

St Joe's Respect Life Community Communiqué, December 4

Deacon Corky Pro-Life Award Winner!



Our own Deacon Corky was selected as this year's ***Law and Spirituality Award*** recipient at the November 7th Red Mass by the Catholic Lawyers Guild for the Diocese of St. Augustine. Bishop Erik Pohlmeier celebrated the Red Mass, a special liturgical celebration for all those involved in the administration of justice and government service (judges, lawyers, law school professors, government officials, law enforcement officers, etc). Dcn Corky has spent most of his 32 years as an ordained deacon serving in jail and prison ministry. He was appointed Director of Prison Ministry for the Diocese of St. Augustine in 2017. In his role as the director of prison ministry, he oversaw dozens of Catholic volunteers serving 38 major prisons and 17 county jails covering over a thousand miles throughout the diocese. He said it was "awe-inspiring to see the Holy Spirit at work in these volunteers and in the men to whom they ministered." He personally visited all the prisons and jails on rotation, holding Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion services and offering pastoral visits for spiritual advising and faith formation. The cell-front ministry to the men on death row was particularly moving for Dcn Corky, as he saw the face of God in one of the men. He said that death row ministry

"provided a unique opportunity to get to know the men and their challenges and aspirations for redemption or for continuing their journey with the Lord, having recognized His mercy and forgiveness." Our honoree also organized and moderated Cities for Life for the diocese in three locations for 5 years and attended Catholic Days at the Capital for several years petitioning Florida lawmakers to support pro-life legislation. He was one of 18 individuals who received the Benemerenti Papal Medal in 2021 for his dedication and exceptional service to the Diocese of St. Augustine and the Catholic Church. Congratulations Dcn Corky!

Divine Mercy House Award Winner!

Divine Mercy House has been selected for the 2023 Best of Jacksonville Award in the Association or Organization category by the Jacksonville Award Program. Each year, the Jacksonville Award Program identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Jacksonville area a great place to live, work and play.



St. Joseph Catholic Church

Holy Hour for Life


Our regularly scheduled Holy Hours for Life are on the first Wednesday of the month in the Cody Center Chapel from 7:00-8:00pm. Our next Holy Hour for Life will be on Wednesday, December 6, 7:00-8:00pm. Please come and help us pray for the unborn in Eucharistic Adoration if you can.


MARCH FOR LIFE JACKSONVILLE


2024 *Rally kicks off at 10 am!*
FLORIDA MARCH FOR LIFE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13TH
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON PARK
135 W MONROE ST, JACKSONVILLE FL

Speakers
(more TBA!)

*Frank Pavone*
Priests for Life

*Sarah Neely*
Operation Rescue



The fight for Life is on in Florida.
Your voice and presence have never been more vital!

Co-Hosted by Church of the Messiah, CEC For Life, Operation Rescue, Jacksonville For Life, & Pro-Life UNF

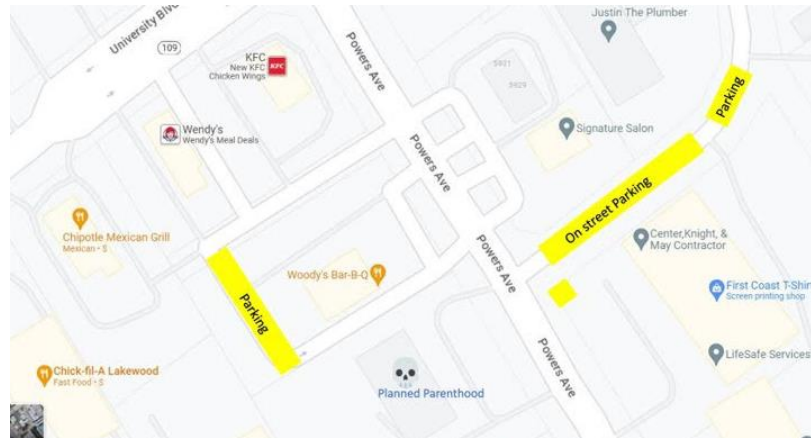
The Annual March for Life, St Augustine has been discontinued following the US Supreme Court's Dobbs decision, which returned the abortion issue to individual states to decide their own laws. We'd hoped and anticipated that a March for Life would be held in Tallahassee, our state capital, where our laws and court cases are being enacted and challenged. Since no one has picked up the ball in Tallahassee, some local Pro-Life groups have organized a march here in Jacksonville. Please pass along the word to your pro-life family and friends to support it as best you can.

Respect Life Parish Collection (January 2024)

A diocese-wide collection for the benefit of Pregnancy Centers, Maternity Homes, and Healing After Abortion programs/initiatives of the Office of Human Life and Dignity will be held during weekend masses on January 13/14. I will have a pulpit announcement before all masses. The effort will be our

2nd collection on that weekend, and collection envelopes will be provided in the pews and accepted through January 20/21. Please be generous and support these worthy efforts.

Praying to end Abortion at Planned Parenthood



Our First Saturdays' Prayer Pilgrimage Church Bus trip to Planned Parenthood following the 8:00am mass has been successfully run for the past 11 months. Come out and join us! Bus(es) depart(s) around 8:45am from the Historic Church parking lot and will return to the same place around 10:30am. We supply Pro-life signs but bring your own Rosary. You don't have to climb aboard the bus, you can drive yourself and meet us at Planned Parenthood (5978 Powers Ave). However, since the Latino Plaza next door to Planned Parenthood has been sold, that parking area is no longer available. This map shows the available parking areas in the very back of Woody's BBQ, street parking along University Blvd our parking options near Planned Parenthood are behind Woody's BBQ (next to dumpster and conex box), on street parking along University Blvd Ct (between the Signature Salon and the commercial building containing First Coast T-shirt), and I also highlighted a couple of spaces in the NW corner of the parking lot that the First Coast T-Shirt folks (I spoke with Mike at First Coast T-shirt) said they'd be OK with short-term parking as long as their parking lot is not otherwise full. Since our last Communique, the Holy Spirit has moved some of our parishioners to stand as witnesses, praying for the most vulnerable. Since our last Communique I witnessed 65 hours over a period of 36 days (5 of those days I stood uncomfortably alone, so please get the word out to pro-life people). We observed 498 "customers" enter, had 1 firm SAVE and 1 potential SAVE, received 2847 positive and 190 negative reactions from passersby, and passed out 29 pro-life informational handouts. Thank you Kim, Lucy, Normand, Alan, Lana, Marilyn, 3 Mike's, 3 Maureen's, Barb, Fran, Mary Jane, Savannah, Amanda, Pat, Luis, Sebastian, Isabella, Karen, Buff, Susan, Joe, Vickie, Francisco, Linda, Bernadette, John, Jean, David, Riley, Elena, Sara, Martha, Nicole, Carileen, George, Virginia, Joyce, Randy, Don, Sharon, Vicky, Greg, Michael, Magaly, Alpha, Susan, Carmen, Melissa, Sara, Ansley, Therese, Elena, William, Abby, Anthony, Lauren, Mason, Sri, Ellen, Celia, Janette, Joan, Margie, Christian, Bob, Jenna, Caleb, Sadie, Maddy, Cory, Hailey, Andy, Avenlee, Amy, Priscilla, Theresa, Cindy, Gary, Georgia, Butch and anyone else I may have missed who came out to stand up for the unborn at any of the 3 abortion clinics in Jacksonville. I invite, encourage, and pray all St Joseph pro-lifers to do the same, as their circumstances permit. We continue to have difficulty maintaining a pro-life presence on the sidewalk at Planned Parenthood during weekday hours. Having young people on the sidewalk is a great visual and a resource to effectively communicate with "customers" who are members of the same generation. Please pass the word to faithful pro-life people you know. They do not have to be parishioners or Catholic. Give them my contact information (paulmunnell@gmail.com, phone 941-416- 1325).

“Decline to Sign” Initiative.



Decline to Sign Petitions for Dangerous Pro-Abortion Ballot Initiative

An extremely grave initiative is underway in Florida that seeks to erase pro-life protections by banning government regulation of abortion in our state constitution. A network of abortion activists is working to gather petition signatures to have a pro-abortion constitutional amendment placed on the statewide ballot in the November 2024 election. To do so, they need nearly 900,000 thousand signatures and are working right now in communities across Florida to collect them.

This amendment is deeply concerning because it will allow all abortions to be obtained until viability and includes a broad "health" loophole, essentially allowing abortion on demand up to birth. The amendment would hinder the Florida legislature's ability to protect women and children from abortion. It could also nullify current laws requiring parental consent before minors obtain abortions and a 24-hour waiting period prior to abortions, as well as the 15-week and 6-week abortion laws recently passed by the legislature.

Floridians should not sign the petition. Declining to sign is not impeding the democratic process; it is taking a stand against what would be a terrible state policy. The FCCB is following developments in the initiative process closely and diligently preparing to help defeat it. Continue your prayers for the protection of the unborn and spread the word to your spheres of influence.

Thank you for helping to protect and respect all human life, especially the most vulnerable.

This notice was also recently published by the Florida Council of Catholic Bishops to subscribers of the Florida Catholic Advocacy Network (flcan). Planned Parenthood and partner organizations (including the ACLU) plan to spend millions of dollars gathering roughly 890,000 valid signatures by Feb. 1. Activists are canvassing at local shopping centers and college campuses to get signatures of registered voters. If enough signatures are collected, the measure will be placed on the 2024 ballot, allowing Floridians to vote on a constitutional amendment nullifying laws protecting unborn children, minors, and parental rights. A similar battle was recently lost in the state of Ohio and similar measures are being attempted to counter Pro-Life laws in several other states in 2024 (Missouri, Colorado, Arizona, Maryland, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, and South Dakota). We need to be watching that as well. It is important that we decline to sign these petitions, and if pro-abortion forces are successful in getting an abortion amendment on the ballot, that we VOTE against it and for LIFE! Educate your friends and families.

Human Life and Dignity Resources (Quick Reference Guide)

With so many local resources and opportunities to help support a culture of life and not enough space to get all these in our Bulletin, I have this as a regular space in our Communique. If you know of any other resources that provide support in these areas of our ministry, let me know.

Help with High-Risk Pregnancy

Wolfson Children's [High-Risk OB / Perinatal | Wolfson Children's | Jacksonville, FL \(wolfsonchildrens.com\)](#)

University of Florida Health Jacksonville [High-Risk Pregnancy - Pregnancy \(mother and baby care\) - UF Health Jacksonville \(ufhealthjax.org\)](#) and [Heart Care in Pregnancy - Women's Health - UF Health](#)

St Vincent's (Level III NICU) [Healthcare | Ascension](#)

Doctor Ratings [Best High Risk Pregnancy Doctors in Jacksonville, FL | Healthgrades](#)

Pre Natal and Post-Partum Help [\(16\) The Motherhood Space - YouTube](#) and [Find Postpartum Support With 'The Motherhood Space' \(jacksonvillemom.com\)](#)

Unborn Advocacy

"Why We're Pro Life" links to ebooks ([Why We're Pro-Life \(catholic.com\)](#) English and [Por que Somos Provida \(catholic.com\)](#) Español

First Saturdays Prayer Bus Pilgrimage to and Pro Life advocacy at Planned Parenthood. Leaves Historic Church at 8:45am, returns by 10:30am. Contact Paul at paulmunnell@gmail.com or 941-416-1325 if interested in more frequent vigils to Planned Parenthood on any day of the week.

Holy Hour for Life in Eucharistic Adoration, 1st Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm

Unplanned Pregnancy?

Divine Mercy House Maternity Home [Divine Mercy House](#) Contact Amy at 904-268-6282 [Contact/Resident Application — Divine Mercy House](#)

First Coast Women's Services [Pregnancy Help & Information Jacksonville, FL • Free Pregnancy Clinic Services \(fcws.org\)](#) 904-262-6300

Pregnancy Resource Center Information [PRC-Directory-2023.pdf \(dosafll.com\)](#)

Adoption/Foster Parenting

Choose Life License Plates [Choose Life - Florida \(flchoose-life.org\)](#) 386-339-1885

Foster Parenting/Family Support Services [Foster Care - Family Support Service of North Florida, Inc. \(fssjax.org\)](#)

Isaiah 117 House [Isaiah 117 House](#)

Foster Closet [Home - Foster Closet](#)

Currently Involved with Abortion?

Abortion Pill Reversal [Abortion Pill Reversal - Home](#) 877-558-0333 Changed your mind/heart? Save your baby.

Abortion Worker [Home | abortionworker.com](#) or call 888-570-5501 Escape the Abortion Industry and get assistance to find respectable health care work.

Post Abortion Healing

Rachel's Vineyard [Rachel's Vineyard \(rachelsvineyard.org\)](#) Local rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com 904-221-3232

Mary Huston

Support After Abortion [Support After Abortion](#) 833-403-HEAL (4325)

Can't Stay Silent [Can't Stay Silent \(cantstaysilent.com\)](#)

Reproductive Loss

Grief Share [Need Help Dealing with Grief? - GriefShare](#)

Red Bird Ministries [Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosaf1.com\)](#) Contact Regina at reginabquiones@gmail.com

Special Needs

Camp I Am Special [Camp I Am Special | Catholic Charities Jacksonville \(ccbjax.org\)](#) Contact Mary Rose (904) 230-7447 campiamspecial@ccbjax.org

Morning Star School [Morning Star School | \(morningstar-jax.org\)](#) Contact Abbie Johnson (904)721-2144 development@morningstar-jax.org

End of Life

Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice Catholic [Catholic Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice — The National Catholic Bioethics Center \(ncbcenter.org\)](#)

Palliative Care & Hospice for Children [Community PedsCare® | Community Hospice & Palliative Care](#)

Health Care Advance Directives [Patients Rights Council](#)

Euthanasia / Physician-Assisted Suicide [to-live-each-day-with-dignity-hyperlinked.pdf \(usccb.org\)](#)

Death Penalty

Death Penalty [Death Penalty | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosaf1.com\)](#)

Prison Ministry [Prison Ministry -Prison Ministry \(dosaf1.com\)](#) Contact John Chick, Director 904-293-3807 or jchick@dosaf1.com or Local at St Joseph Deacon Corky Hecht dcncorky91@yahoo.com

Human Trafficking

Blue Campaign [Blue Campaign | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#) 888-373-7888 Human Trafficking Hotline

Asservo Project [Home - The Asservo Project](#)

Same-Sex Attraction

Courage & Encourage [About - Courage International, Inc. \(couragerc.org\)](#) Contact: Fr. Ed Murphy (904) 797-4842 ewmurphy59@gmail.com

Desert Stream/Living Waters Ministry [Who We Are | Desert Stream Living Waters](#)

Thank you all for helping to build a culture of life!

Happy Advent as we prepare for His coming!



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Paul Munnell

Respect Life Coordinator, St Joseph's Catholic Church

I'm Not Retired, I'm A Professional Pap