March — Persons with Disabilities   April — Fertility/Infertility Issues   May — Healing After Abortion

Calendar

April


Also Safe Haven Law Awareness Month — Louisiana’s Safe Haven Law provides a safe, legal, last resort to abandonment allowing a parent to give up custody of a newborn up to 60 days old by bringing the baby to an emergency designated facility, or Safe Haven site. LouisianaSafeHaven.com

12 - Sarah’s Laughter — Support group offering help to couples and people who are struggling with infertility or the loss of a baby due to adoption or miscarriage. N.O./Metairie group 6:30pm at St. George’s Episcopal Church 4600 St. Charles Ave. New Orleans. Allison Waldron, facilitator Allison@sarahslaughter.com. Men’s only group 7:00pm. Brian McCollister men@sarahs-laughter.com or Philip Dunbar Philip@sarahs-laughter.com


22-24 - Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat — Facilitated retreat for those hurting and seeking healing from abortion. Open to women and men of all faiths. Pam Richard 504-460-9360 rich504@bellsouth visit www.rachelsvineyard.org

22-24 - PULSE Immersion at Camp Abbey, 77002 K C Camp Rd. in Covington. High school and college students are informed, trained and inspired to become pro-life leaders through speakers, hands-on activism, and field trips on pro-life issues. Cost is only $80, includes lodging, meals and travel during retreat. Scholarships available. PULSE@ProLifeLouisiana.org or contact Ashley Gilliam Ashley@ProLifeLouisiana 866-463-5433. Visit ProLifePulseLa.com or sign up prolifelouisiana.org/grouponpulpse

25 - Pro-Life Day at the Capitol at LA State Capitol. Great time to interact with your legislators and pro-life leaders. Visit with pro-life agencies tabling in the rotunda. Hosted by LA Right to Life. Prolife.Louisiana.org/pro-life-day-at-the-capitol

26 - Bowties for Babies at Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge 6:30-9:30pm. 8th annual reception to benefit LRTL Advertise for Life project with music, food, silent auction and presentation of 2022 Leadership for Life Award to La. Solicitor General Liz Murrill, prolifelouisiana.org/bowties/

Parish/School Spotlight

Kudos to all of the high school students who participated in the MARCH FOR LIFE IN MARCH Rock ‘n’ Bowl event held March 25, especially those students on the “March Life Krewe” which was the student planning committee that put together the event. The Krewe should be proud of their hard work and team work as the event was a great success!! Sponsored by Catholic Charities ACCESS Pregnancy Services, the event featured guest speaker David Scotton of I Lived on Parker Avenue fame telling his inspiring story and talking about the adoption option.

Schools included: Academy of Sacred Heart, Archbishop Chapelle, Archbishop Rummel, Archbishop Shaw, Brother Martin, Cabrini, Jesuit, Mt. Carmel Academy, St. Francis Xavier CYO, St. Mary’s Academy, and St. Paul’s.

And speaking of awesome students . . . Congratulations to Dalton Haydel of Holy Cross School for receiving 1st Place in the New Orleans Pro-Life Oratory Contest!! Major kudos to ALL the winners for using their voices to stand for the dignity of life! Students are tasked with creating a 5-7 minute pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, or stem cell research. Dalton is headed to compete in the state Oratory Contest and we all wish him the best of luck! Geaux Dalton!!

Liturgy & Prayer

USCCB Word of Life — Monthly parish resources online or by email has special features on each month’s RL topic, intercessions for Prayers of the Faithful, links to prayers and educational resources, and downloadable quotes/graphics for bulletins, websites, and social media in English and Spanish.

Persons with Disabilities


Get Involved! — Parishes should encourage meaningful participation in all aspects of the life of the Church to ensure individuals with disabilities and their families are included in their home parish gatherings.

God’s Special Children — Your parish ministry can help God’s Special Children with creating a buddy program with your CYO members, assisting with retreat activities for families who have children with special needs, starting a religious education class for persons with special needs, ensuring availability of the sacraments to all Catholics, and increasing awareness with your clergy & parishioners of the spiritual needs of all of God's children. https://godsspecialchildren.org.

God’s Special Children Mass — Please attend and help promote this Holy Mass for children with disabilities, their families and friends, usually held on 1st Sunday of each month at 2:00pm at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, 444 Metairie Rd., in Metairie, 504-834-0340.


Commission on People with Disabilities — Witness, support and share knowledge & resources to provide a more meaningful, fruitful, and lifelong encounter with Christ for individuals with disabilities and their families. The Commission published a survey tool and checklist for reviewing your parish’s accessibility. 504-861-6294. planningandministries@arch-no.org or visit https://nolacatholic.org/disabilitiescommission.

Learn How to hold a sensory-friendly mass in your parish! National Catholic Partnership on Disability webcast at https://tinyurl.com/TeenHangout

Commission on People with Disabilities — Witness, support and share knowledge & resources to provide a more meaningful, fruitful, and lifelong encounter with Christ for individuals with disabilities and their families. The Commission published a survey tool and checklist for reviewing your parish’s accessibility. 504-861-6294. planningandministries@arch-no.org or visit https://nolacatholic.org/disabilitiescommission.

Corporal Work of Mercy — Become a Parish Disability Advocate to liaison between persons with disabilities, their families, parish, and Archdiocese Commission for Persons with Disabilities. To see how you can be one: https://nolacatholic.org/for-parish-disability-advocates.

Inclusive Mass at Blessed Francis Seelos Catholic Church — American Sign Language & Inclusive Mass with Deaf Ministers serving in all ministries every Sunday 9:30am. 3037 Dauphine Street in New Orleans.

Padua Community Services — Support this Catholic Charities program that offers compassionate, comprehensive, and specialized care for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Padua House Residential Program and Padua Community House. Contact program director Ronna Garner 504-392-0502 rgarner@ccano.org or visit ccano.org/padua.

Teen Time Hangouts — Gives teens with autism ages 13 -17 an opportunity to interact with peers, play games, practice social skills, and build friendships. Held every Friday on zoom 4:30-6:00pm. Must register to receive zoom link and passcode https://tinyurl.com/TeenHangout.

Disabilities Continued

Respect Life Ministry — Info about navigating infertility, Natural Family Planning and other methods, resources, activity ideas for your parish ministry, & Church teachings at https://arch-no.org/reproductive-technology.


Sarah’s Laughter — Please promote this Christian support group offering help to couples and people who are struggling with infertility or the loss of a baby due to adoption or miscarriage. N.O./Metairie group meets on 2nd Tuesday each month 6:30pm at St. George’s Episcopal Church 4600 St. Charles Ave. N.O. Contact Allison Waldron, facilitator, at Allison@salahs-laughter.com. Men’s only group meets 2nd Tuesday each month 7:00pm. Brian McCollister for location men@salahs-laughter.com or Philip Dunbar Philip@salahs-laughter.com or visit Salahs-laughter.com.

Holy Innocents Prayer Garden — Your RL ministry can help purchase a plaque for an unborn baby. A collaborative effort of N.O. Catholic Cemeteries, Archdiocese Respect Life Ministry, and LA and N. O. Right to Life for families who have lost an unborn child through miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion to memorialize their babies by name with a bronze plaque in Holy Innocents Prayer Garden located next to All God's Babies tomb designated for the burial of babies lost. Cost for plaques is $100. St. Patrick Cemetery No. 1, 5000 Canal St., New Orleans. 504-596-3050 nolacatholiccemeteries.org/holy-innocents-plaques

Saint Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction — Guide medical professionals and couples in your parish to this institute to learn about reproductive healthcare and infertility issues. This is the only medical institute of its kind specializing in scientific research, diagnosis, and treatment of women’s reproductive and gynecologic healthcare within a pro-life ethical framework. Offers a new approach of natural fertility regulation in order to build a culture of life. https://popepaulvi.com/.

Corporal Works of Mercy — Place pamphlets on infertility and Natural Family Planning materials in your church; Host an intro to NFP meeting for churches in your area; Promote NFP class dates in church bulletin; Donate copy of book The Infertility Companion for Catholics-Spiritual & Practical Support for Couples to Dr. Susan Caldwell for her patients at EJGH Lakeview Clinic, 7303 Canal Blvd. 504-503-6760; and Share your ideas with other RL ministries!

Family Life Apostolate — Fertility awareness is the scientific, natural and moral method of family planning that can help married couples achieve or avoid pregnancies. FLA provides resources for NFP methods: Northwest Northwest Family Services-SymptoPro Fertility Education, Creighton Creighton Model FertilityCare System, Couple to Couple League - The Sympto-Thermal Method, and Family of the Americas Ovulation Method. If any of your parishioners would like to learn more, please guide them to the Archdiocese Family Life Apostolate at 504-861-6243 or https://arch-no.org/fla.
Springs in the Desert — Rooted in anthropology, ethics and spirituality of the Catholic Church, this ministry is a community with unique offerings for women, men and couples, meeting them wherever they are on the path of infertility. It also raises awareness about the experience and unique grief of infertility to pastors, diocesan offices, and healthcare professionals, helping them to understand the needs of couples hurting and struggling with infertility, and providing tools and resources to help them minister more effectively. Visit http://springsinhedesert.org/.

Natural Family Planning — For more information on NFP visit these centers, clinics, and/or websites:
- Archdiocese of New Orleans — https://arch-no.org/nfp
- Northwest Family Services — https://www.nwfs.org/natural-family-planning
- Creighton Model — https://creightonmodel.com/
- Couple to Couple League — https://celi.org/
- Family of the Americas — www.familyplanning.net/
- SymptoPro Fertility Education — https://symptopro.org/
- St. Anne Fertility Care Center 4465 Hwy. 190, East Service Rd., Covington 985-605-5840 tracyfcfp006@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/tracyfcfp/.

USCCB Project Rachel — U.S. Catholic Church healing ministry open to all faiths providing retreats, pastoral counseling, support groups and referrals. usccb.org/topics/project-rachel-ministry.

ACCESS Pregnancy Resource Center — Provides free professional counseling services for those seeking healing after an abortion. Danna Cousins, LCSW, BACS 504-885-1291 dcousins@ccano.org

Women’s New Life — Counselors provide individualized treatment approach, addressing the physical and emotional issues of abortion. 4612 S. Claiborne Ave. N.O. 504-831-3117 info@womansnewlife.com (Spanish) espanol-saenz@womansnewlife.com or visit womansnewlife.com.

SpeakHope - Louisiana Abortion Recovery — Individual counseling and support groups for women and men. 550 Gause Blvd., Suite 2, Slidell, 70448. Contact Cynthia Collins speakhope@me.com or visit speakhope.net.

Kelli Churchill — Provides faith-based individual counseling open to women, men and families. 5001 Hwy. 190, Ste B-1 in Covington. kelli.churchill@yahoo.com.

Abortion Changes You — Confidential online space for those touched by abortion wanting to tell their story and begin the healing process. abortionchangesyou.com.

Louisiana Abortion Recovery — Provides healing and resources for women. Submit form at lhope.net.

Louisiana Right To Life — Find more resources at pro-lifelouisiana.org/outreach/abortion-recovery-awareness.

Calendar Continued

May — MARY’S Month
An entire month is set aside to honor our Blessed Mother. nolacatholic.org/may-marys-month

May is Foster Care Awareness Month! Contact Catholic Charities and Dept. of Children & Family Services to learn about foster care parenting, therapeutic foster care, and volunteer needs for local immigrants, youth and families. www.ccano.org/fcs/ and dcf.louisiana.gov/page/374 and www.ccano.org/immigration-refugee-services/.

2 - New Orleans Pro-Life Social hosted by N.O. RTL at LA RTL office 200 Robert E. Lee Blvd. in New Orleans.

8 - Mother’s Day — Pray for women who are struggling with infertility, for women with unplanned pregnancies, and for all mothers. RL Action Guide www.usccb.org/resources/respect-life-action-guide-mothers-day.

8 - God’s Special Children Mass at 2:00pm at St. Francis Xavier, 444 Metairie Rd., Met. Special Mass for families with members who have special needs and all interested to come together to thank God for special blessings received. godsp peculiar children.org/upcoming-masses.

10 - Sarah’s Laughter — N.O./Metairie support group 6:30pm at St. George’s Episcopal Church Allison Waldron Allison@sarahslaughter.com. Men’s only group 7:00pm. Brian McCollister for location men@sarahs-laughter.com.

20 — St. Francis Xavier Sharing Program Rosary for Life 6:00pm Memorial Garden for Unborn 444 Met. Rd. Met. Carol epritchard@stfrancisxavier.com

25 - Ye Olde College Inn Night benefitting New Orleans Right to Life.

Healing After Abortion

Our society has done women a huge disservice by pretending that abortion erases the experience of pregnancy.

Many women, and men, have developed serious psychiatric conditions afterwards, while others struggle with abortion-related issues such as depression, anxiety, drug and alcohol abuse, failed relationships, infertility, and pregnancy difficulties both physical and emotional.

All are in need of healing and to know God’s mercy and love. This is when and where the Church needs to be ready for them. -USCCB

Respect Life Ministry — Share these educational videos, links to programs, and helpful resources on healing after an abortion at https://arch-no.org/protesting-the-unborn.

USCCB Pro-Life — Order online or print out and place copies in your church of these articles, statements, downloadable brochures and resources found at usccb.org/pro-life/abortion-healing and usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/respect-life-brochures-moved-mercy.


Coral Works of Mercy — Your RL Ministry can sponsor a retreatant for the upcoming Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat to help a woman, or man, learn God’s mercy and find healing after an abortion; Help promote the retreat; Church parishioners can pray for retreatants during that weekend; Or send notes of encouragement and support to retreatants through the retreat facilitator Pam Richard.
Join Your Voice with Theirs! — Please contact your U.S. Senator, Representative and Committee Chairs in regards to these bills that seek to use tax-payers’ money to fund and expand abortions.

Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Bill — Most Rev. William E. Lori Archbishop of Baltimore, Chairman of USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities sent letter to Congress about the 2023 appropriations bill and the vital importance for the Hyde Amendment and all life-saving related appropriations riders to remain. USCCB opposes any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion. https://www.usccb.org/resources/Approps%20letter%20PL%20FY%2023%20final%20Senate.pdf

H.R. 5376 - Build Back Better Reconciliation —

Human Life Action makes contacting Congressional reps easy with letters already emailed addressed. Democratic leadership is using rare process, known as budget reconciliation, to allow this bill to become law with a simple majority vote (most legislation requires 60 Senate votes). Tell Congress Americans do NOT want their tax dollars to pay for abortions in ANY bill! humanlifeaction.org/take-action/action-alerts/

Sign the Petition to Congress! — Join Live Action and call on Congress to investigate the deaths of five babies found outside an abortion facility in Washington, D.C. with indications of infanticide. Just a few short blocks from Congress, 5 preborn children were brutally killed and discarded. Please sign the pledge telling Congress to call on Congress to investigate and hold their killers responsible. https://www.liveaction.org/news/

Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act — (H.R. 619) has again been introduced in Congress to protect babies from infanticide. But efforts to bring the bill to a House vote are still being blocked. Your action is needed to urge your Representative to sign a discharge petition that would allow this vote to occur. https://www.humanlifeaction.org/take-action/action-alerts/ For more info https://www.usccb.org/prolife/born-alive-abortion-survivors-protection-act

Adoption Expansion Act — (LA HB 274) passed 58 to 23 on LA House Floor April 7th. Many thanks to State Representative Rick Edmonds for standing up for infant adoption and skillfully handling questions about why our young people need education on infant adoption. Please call or send him note of thanks 225-295-9240 P.O. Box 94062, Baton Rouge, LA 70804 or emonds@legis.la.gov

Let us all unite in prayer for the U.S. Supreme Court Justices as they make a decision in the Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization!

Find prayerful resources https://www.prayfordobbs.com/

On December 1, 2021 Supreme Court Justices heard oral arguments in a case that could change our nation’s future. The case is on the constitutionality of a Mississippi law that prohibits most abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy, with few exceptions. It is one of the most significant challenges to Roe v. Wade and marks for the first time the Supreme Court has heard a case banning abortion before fetal viability. While most pro-life supporters feel positive about the oral arguments and are hopeful of the potential of full or partial overturning of Roe, please continue to pray that Justices give justice to the pre-born.

Mass for Life — Please bring your RL Ministry, families and friends to join Archdiocese of New Orleans as we pray for babies, moms, and the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade with a special Mass For Life con-celebrated by Archbishop Gregory Aymond and Father Ajani Gibson on FRIDAY, JUNE 10 at 6:30pm at St. Dominic Catholic Church, 775 Harri son Avenue, N.O. Reception following Mass. Hosted by the Respect Life Ministry and La. Right To Life. Learn more at www.NolaCatholic.org/respectlife

If you did not have the opportunity to hear the case, you can still listen to it at these websites: https://www.supremecourt.gov/oral_arguments/audio/2021/19-1392 and https://www.c-span.org/video/?516168-1/dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization-oral-argument

To read submitted briefs, find the list and links here: https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/


Louisiana Right To Life — prolife louisiana.org/scotus
March for Life — marchforlife.org/march-for-life-statement-on-scotus-hearing-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/

ACTION ALERTS

Upcoming Events

June 3-4 - Post-Roe Louisiana Summit at Bethany Church 11107 Honore Ln. in Baton Rouge. Two-day conference with pro-life leaders, ministers, organizers, and activists for education, discussion, planning, and unity ahead of the monumental Supreme Court decision. https://prolife louisiana.org/summit

June 8 - 25 - ACCESS Night at Ve Olde College Inn Night benefiting ACCESS Pregnancy Center. Come enjoy food, drinks, and friendship with a percentage of sale proceeds donated to CCANO Pregnancy Services.


July 11-15 PULSE Leadership Institute is an exciting week for high school/college students to be educated on pro-life issues and inspired to make a difference. Ashley Gilliam Ashley@prolife louisiana.org 866.463.5433 prolifepulsela.com