



**GUN  
VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION**

**ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS**

**JUNE IS GUN VIOLENCE  
AWARENESS MONTH**

Archbishop Rozanski has noted,  
“Gun violence is a human life — a quality of life —  
issue. Those who are threatened by gun violence  
are not living the fullest potential of their lives.”

More than **43,000** Americans are  
killed with guns, and **76,000** more  
are shot and wounded each year.

**Free gun locks are available — ask your parish office.**

**IT'S A MATTER OF LIFE**



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**JUNE 5-7 IS WEAR  
ORANGE WEEKEND**

Wear Orange is a movement to honor victims and survivors of gun violence and to raise awareness of the impact of gun violence. Nearly 60 percent of adults, or someone they know or care about, have experienced gun violence in their lifetime.

Locking firearms can reduce gun violence.  
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**GUN VIOLENCE AND CHILDREN**

Guns are the leading cause of death for American children. We can reduce unintentional shootings involving children and child and teen suicides by **locking our firearms and storing ammunition separately.**

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## **THE LESSER-KNOWN SIDE OF GUN VIOLENCE**

Nearly 60% of all adult gun deaths are suicides by gun. Using gun locks or securing firearms in a gun safe can reduce the risk of suicide by gun in an emotional, impulsive response to a stressful situation.

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If you are concerned that someone you know – or you yourself – may be considering suicide, the **988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline** offers 24/7 support from trained counselors.

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## **GUN VIOLENCE AND WOMEN**

Every 16 hours, a woman is shot dead by her current or former partner, an average of 70 women every month. Access to a gun makes it 5 times more likely that an abuser will kill his female victim.

In the St. Louis Archdiocese, **St. Martha's**, one of the ministries of Catholic Charities, provides shelter, resources, and compassionate care for women and children experiencing domestic violence.

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