



*"Behold, I am the handmaid
of the Lord. May it be done to
me according to your word."
Luke 1:38*

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RESPECT LIFE NEWSLETTER



Working together to spread the Gospel of Life across the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

March for Life 2023

By: Bob Wurzelbacher

Since January of 1974, people young and old have been gathering in Washington, DC to protest the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion in all 50 states, to advocate for the legal protection of the most vulnerable people among us, the unborn. Last June, the US Supreme court overturned that decision, returning once again the right of the people and their representatives in each state to determine what restrictions should be put on abortion in this country. With the primary battleground for the rights of the unborn now moved to the states, many are organizing marches in their own state capitals to advocate for the legal protection of unborn children, including right here in Ohio. Since so many of us have been gathering in Washington every year, so what is happening now?

Even though *Roe* is overturned, it is evident that the battle continues, even on the federal level. The Hyde Amendment (and similar federal laws) have been protecting taxpayers from funding abortions for decades, with strong bipartisan support throughout

both Republican and Democratic terms. Today for the first time, our current administration is actively trying to end all of these protections. Additionally, the poorly titled "Women's Health Protection Act" seeks to make the "right" to abortion a federal law, eliminating some of the most universally agreed upon restrictions such as late-term abortions, parental notification laws and safety regulations for abortion facilities. The current administration is pushing hard to pass that, or something like it, nullifying any gains that were made with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

While the annual March for Life in Washington, DC is still happening this January, the Archdiocese is not organizing a trip for youth this year as we usually do. If you still want to organize a trip, get the information you need at **NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE**. (Please note, however, that the morning Youth Rally and Mass

for Life is no longer being organized for travellers). For those not heading to DC, what can you do instead to continue to mark the importance of protecting innocent life in this country?



First of all, The Office for Respect Life Ministry of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati created a **MARCH FOR LIFE TOOLKIT** in 2021 to empower parishes, schools, and respect life groups to join in the vigil at home. We have created a **WEBSITE** with an abundance of resources ranging from pro-life movie nights to lesson plans and prayer services appropriate for a youth ministry program or the classroom.

Secondly, join us from wherever you are for the annual **9 DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA** starting January 19. Check out that website or follow with us on our **FACEBOOK PAGE**. *Continued on next page*



Welcome

Thank you for your openness to God's call to foster respect for human life at all its stages, from conception to natural death. We live in a time when so many in our culture promote values contrary to human life itself. These include life issues such as abortion and euthanasia, and issues of human dignity such as advocacy

for those with disabilities or victims of violent crime. It is a monumental task, but one worth pursuing. What is needed is people of love and humility, devoted to God, immersed in the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, and open to the direction of the Holy Spirit in helping others bring a greater respect for all human life to the lives of all.

May God bless you in this work. Know that I am truly grateful to work with you in this. Together, let us build a culture of life here in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati!

Bill Wunglach

Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries

March for Life '23 cont.

Third, join Archbishop Schnurr on Thursday evening, January 19 at 7PM for a Pro-Life Rosary and Holy Hour on the eve of the March for Life. Please plan to come to the Cathedral Basilica in downtown Cincinnati for this special prayer for the rights of the unborn, and healing for all those affected by abortion.

Fourth, there will still be a prayer vigil starting at Holy Name church on Auburn Ave with a procession in front of Planned Parenthood on Friday, January 20, 2023. Head to the events calendar at **CINCINNATI RIGHT TO LIFE** for more information on that soon.

By the way, it's not too soon to organize a trip to Columbus for the **OHIO MARCH FOR LIFE** on October 6, 2023. The sooner you start organizing, the larger group you can gather!

Finally, whether or not you are attending any events in person, please consider joining us through fasting and prayer, for an end to the atrocity of abortion. Let us pray for the millions of lives lost to abortion, as well as the countless women and men who are suffering from the consequences of their choice. Let us work ardently to create a culture grounded in respect for life and justice.

December

Night of Prayer for Life

08 &
09

We traditionally gather on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to spend time in adoration and pray the Rosary for Life to Our Lady for the end of abortion. Invite your pastor to hold a holy hour sometime that evening.

CLICK HERE for more information on how to participate.

Christmas for the Pre-born

14

Join Dayton Right to Life from 11am -12pm for an hour of song and prayer to commemorate those lost to abortion and pray for those in danger of being aborted.

Where: Women's Med Center, 1401 E Stroop Ln. Kettering, OH 45429

Coordinator's Corner

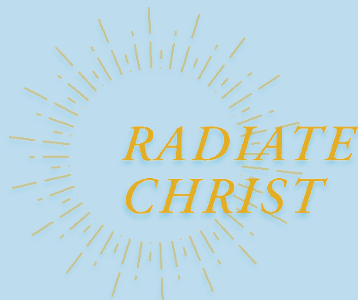
This section is dedicated to providing seasonal resources for Parish Respect Life Coordinators. If there is a resource that you believe would be useful to include, please contact us at respectlife@catholicaoc.org.

01- Word of Life

02- Feast of the Immaculate Conception

03- 9 Days for Life Novena

04- Parish Webinar



Respect Life Coordinator Resources

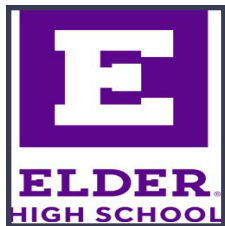
01 The month's **WORD OF LIFE** includes a special Advent reflection on how to support a woman who is **UNEXPECTEDLY EXPECTING**, intercessions for life, readings for the **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**, and more!

02 On December 8 we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This is a Holy Day of Obligation. **CLICK HERE** to download a bulletin insert recognizing the importance of this feast day. You can also access Pope Francis' **PRAYER FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION** or this **PRAYER FOR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**. The front of the printed **PRAYER CARD** seeks the intercession of Mary Immaculate.

03 The **9 DAYS FOR LIFE NOVENA** is starting next month! This is a chance to prayerfully enter into Respect Life January through events that surround the anniversary of *Roe v Wade*. The program includes intentions and suggestions for fasts each day as we continue to pray for our state governments. Follow our **FACEBOOK PAGE** for daily updates as well!

04 On December 1st at 2pm, USCCB staff will walk through the website and materials available for key January observances like the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children and the 9 Days for Life novena. Register **HERE**. Print materials for Respect Life January can be found **HERE**. Also check out the **DECEMBER PRAYER GUIDE** featuring a prayer and reflection for couples experiencing infertility.

Highlighting Elder High School's Pro-Life Club



September and October were big months for Elder High School's Pro-Life Club. We promoted Ohio's march around school throughout September and were able to fill an entire bus with close to 50 students! What a beautiful day we had in Columbus starting at St. Joseph's Cathedral for Mass and then participating in the pre-march rally all around the State Capitol building. Although the march itself was somewhat short, it did not fail in its purpose. Cheers could be heard from several streets over. Our club ended the month with The Baby Bottle Campaign where we held a competition among the homerooms. We were able to offer a very generous donation to the Pregnancy Center West from the participation of our students. We look forward in the new year to create new club t-shirts to sell to students that will promote our mission of honoring the dignity of all life.

Way to go, Panthers!

If you know of a high school doing awesome things for life, tell us about it! Email us at RESPECTLIFE@CATHOLICAOC.ORG.

Beacons of Light Updates



Eucharistic Revival

Archbishop Schnurr is inviting all people of the archdiocese to join him in exploring the wonder of the Mass through an excellent video series featuring Bishop Robert Barron. Each Sunday from January 8 through February 12, Archbishop Schnurr will email participants his own brief

insights along with a 25-minute episode from Word on Fire's The Mass. To get the word out, your help is needed!

The Archbishop designed this initiative to put as little work as possible on the shoulders of the pastors and their parishes, recognizing how busy everyone is. Having acknowledged that, Archbishop Schnurr is requesting that parishes vigorously promote the study to parishioners throughout December to take advantage of the "invitation opportunity" afforded by increased Mass attendance during the Advent and Christmas seasons.

You can register for free [HERE!](#)

December

Christmas Day

25

On behalf of everyone at the Respect Life and Persons with Disabilities Offices, we wish you a very merry Christmas and a joyous new year filled with an abundance of the Lord's blessings!

January

Mental Health Ministry

17-18

Deacon Ed Schoener, President of The Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers will host a workshop on how to start a Mental Health Ministry in your parish. Click the links below to register!

JANUARY 17TH - Our Lady of Sorrows

JANUARY 18TH - St. Monica-St. George

Save the Date!

On Saturday, March 4, 2023, the Archdiocese Care for Creation Task Force will be holding a full-day Laudato Si Action Platform conference at Curran Place on the University of Dayton campus. It's scheduled for 8:30am - 4:30pm and will include opportunities for prayer, learning, networking, planning, and sharing. We'll have information on multiple topics for multiple audiences, both in large group sessions and breakouts. Visit [THIS WEBSITE](#) for more information and (coming soon) the registration link. The Laudato Si Action Platform is the collaborative effort of the global Roman Catholic Church to address caring for God's creation. You can learn more about it [HERE](#) or contact [ANDREW MUSGRAVE](#) with any questions.

Beautify the Baldacchino and Reredos at St. Monica- St. George

with the Franciscan Daughters of Mary

December 2nd-4th

(Friday-Sunday)

Dinner will be provided on Friday, and lunch will be provided Saturday and Sunday

Click the link below to register!

REGISTER HERE

Being Pro-Life Keeping Kids Safe Online

You may have kids with a phone or tablet, or are perhaps considering purchasing one this year as a Christmas present. But as we all know, with these devices come increased access

to things that are harmful, which affect not only ourselves, but our children as well. Last year I spoke with some professionals who have kids at home who are dealing with the same struggles as all of us, but who have advice on how to utilize technology while keeping their kids away from things like pornography, bullying and even non-Christian ideals about family life. Check out my videocast series "Keeping Kids Safe Online" for some tips from everyday parents on how to keep your kids safe while using technology.



PART 1 PART 2 PART 3 PART 4

Our Lady of Guadalupe

By: Lisa Averion



On December 12th we will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. In 1531, she introduced herself as the Mother of God and mother of all humanity to an indigenous peasant, Juan Diego, on top of a hill in Tepeyac, Mexico. Her unfailing love pours out to all of us as patroness of our country, and her apparition led to the largest conversion in Church history. Over 20 million people visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe each year, which is located on the same hill on which she appeared in 1531. In 1990, Pope Saint John Paul II visited Mexico, and beatified Juan Diego. Ten years later, he was canonized a Saint. Of the dozens of officially approved Marian apparitions in Church history, Our Lady of Guadalupe is one of the most famous and recognized, at least in here in the United States. To read more about her, check out a recent article from the Catholic Telegraph [HERE](#).

My personal devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe has grown over the years. She has interceded during sickness, discernment, and strength for those who serve the Church. The Hispanic community in our parish family will celebrate with a beautiful Mass, music, and a delicious meal. I am thankful my parish family values diversity, is open to celebrating without boundaries, and actively creates an environment of **Belonging**.

OPD Updates

By: Lisa Averion



On January 17th at Our Lady of Sorrows, Monroe, Ohio and January 18th St. Monica-St. George, Cincinnati, Ohio the Office for Persons with Disabilities will sponsor a workshop on how to start mental health ministry in your parish hosted by Deacon Ed Schoener, president of the Association of Catholic Mental Health Ministers.

Why mental health ministry?

- 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year
- 1 in 20 U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year
- 1 in 6 U.S. youth aged 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year
- 50% of all lifetime mental illness begins by age 14, and 75% by age 24
- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death among people aged 10-14

Learn how to serve and provide opportunities for individuals and families suffering with mental illness to grow in faith.

Register by email: [LISA AVERION](#) or click the links to register for **JANUARY 17TH** or **JANUARY 18TH**.

"Whoever suffers from mental illness always bears God's image and likeness in themselves, as does every human being. In addition, they always have the inalienable right not only to be considered as an image of God and therefore as a person, but also to be treated as such."

Pope John Paul II, International Conference for Health Care Workers, on Illnesses of the Human Mind, November 30, 1996.

January Holy Hour for Life

19

On the eve of the March for Life, Archbishop Schnurr will lead us in a Pro-Life Rosary & Holy Hour at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral Basilica at 7:00pm. Please join us in solidarity with those who march for the rights of the unborn.

9 Days for Life Novena

19-27

9 Days for Life is a novena for the protection of human life. Each day's intention is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. To learn more, click [HERE](#).



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Project Rachel Ministry

Project Rachel Ministry

Day of Reflection:
Cincinnati: March 4, 2023

Weekend Retreat:
Cincinnati: March 24-26

For more information email us at
ProjectRachel@catholicaoc.org
or visit ProjectRachelOhio.org

If you would like the Project Rachel Ministry to come and speak at your school or parish, please contact **BECKY SCHOENFELD**. Feel free to contact us at: (513) 784-0531 or visit ProjectRachelOhio.org