

Today, we begin our Spiritual Adoption Program.

West Tamar Parishioners who have chosen to take part in "Mary's RoseBuds" Spiritual Adoption program will already have completed their Pledge cards and placed them in the cradle here on the alter. It is not too late to join today - pledge cards are available in the narthex.

Being St. Valantine's day on Monday the 14th we can safely assume that there will be many babies conceived at around this time. Our Holy Father God, will allocate some of them to those people who have generously decided to Spiritually Adopt an unborn infant who may be in danger of abortion. We will not know who they are or who they have been allocated to. We will simply pray for them, love them and have faith that God will give the parents of these infants, courage and grace to fall in love with their little rosebud, allowing them to grow into fully bloomed roses, giving them the life that God wills for them.

Each month we will give an update on the development of our little Rosebuds so that we can journey through the gestation periods with them and their parents.

During these first few weeks, a primitive face will take form with large dark circles for eyes. The mouth, lower jaw and throat are developing. Blood cells are taking shape, and circulation will begin. The tiny "heart" tube will beat 65 times a minute by the end of the fourth week. By the end of the first month, the fetus is about 1/4 inch long – smaller than a grain of rice.

A Spiritual Adoption Prayer: Jesus, Mary and Joseph, We love you very much. We beg you to spare the lives of the unborn babies that we have spiritually adopted and who are in danger of abortion.

Please bless their parents. Give them peace, courage, and understanding of your Mercy and love. Amen