



PARTICIPANT INFORMATION – DIOCESE OF WORCESTER

MARCH FOR LIFE 2026

REGISTRATION FORMS (three types): (Download forms at www.worcesterdiocese.org/respect-life)

1. **Individual Registration** – to be filled out by those traveling alone or in small groups. This is primarily for adults who are not chaperoning a group of students – e.g., one person travelling alone, several friends attending together, etc. If you are travelling in a parish-coordinated group, adult participants should each fill out an individual form, and, a group leader for the parish must be designated. The parish group leader should fill out the parish group listing form to accompany the individual registrations.

2. **Student Permission Slip** – to be completed for each student, age 18 and younger, attending as part of a school or parish group. All students must be assigned to a chaperone. We recommend no more than 6 to 8 students per adult. (Students complete this form only; they do not need the individual registration form.) ***PLEASE NOTE: This form is 2 pages in length. When downloading forms, please print both pages, either back to back on one piece of paper, or if two separate pages, please staple securely. School/Group coordinator must verify that forms are filled out legibly and completely before sending them in so that we don't have to send them back.***

College Students: The adult coordinator, as the responsible party, should complete the Chaperone Form. Student attendees should complete the Individual Registration Form *unless* they are 18 years of age or younger, in which case they must complete the student permission form. Each college group must have a designated adult leader (faculty or staff) present on the trip with the students.

3. **Chaperone Registration** – to be completed by each adult attending with students from schools, colleges, and/or parishes. **Note:** All chaperones must have a CORI form on file with the Office of Healing and Prevention and a signed copy of the Code of Ministerial Conduct on file with their school or parish. These forms are available from your school or parish.

4. ***If you are coordinating a group (school or parish), please be sure the GROUP LISTING FORM is included when you submit your registration forms and payments. SEE ALSO, INFORMATION FOR GROUP LEADERS BELOW.***

COSTS and DEADLINES:

This year's transportation will be provided by Lizak Bus Service. PLEASE BE ATTENTIVE TO REGISTRATION DEADLINES! IF there is space available after the Dec. 12 deadline, registration will continue into early January or until buses are full. Register by deadline to secure your seat.

1. **Cost** of the trip is \$150 per bus seat. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 12, 2025.**
2. **Mail** completed registration forms and payments to: Respect Life Office, 49 Elm St., Worcester, MA 01609. Checks may be made payable to *Respect Life Office*.
3. Reservations are accepted on a first-come first-served basis. If you have for some reason missed the deadline, please call 508-929-4311 or email aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org to see if there is space still available. We will also keep a waiting list in case there are any cancellations.
4. Payment must accompany registration. Seats are not guaranteed until registration forms and payment are received.
5. **There are no refunds for cancellations** (unless the trip is called off completely by the bus company due to hazardous weather). It is recommended that in the event a participant has to cancel due to illness or other unexpected circumstances, that they try and find someone to take their place. Otherwise, we gratefully accept your payment as a donation to this good cause. Please contact us immediately if this occurs so that proper registration paperwork for a substitute attendee can be completed promptly.



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GENERAL ITINERARY:

- **MASS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF BUSES.** Participants attend the Respect Life Mass at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, Jan. 22. Anyone is welcome to attend the Mass whether or not they are attending the March for Life. There is a special blessing for those going on the March.
- **ARRIVE EARLY.** Those going on the bus trip should arrive at least 20-30 minutes before Mass. Any gear you are bringing on the trip can be left downstairs in the Cenacle. The Cenacle will be locked during Mass and you will have time to retrieve your belongings before boarding the buses. If you are travelling with a group, arrive early enough to check in with your group leader before Mass. Your group leader will tell you where to meet them for check-in.
- **WHICH BUS DO I BOARD?** **Check your email regularly in the days leading up to the March!** Any updated information and assigned bus numbers will be emailed to you. In most cases we are usually able to keep groups together. Bus numbers will also be announced at the end of Mass as a reminder.
- **DROP-OFF/PICK-UP.** It is helpful if attendees have someone who will drop them off and pick them up at the Cathedral as area parking is at a premium. If it is absolutely necessary to park your car overnight, you must call St. Paul's Cathedral rectory in advance at (508)799-4193, to inquire whether parking arrangements are possible. There are also two fee-for-parking garages at the bottom of High St. within walking distance of the Cathedral, which allow for overnight parking. Lock your vehicle and do not leave any valuables inside.
- **DEPARTURE.** Participants board buses immediately following the Mass. Buses will be parked outside the Cathedral. (*see Check-in before Mass, and Which bus do I board? above*)
- **WHAT TO BRING.** It is recommended that attendees bring enough spending money for meals and for the cost of the metro ride from the Basilica to the National Mall. Check the weather before you leave and be prepared to dress accordingly. You will be outside for several hours. You will not be able to leave valuables on the bus (non-valuable items such as pillows may be left). Travel light!
- **THE TRIP.** Buses will leave St. Paul's Cathedral following the 7:30 p.m. Mass (at approximately 8:30 p.m.), and travel to Washington, DC. Drivers will make a couple of stops at rest areas along the way. **(Your bus captain or group leader will take attendance each time the bus re-boards. Please be prompt in returning to your bus at requested times.)** Participants will be dropped off at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception early in the morning of Fri. Jan. 23 where our group will attend the 7:30 a.m. morning Mass together (this Mass is also televised live on EWTN). After Mass you will have some free time, during which many people like to tour the Shrine, get something to eat, etc., then take the metro over to the National Mall (there will be plenty of people to guide you in the right direction). The March for Life begins with a rally at noon at the National Mall. (Additional information about the March can be found at www.marchforlife.org). Following the March, which ends at the U.S. Capital building (not the Supreme Court as in past years), participants will board buses for the return trip. Buses will be parked a short walk away at Union Station (drivers will provide further instruction for meeting them upon drop-off and maps will be provided on the bus so that you can find your way easily). Please be sure to board buses for the return trip promptly. Buses will arrive back at St. Paul's Cathedral somewhere between midnight and 1:00 a.m.

If this is your first time attending the March for Life, we will keep “newcomers” together on the same bus. One of our “veteran marchers” will show you the ropes and you will be sure to make new friends!



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INFORMATION FOR PARISH AND SCHOOL GROUPS:

1. One chaperone is recommended for every six to eight students (consult with your school or parish leadership).
2. The Group Leader/March for Life coordinator is responsible for the following:
 - a. Collect all registration forms and payments from attendees.
PLEASE NOTE: *If your group includes more than a few people, **please collect all payments first**, then provide **one check** for the total to our office accompanied by the registration forms. REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE COMPLETED GROUP LISTING FORM. If you anticipate a large group, you may need to include special instructions to your attendees to have them make checks out to your school or parish. You may wish to set earlier deadlines for your group (e.g., before Christmas vacation begins or a week earlier than our deadline in case you have to seek out the “lost sheep”). That way you will have everything you need to turn forms and payments into the Respect Life Office on time. **REMEMBER! THIS YEAR’S REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 12!***
 - b. Return all forms and payment to the Respect Life Office by the appropriate deadline.
 - c. **Be sure to fill out the GROUP LISTING FORM** and return it **with** your group’s registration form and payment.
 - d. **Keep copies** of all registration forms/permission slips for your records. Leave one copy at your school or parish office and keep a list of your students’ cell phone numbers, emergency contacts, allergies, and any other pertinent information your school or parish requires you to take with you on the trip.
 - e. **Take attendance** each time the bus is re-boarded after stops. We will provide attendee lists to all group leaders prior to the trip to facilitate easier attendance-taking. We will also provide each group leader/chaperone with contact information for all the group leaders so that you can keep in touch with each other during the trip.
 - f. Be sure cell phone numbers are shared among those in your group.
 - g. **Please check your email regularly in the days leading up to the March.** Updates will be sent as needed. We will aim to have bus numbers assigned and emailed to you in advance, along with any other information that you will need to communicate to your group.

Please contact the Respect Life Office with any questions. We will be happy to assist you!
aledoux@worcesterdiocese.org | 508-929-4311