



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Lisa Shea, Dir. of Community & Media Engagement  
314.792.7633 [lisashea@archstl.org](mailto:lisashea@archstl.org)

### Archdiocese Offers Free Gun Safety Locks During Gun Violence Awareness Month

In recognition of Gun Violence Awareness Month, the Archdiocese of St. Louis Gun Violence Prevention Task Force is providing free gun safety locks to the community.

Thanks to a generous partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), gun locks are now available — no questions asked — at Archdiocesan Vicariate Offices and the Cardinal Rigali Center, as well as through any Catholic parish within the City of St. Louis and 10 counties that comprise the archdiocese.

To request a gun safety lock, simply contact any parish office or email [GVPTF@archstl.org](mailto:GVPTF@archstl.org).

This initiative is rooted in a sobering reality: **nearly 60% of adults in the U.S., or someone they care about, have experienced gun violence.** Gun violence remains a devastating public health crisis, with far-reaching consequences for individuals, families, and communities.

- **Guns are the leading cause of death among American children.**
- **Nearly 60% of all adult gun deaths are suicides.**
- **Safe storage — including the use of gun locks and storing ammunition separately — can significantly reduce the risk of unintentional shootings and suicides.**

“Gun violence continues to plague our nation and our communities in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. As a church, we need to respond to this critical life issue that affects so many in such horrible ways,” said Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski. “Raising awareness of gun violence is critical to addressing this issue. I asked that our parishes, schools, and other institutions help to spread the word about safety and respect for human life.”

In Missouri alone, nearly 1,400 lives are lost each year due to gun violence, giving the state the **4th highest gun death rate in the country.** Nationally, more than **43,000 Americans are killed** and another **76,000 are wounded** by guns annually. Every day, more than 300 people across the U.S. are directly impacted by gun violence.

Gun Violence Awareness Month is a time to both mourn these losses and demand life-saving change. The Archdiocese of St. Louis is commemorating the month with several initiatives focused on education, prevention, and advocacy. More information and downloadable resources are available at: [bit.ly/gvptfstl](https://bit.ly/gvptfstl).

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### Location Addresses Addendum

Cardinal Rigali Center

20 Archbishop May Dr.  
Shrewsbury, MO 63119

**Northern Vicariate Office**

6052 Waterman Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63112

**Southern Vicariate Office**

1550 St. Mary's Ln.  
Festus, MO 63028

**Western Vicariate Office**

1424 South 1<sup>st</sup> Capital Dr.  
St. Charles, MO 63303

**Find a Parish:** <https://www.archstl.org/join-us/mass-times/?find=my-parish>

**Counties within the Archdiocese of St. Louis**

- Franklin
- Jefferson
- Lincoln
- Perry
- St. Charles
- St. Francois
- Ste. Genevieve
- St. Louis
- Warren
- Washington

**About the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force**

*The Gun Violence Prevention Task Force of the Archdiocese of St. Louis was established by Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski in 2023 in response to the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in our society. The Task Force works to address the root causes of gun violence through education, advocacy, and pastoral care. Guided by Catholic social teaching and a commitment to human dignity, the Task Force strives to foster safe, life-affirming communities for all.*

**About the Archdiocese of St. Louis**

*The Archdiocese of St. Louis was established in 1826 and is comprised today of more than 400,000 Catholics in the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding Missouri counties. Led by the Most Reverend Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski in communion with His Holiness Pope Francis, we are called by our Lord, Jesus Christ, to be His Church and live His Gospel. Learn more about the Archdiocese of St. Louis at [www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org), and on Facebook, Instagram, X, and LinkedIn.*