: Questions and Answers, Dr. and Mrs. John C. Wilke, © 1985, Hayes Publishing Company, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio.