

St Joe's Respect Life Community Communiqué, December 29

Human Trafficking Awareness. At this month's Muffins4Life event we received an eye-opening presentation by Ruby Peters, Human Trafficking Educator, Catholic Charities Bureau of the Diocese of St. Augustine and Northeast Florida Human Trafficking Coalition Ambassador. This is not solely an immigration issue; most victims and most human traffickers in our country are US Citizens. Vulnerable populations include minors in unstable situations, young people in general, drop-outs, runaways, the homeless, LGBTQ+, drug/alcohol abusers/addicts, foster children, special needs, and juvenile delinquents.



Please use the QR Codes here and review these resources to familiarize yourself with this important issue and share them with your loved ones.

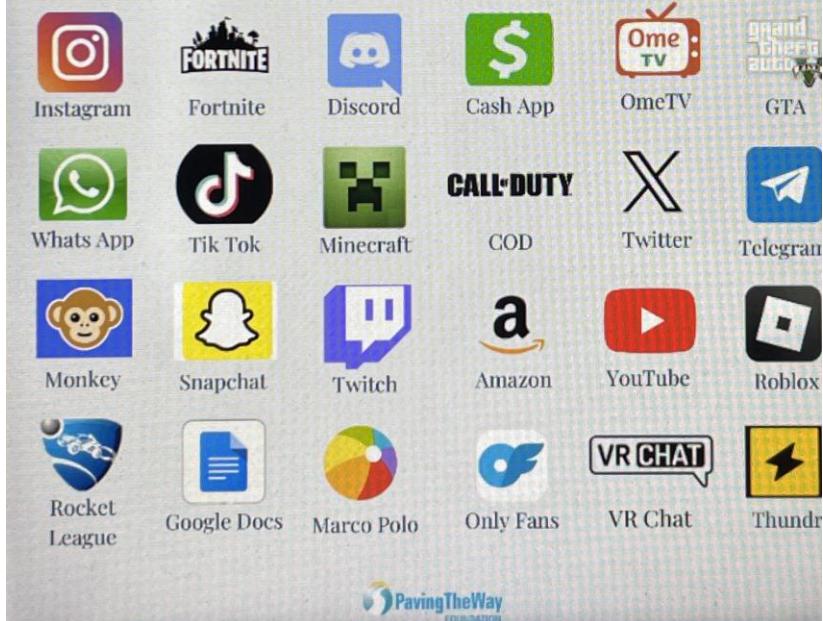


Social Media & Gaming Platforms to Know About

In today's digital world, children connect and play across many social media and gaming platforms. Knowing these spaces helps you understand where your kids spend their time and who they interact with.

Many apps share features like chatting, sharing photos and videos, live streaming location sharing, and direct messaging.

We encourage you to ask your children to show you how these apps work and why they like them. This opens the door to trust and helps you guide them toward safe online experiences.



Online spaces are target rich environments used by predators to engage with tweens (9 to 12 year old children). Parents (and grandparents) need to be aware of tactics they use to recruit their victims...building friendships; promising a job; offering trips, gifts, money, & new clothes; professing love & devotion; promising relationship will be secret; asking for inappropriate pictures; pretending to be lonely.

PavingTheWay Foundation is a good resource for adults responsible for keeping kids safe to learn about the risks that children in their charge face online...[Paving The Way Foundation - Paving the Way Foundation](#)

And an organization called

RE threaded

was featured at the event.

[Rethreaded | Unique Products](#)
[Created By Survivors of Human Trafficking](#)



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

Praying to End Abortion

First Saturday Prayers for the Unborn in St Joseph Cemetery. We continue with these events on the First Saturdays following the 8:00am Mass. This event was initiated due to our “pause” on the First Saturdays Church Bus Trips to Planned Parenthood. We gather with the CRHP group at the Crucifix in the center of the cemetery and pray the Rosary and then move to the Monument to the Unborn and pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. The vaults in our Mausoleum (containing the St Vincent's vault for miscarried/stillborn babies and the vault for the Unborn) are also appropriate places to pray for babies prematurely lost to stillbirth, miscarriage, and abortion at any time. Please join us on First Saturdays if you can.



It's been over a year since we last saw an abortionist show up at Planned Parenthood on a Saturday (on December 7, 2024). But we continue to have a reduced presence at Planned Parenthood on Saturdays to interact with and educate their customers who go for other services, and to see if any abortion "doctors" begin to show up again on the weekend. Since our last Communiqué I witnessed 46 hours over 21 days with 25 prayer pals. We observed 223 "customers" enter, received 3,270 positive and 107 negative reactions from passersby, and the Holy Spirit moved 16 women and a young man to accept a "Blessing Bag" containing pro-life information. We recorded a potential SAVE during this time as a volunteer at Women's Help Center reported that a couple came to see them with one of the "Blessing Bags" we passed out. I invite, encourage, and pray that more St Joseph pro-lifers will come out as we have difficulty maintaining a pro-life presence on the sidewalk 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. Please direct interested faithful Pro-Life people to contact me at paulmunnell@gmail.com or 941-416-1325.

January Muffins4Life

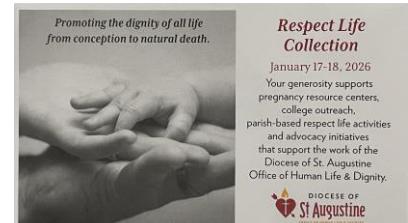


The next Muffins4Life event will be held on January 21 at L'Arche, a community for people with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

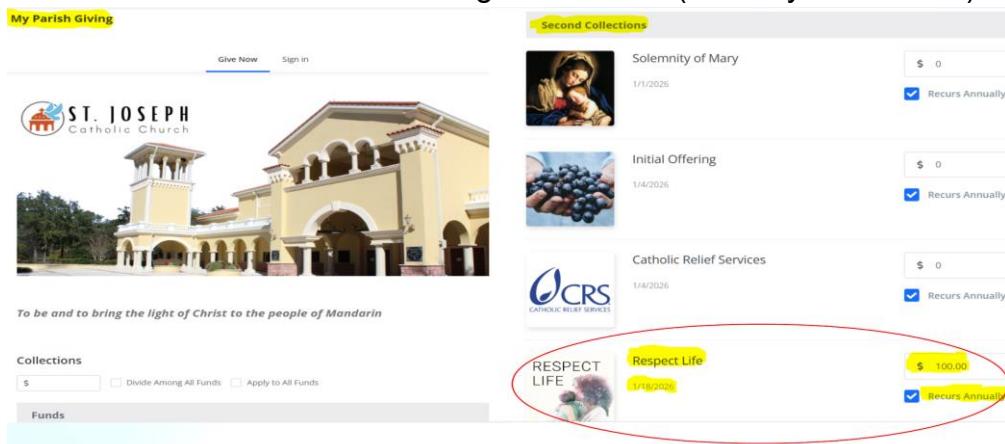


Respect Life Collection

We will be holding our Respect Life Collection on January 10-11 as the second collection (a week earlier than the Diocese so as not to conflict with our Parish Assessment collection). Envelopes will be provided in the pews, and we will be tabling in our Main Church Welcome Area before and after Masses with information on our Human Life & Dignity Ministry and Pro-Life giveaways.



You can also donate online through ParishSoft (formerly FaithDirect).



The image shows a screenshot of the ParishSoft giving page for St. Joseph Catholic Church. At the top, it says 'My Parish Giving' with 'Give Now' and 'Sign in' buttons. Below that is the church's logo and a photo of the building. A banner at the bottom says 'To be and to bring the light of Christ to the people of Mandarin'. The main area shows 'Second Collections' with three options: 'Solemnity of Mary' (1/1/2026), 'Initial Offering' (1/4/2026), and 'Catholic Relief Services' (1/10/2026). A red oval highlights the 'Respect Life' collection, which is set for 1/10/2026, amounting to \$100.00, and has the 'Recur Annually' checkbox checked.



Death Penalty...Florida Executions

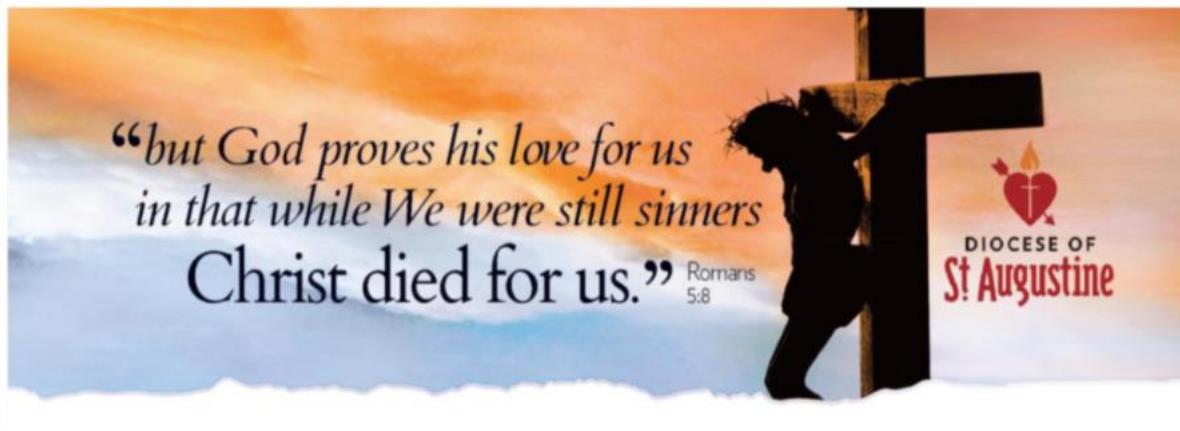
Four more death row prisoners were executed by the state of Florida in the past 2 months.

Bryan Jennings was executed by the state of Florida on Thursday, November 13, for the 1979 murder of Rebecca Kunash.

Richard Randolph (Malik Abdul-Sajjad) was executed by the state of Florida on Thursday, November 20, for the 1988 murder of Minnie Ruth McCollum.

Mark Geralds was executed by the state of Florida on Tuesday, December 9, for the 1989 murder of Tressa Lynn Pettibone.

Frank Walls was executed by the state of Florida on Thursday, December 18, for the murders of Tommie Lou Whiddon (1985), Cynthia Sue Condra (1986), Edward Alger, Ann Peterson, and Audrey Gygi (1987).



Looking ahead in 2026, more than a dozen individuals are scheduled for execution. Specific dates are not yet available due to legal proceedings and appeals. We continue to pray for those prisoners on death row and their victims. And please continue to voice your concerns to Gov DeSantis to stop these executions. To get automatic alerts from FLCAN you can sign up at this link [Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops - FLORIDA CATHOLIC ADVOCACY NETWORK \(FLCAN\) - Tallahassee, FL](#). Otherwise, I will continue to send you emails with the links. When you receive the email/text message, just click on the "Take Action" button to make your voice known. We've paused our bus trips out to the Florida State Prison on execution days, due to driving conditions on the rural roads in the darkness. If necessary (and we hope it won't be), we will restart the bus trips in mid-April and will continue until mid-August for future executions.

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' \(jacksonvilemom.com\)](#)

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

Pro Life advocacy at Planned Parenthood. Daily vigils on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and select Saturdays. Contact Paul at paulmunnell@gmail.com or 941-416-1325.

Cemetery Prayer Vigils at Monument to the Unborn, First Saturdays following 8:00am Mass.

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 \(dosafl.com\)](#)

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 \(rachelsvineyard.org\)](#) 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 \(cantstaysilent.com\)](#)

Reproductive Loss

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

Special Needs

Camp I Am Special [Camp I Am Special | Catholic Charities Jacksonville \(ccbjax.org\)](#)
Contact (904) 230-7447 campiamspecial@ccbjax.org
Morning Star School [Morning Star School | \(morningstar-jax.org\)](#) 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](#)

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 \(usccb.org\)](http://to-live-each-day-with-dignity-hyperlinked.pdf)

Death Penalty

Death Penalty [Death Penalty | Human Life & Dignity -Human Life & Dignity \(dosaf.com\)](#)
Prison Ministry [Prison Ministry - Diocese of St. Augustine \(dosaf.com\)](#) Contact John Chick, 904-293-3807 or jchick@dosaf.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!

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Paul Munnell
Respect Life Coordinator, St Joseph's Catholic Church