

## St Joe's Respect Life Community Communiqué, May 6

### UPDATE ON 2024 SAVE FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD VIGIL

Last year while Pauline and Rick were at one of their regular Wednesday afternoon prayer vigils at Planned Parenthood they encountered, and the Holy Spirit moved, an abortion-minded couple to engage in dialog with them on their way into the facility. Fast forward several months. The couple recognized Pauline while she was working at Publix and told her that as a result of their conversation they had changed their minds, chose life, and that their baby girl was 3 weeks old. Again, fast forward a few more months. Dad shows up at Publix again in Pauline's check-out lane with their beautiful 3½ month old baby girl! God used Pauline and Rick to give that blessed couple something a lot better than any BOGO deal...priceless.



### Women's Help Center Fund Raiser

St Joseph Catholic Church is a "Defender" Sponsor for the upcoming Gala For Life. Time is running short for those wishing to reserve a seat for the event. Abby Johnson, whose book "Unplanned" is a Pro-Lifer's must-read, and subsequent movie "Unplanned" is a Pro-Lifer's must-see, is the featured speaker (and a Pro-Life must-hear).

**2025 GALA FOR LIFE**

**SAVE *the* DATE**

**5.22.25**

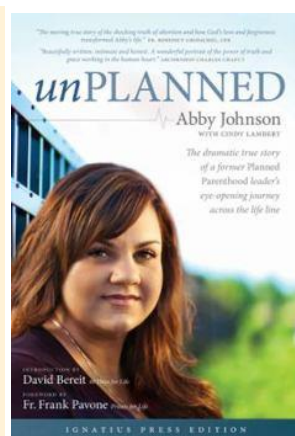
Please join Women's Help Center as we celebrate our 35th Anniversary!

*Legacy of Life*  
Paving the Way Forward

 **Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Abby Johnson**  
Former Planned Parenthood Director and Founder of And Then There Were None

 World Golf Village Renaissance  
St. Augustine Resort  
6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$150. Table host and sponsorship opportunities are available. Call 904.398.5143 to register.



## Praying to End Abortion at Planned Parenthood



You're invited to our... **DEFUNDING  
PLANNED PARENTHOOD**  
ACROSS America Life Chain!

Help Us Amplify the Pro-Life Message!

Every day, **1,076** babies lose their lives to abortion at *Planned Parenthood*. We are taking a stand with a **powerful visual display- a chain 1,076 pink crosses** -each representing a life lost.

**Join us as we raise our voices nationwide to push for real change and defend the most vulnerable.**

Contact Katie Yarborough with questions or to sign up!  
(904) 868-2313  
kryarborough02@gmail.com

DATE	LOCATION	TIME
Saturday March 29th	Jacksonville Planned Parenthood 5978 Powers Ave	9am-12pm

Sign Up at: [StudentsforLife.org/AcrossAmerica](https://StudentsforLife.org/AcrossAmerica)

Our Lent **40 Days for Life** campaign ran from **March 5 - April 13**. We also had 2 special events coinciding with this campaign. The first was **Defunding Planned Parenthood Across America Life Chain** on March 29 spearheaded by Katie Yarborough and Savannah O'Brien. We had 67 prayer pals participate and had a display of 1,076 pink crosses representing the number of children Planned Parenthood kills in this country every day.



In our second event we joined the Family for LIFE group in the **Nationwide Rally to Defund Planned Parenthood** on April 2, the day that the Supreme Court of the United States heard arguments in the case of *Kerr v Planned Parenthood*, which will decide whether states can defund Planned Parenthood. This case was brought by Planned Parenthood against the state of

South Carolina and will likely determine if our state of Florida can prevent state Medicaid funds from going to Planned Parenthood. Our Respect Life Co-coordinator Savannah O'Brien led the group of 25 prayer pals advocating for the defunding of this evil organization.



**“Pausing” First Saturdays’ Church Bus Trips to Planned Parenthood.** For the past 30 months we’ve transported prayer pals on our Church Bus every First Saturday to Planned Parenthood following the 8:00am Mass to pray for the unborn at risk. According to data from Florida AHCA, since the Heartbeat Protection Act went into effect in Florida on May 1, 2024, we experienced a 56% decline in the number of abortions in Jacksonville/Duval, comparing May-Dec 2023 (5,546) to May-Dec 2024 (2,427). Total numbers for the state of Florida for the entire year-to-year comparison of 2023 (84,052) to 2024 (64,854) show a 23% reduction in abortions. Positive news. Consequently, for the past several months none of the known abortion "doctors" have been seen at Planned Parenthood on Saturdays during our prayer vigils. Also, the Planned Parenthood website schedule appears to show that they are not performing abortions on Saturdays (hooray!) at least in the foreseeable future. Their customer traffic has been very low on that day as well. So, we’re going to "pause" our regular monthly First Saturday Church Bus Trips to Planned Parenthood. Thank you to all those who participated in our trips. 🙏🏻🙏🏻



Also, I'm altering my personal Saturday schedule for standing at Planned Parenthood. Until further notice I'm going to scale back and stand there on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Prayer pals are encouraged to join me as their schedules permit.

**First Saturday Prayers for the Unborn in St Joseph Cemetery.** On the First Saturdays of the month, instead of the Church Bus Trip to Planned Parenthood, I am encouraging our prayer pals to join me in St Joseph Cemetery to pray for the Unborn. There is already a Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) group that prays in our cemetery every First Saturday following the 8:00am Mass and we can join them. We have a vault in our Mausoleum with Unborn remains and we also have a Memorial to the Unborn. Both sites are appropriate places to pray for babies prematurely lost to stillbirth, miscarriage, and abortion...



If Planned Parenthood changes their schedule and starts to perform abortions again on Saturdays, we can restart the Church Bus trips (perhaps on a different Saturday of the month so members in the CRHP group have an opportunity to join us). Fr Ruchinski granted us the flexibility to restart Church Bus trips if necessary. And I will also go back to standing every Saturday if that happens. I continue to stand at Planned Parenthood on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays as usual. Please contact me if you are interested in joining me there on those days. Two good reasons for continuing to stand on some Saturdays are so we can interact with and educate the customers who continue to go to Planned Parenthood for other services, and we can monitor the facility to see if any abortion "doctors" begin to show up again on the weekend. Since our last Communiqué I witnessed 72 hours over 37 days with 70 prayer pals. We observed 384 "customers" enter, received 6,005 positive and 284 negative reactions from passersby, and passed out 28 "Blessing Bags" containing pro-life information. We also witnessed 2 potential SAVES during this time. I invite, encourage, and pray that more 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. Recently we even have added a Muslim to our group of prayer pals. She stayed with our group while we prayed the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet (something most of our Protestant pals are unwilling to do). Please direct interested faithful Pro-Life people to contact me at [paulmunnell@gmail.com](mailto:paulmunnell@gmail.com) or 941-416-1325.



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, May 7. Please come and help us pray for the unborn in Eucharistic Adoration if you can.

## Death Penalty...Florida Executions



**Edward James was executed March 20 by the state of Florida** for the 1993 murders of Betty Dick and her granddaughter, Toni Neuner. Prompted by the FCCB's Advocacy Network, members of our Respect Life Community were encouraged to message/petition to Gov DeSantis to commute Edward's sentence to life without parole. That effort being unsuccessful, we held a special Holy Hour for Life on March 19 for Mr. James, his victims Betty Dick and Toni Neuner, and their families.

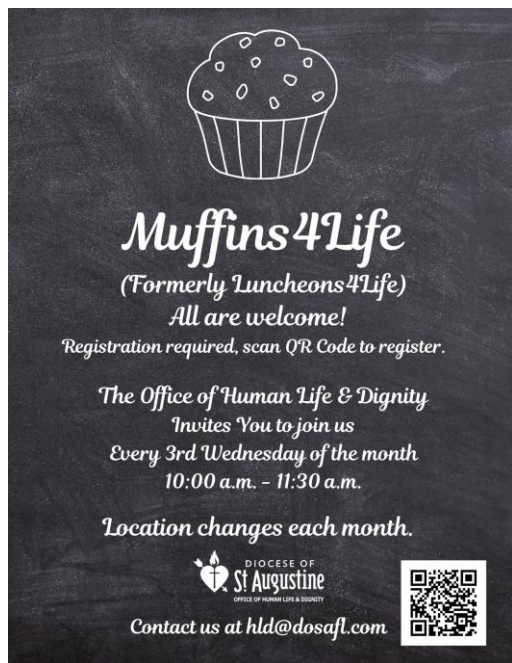
**Michael Tanzi was executed April 8 by the state of Florida** for the 2000 kidnapping and murder of Janet Acosta. Prompted by the FCCB's Advocacy Network, members of our Respect Life Community were encouraged to message/petition to Gov DeSantis to commute Michael's sentence to life without parole. That effort being unsuccessful, we held a special Holy Hour for Life on April 7 for Michael, his victim Janet Acosta, and her family.

**Jeffrey Hutchinson was executed May 1 by the state of Florida** for the 1998 murders of Renee Geoffrey, Amanda, and Logan Flaherty. Prompted by the FCCB's Advocacy Network, members of our Respect Life Community were encouraged to message/petition to Gov DeSantis to commute Edward's sentence to life without parole. That effort was unsuccessful. So, following the 8:00am morning Mass at the Historic Church Eucharistic Adoration was available in our Cody Center Chapel until 9:00pm for prayers. Intentions were made for Jeff and his victims immediately following exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at the beginning of the day. As Jeff's Spiritual Advisor Deacon Corky was with him on Wednesday and Thursday. Jeffrey received "Last Rites" from Bishop Emeritus Estevez on Wednesday and Deacon Corky was with Jeff inside the death chamber on Thursday.

**Glen Rogers is scheduled to be executed on May 15.** If you are a subscriber to the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops, you should soon receive an email urging Gov Ron DeSantis to spare the life of Glen Rogers. If you are not a subscriber, you can sign up at this link [Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops - FLORIDA CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK \(FLCAN\) - Tallahassee, FL](#). When you receive the anticipated email, just click on the "Take Action" button to make your voice known. If this effort is unsuccessful, we will have Eucharistic Adoration available immediately following 8:00am Mass in our Cody Center Chapel approximately 8:45am-9:00pm for people to offer intentions and to pray for the souls of Glen and his victims Tina Cribbs and Sandra Gallagher.



## Muffins4Life



We're making a pitch for our diocese-wide monthly get togethers for people interested in Life issues. Guest speakers from various areas in the Human Life & Dignity ministry make presentations on timely issues and plenty of delicious muffins are served. The cost is FREE, but occasionally donations are requested for specific purposes (i.e. "Special Request: Please bring donations for Rachel's Vinyard. Items needed are: ..."). These meetings are held at different locations within our diocese, provide a great opportunity to hear what's going on, and serve as an excellent way to network with faithful people in the Human Life & Dignity Ministry (not just Catholics). The next Muffins4Life event will be held on May 21 at Mary, Queen of Heaven Catholic Church (in Hall), 9401 Staples Mill Dr, Jacksonville, FL 32244. Look for "Muffins4Life" yard signs to

direct you. Speakers are Jennifer Pace of First Coast Women's Services, and Dr Jason Phillips on The Abortion Pill Reversal. Introduction to discussion on Theology in Utero. You can scan the QR code or click here to register [Muffins4Life RSVP](#)



## Mother's Day Rose Sale



Lastly, this upcoming weekend at Masses in the main church our Knights of Columbus will be conducting our annual Rose Sale. Price of the roses are \$4 each and proceeds will benefit the Women's Help Center. Happy Mother's Day! 💕

## 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-Pardum 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](mailto: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](mailto:rachelsvineyardjax@yahoo.com) or call Mary Huston at 904-221-3232  
Support After Abortion [Support After Abortion](http://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 \(dosafl.com\)](http://Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity (dosafl.com))  
Red Bird Ministries [Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosafl.com\)](http://Red Bird Ministries | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity (dosafl.com))  
Contact Regina at [reginabquinones@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://Community PedsCare® | Community Hospice & Palliative Care)  
Health Care Advance Directives [Patients Rights Council](http://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 \(dosafl.com\)](http://Death Penalty | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity (dosafl.com))  
Prison Ministry [Prison Ministry - Diocese of St. Augustine \(dosafl.com\)](http://Prison Ministry - Diocese of St. Augustine (dosafl.com)) Contact John Chick, 904-293-3807 or [jchick@dosafl.com](mailto:jchick@dosafl.com) or Local at St Joseph Deacon Corky Hecht [dcncorky91@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:ewmurphy59@gmail.com)  
Desert Stream/Living Waters Ministry [Who We Are | Desert Stream Living Waters](http://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