

St Joe's Respect Life Community Communiqué, November 22

FIGHTING ABORTION



Vote NO on 4! HE did it – we did it! The election on November 5 resulted in a couple of wins for the Pro-Life movement. The good Lord used us parishioners as His instruments to educate enough people to defeat the extreme pro-abortion Amendment 4. Our prayers, presentations, and publicity for LIFE were not in vain. We give thanks as we prepare for this Thanksgiving Holiday. We thank Bishop Pohlmeier and Father Ruchinski for their leadership on this effort. Special recognition also to those who were out canvassing Mandarin as well as Duval, Clay, and St John's counties distributing informational door hangers identifying the deceptive language and truth about the Amendment. Sebastian, Pat, Laura, George, Robert, Cindy, Lucy, Jean, Gianna, Savannah, Lana, Carron, Russ, Diane, the Family For LIFE group, and many other faithful Catholics and Christians of various denominations disseminated approximately 200,000 door hangers over the past 5 months. And although we do not endorse any political candidate or party for election, the election results prevented (temporarily) a certain candidate/party from enshrining a "right to abortion" into Federal Law using any means necessary (i.e. eliminating the filibuster).^{*} However, we only slowed the advancement of the culture of death by a narrow margin. Results showed Florida's proposed Amendment 4 received 57% "Yes" votes (it needed 60% to pass). Seven of the ten abortion initiatives in various states passed, with Florida being one of just three states to uphold abortion limitations. This shows we have much work to do to change hearts and minds on the sanctity of life from conception to natural death. Sadly, many poorly catechized Catholics were not on the side of Life in this election. We pray for the Holy Spirit to touch their hearts, that they come to see the truth, repent, and promote a culture of Life. We cannot rest, we must continue proclaiming the Gospel of Life.

^{*}[Harris backs ending Senate filibuster to restore national abortion rights | Reuters](#); [Chuck Schumer outlines 2025 agenda if Democrats sweep, eyeing filibuster changes](#)

Divine Mercy House

Baby Bottle Drive. Thank you, St Joseph parishioners, for your generosity in support of our Divine Mercy House Maternity Home. Our October Baby Bottle Drive raised more than \$13,000 in support of mothers facing a crisis pregnancy, with little to no help available to them, and who courageously *choose life* for their unborn babies.



Feature Story. Amy Woodward, Executive Director of Divine Mercy House, was featured in the Fall edition of Catholic Magazine. Amy is pictured on the cover with her son Jayden, a key figure in her journey. Jayden is currently a seminarian. You can download the electronic version of the magazine here to read this inspirational story. [SA0924 | Catholic Magazines](#)

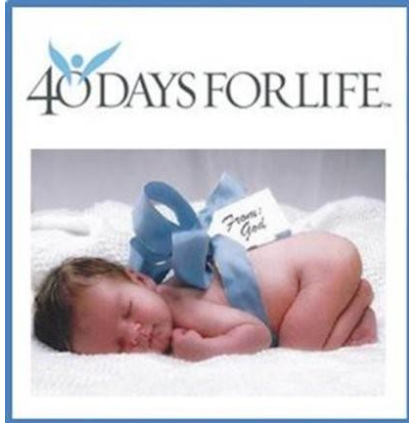


We're Hiring! Divine Mercy House is looking for people with big hearts and a calling to help women in need of good parent role models. They're also looking for an administrative specialist/driver to drive moms to the store, medical appointments, work, job interviews, etc. Contact Amy at 904-268-6282 for more details on these positions.



Holy Hours for Life are on the first Wednesday of the month in the Cody Center Chapel from 7:00-8:00pm. The Knights of Columbus have joined our ministry in sponsoring these powerful prayers. Our next Holy Hour for Life will be on Wednesday, December 4, 7:00- 8:00pm. Please come and pray with us for the unborn in Eucharistic Adoration.

Praying to End Abortion at Planned Parenthood



Our Fall **40 Days for Life** campaign ran from **Sept 25 - Nov 3**. Our vigil site was the Planned Parenthood at 5978 Powers Avenue. Led by our Respect Life Co-coordinator Savannah O'Brien, prayer pals advocated for the unborn. Florida's Heartbeat Protection Act protects most innocent unborn human beings in their mothers' wombs after 6 weeks. All abortions before 6 weeks are legal, and exemptions for victims of rape, incest, and human trafficking legalize abortion up to 15 weeks. In cases when the life of the mother is at risk there are no restrictions. So, we continue to have these vigils. Our next campaign will be during Lent 2025.

Our **First Saturdays' Church Bus trip** to Planned Parenthood following the 8:00am Mass has been a success for the past 24 months. Come out and join us! We depart around 8:45am from the Historic Church parking lot and return to the same place around 10:30am. Our next trip is December 7. We supply 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). The Holy Spirit has moved some of our parishioners to stand as witnesses, praying for the most vulnerable. Since our last Communiqué I witnessed 52 hours over a period of 29 days (several of those days I stood uncomfortably alone, so please get the word out to pro-life people to join me especially on weekdays). I observed 264 "customers" enter, received 3428 positive and 171 negative reactions from passersby, and passed out 15 "Blessing Bags" containing pro-life information. We also witnessed 1 firm SAVE during this time. Thank you Lucy, Normand, Savannah, Pat, Alan, Lana, Marilyn, Melissa, Alpha, Pauline, both Ricks, Barb, Bernadette, Fran, Mary Jane, Carol, Bill, Nicole, David, Patty, Joyce, Randy, George, Luis, Carron, Russ, Cindy, Filipe, Ellen, Celia, Isabella, Mathew, Karen, Joan, MaryAnn, Maribel, Tony, Butch, Abby, Cassandra, Annette, Leah, Paul, Bill, Don, 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 that all St Joseph pro-lifers will do the same, as their circumstances permit. We have difficulty maintaining a pro-life presence on the sidewalk at Planned Parenthood during weekday hours. Young people on the sidewalk are 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).

Enjoy the peace of Christ during your Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, & New Year Holidays!



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 [Welcome to the Motherhood Space Day Program! Mental Health Support for New Moms \(youtube.com\)](#) 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, First Wednesdays from 7:00-8:00pm.

Unplanned Pregnancy?

Divine Mercy House Maternity Home [Divine Mercy House](#) Contact Amy at 904-268-6282
[Contact — 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 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 \(rachelsvineyard.org\)](http://rachelsvineyard.org) Local rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com or call Mary Huston at 904-221-3232
Support After Abortion Support After Abortion 833-403-HEAL (4325)
Can't Stay Silent [Can't Stay Silent \(cantstaysilent.com\)](http://cantstaysilent.com)

Reproductive Loss

Grief Share [Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosafll.com\)](http://Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity (dosafll.com))
Red Bird Ministries [Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosafll.com\)](http://Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity (dosafll.com))
Contact Regina at reginabquinones@gmail.com

Special Needs

Camp I Am Special [Camp I Am Special | Catholic Charities Jacksonville \(ccbjax.org\)](http://Camp I Am Special | Catholic Charities Jacksonville (ccbjax.org))
Contact (904) 230-7447 campiamspecial@ccbjax.org
Morning Star School [Morning Star School | \(morningstar-jax.org\)](http://Morning Star School | (morningstar-jax.org)) Contact Abbie Johnson (904)721-2144
development@morningstar-jax.org
San Sebastian Catholic Church Deaf Ministry [\(6\) San Sebastián Catholic Church Deaf Ministry-St. Augustine, FL | Facebook](http://(6) San Sebastián Catholic Church Deaf Ministry-St. Augustine, FL | Facebook)

End of Life

Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice Catholic [Catholic Guide to Palliative Care and Hospice — The National Catholic Bioethics Center \(ncbcenter.org\)](http://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 \(usccb.org\)](http://to-live-each-day-with-dignity-hyperlinked.pdf (usccb.org))

Death Penalty

Death Penalty [Death Penalty | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosafll.com\)](http://Death Penalty | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity (dosafll.com))
Prison Ministry [Prison Ministry - Diocese of St. Augustine \(dosafll.com\)](http://Prison Ministry - Diocese of St. Augustine (dosafll.com)) Contact John Chick, 904-293-3807 or jchick@dosafll.com or Local at St Joseph Deacon Corky Hecht dcncorky91@yahoo.com

Human Trafficking

Blue Campaign [Blue Campaign | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](http://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. \(couragerc.org\)](http://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!

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Paul Munnell
Respect Life Coordinator, St Joseph's Catholic Church
I'm Not Retired, I'm a Professional Pap