



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Cardinal Rigali Center
20 Archbishop May Drive
Saint Louis, MO 63119-5738

Respect Life Apostolate
p) 314.792.7555
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STLRespectLife.org



December 19, 2025

Dear Priests of the Archdiocese of St. Louis,

Wishing God's blessings on you and your parishes and ministries during this holy Advent and upcoming Christmas season!

January Archdiocesan Pro-Life Activities

In January, the month the Church observes the *National Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children*, the Respect Life Apostolate is inviting the Archdiocesan faithful into these prayer, witness, and educational opportunities on the Gospel of Life:

- January 3, *First Saturday Rosary for Life* outside of the St. Louis abortion facility, 10 a.m.
- January 5, *Respect Life 8th Grade Creative Writing Contest* starts (through February 27)
 - Sample materials enclosed for your information; full materials already sent to parish and school educators via the Office of Catholic Education & Formation in early December.
- January 10, *Rite of Naming & Commendation*, Christ Prince of Peace, after the 8 a.m. Mass.
- January 12, *Respect Life Parish Coordinators Meeting*, Cardinal Rigali Center, 6:30 p.m.
- January 16-24, *USCCB 9 Days for Life Novena*, <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>
- January 22, *Young Adult Pro-Life Holy Hour*, Cathedral Basilica, 6:30 p.m.
- January 23, *March for Life*, Washington DC, <https://marchforlife.org/>
 - RLA's Generation Life mini-grants (applications due on January 16) are available to parish or schools sending student groups to the March or hosting local student activities.
- January 24, *Roe v. Wade Memorial Mass*, Cathedral Basilica with Archbishop Rozanski, 10 a.m.
- January 24, *Rite of Naming & Commendation*, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish, 11 a.m.

Thank you for your help in getting the word out with the enclosed materials, which includes an invitation to participate in the 2026 LifeLine Coalition collection at the January 24 Mass benefitting local agencies. More information was also recently shared with your parish respect life coordinators and is available online at: <https://www.archstl.org/events/category/respect-life-apostolate/>

Year-Round Respect Life Resources

This USCCB Pro-Life site has a wide variety of prayer and educational resources for clergy, parish leaders, educators, the lay faithful, and families that can be utilized year-round.

- General site: <https://www.respectlife.org/>
- Clergy-specific site: <https://www.respectlife.org/priests-and-deacons>

New Amendment 3 in 2026

Per the Missouri Catholic Conference (MCC), the public policy agency of the Catholic Church in Missouri, Secretary of State Denny Hoskins certified HJR 73 for the November 3, 2026, general election. Ironically, the measure will appear as "Amendment 3," even though it aims to roll back some of the worst provisions of the pro-abortion constitutional amendment with the same name that very narrowly passed in 2024. The MCC and RLA will continue to update you and your parish respect life coordinators on this developing legislation and its impact on abortions in our state. A preliminary web page with resources and updates on Amendment 3 is available from the MCC, which is supporting a yes vote, at:

<https://mocatholic.org/abortion/>

(Over Please)



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Archdiocesan Prayer & Witness Ministry/Our Lady of Guadalupe Convent

In December 2024, in response to the return of abortions within the Archdiocese, the RLA resumed our monthly prayer ministry witness outside of the St. Louis abortion facility. Each first Saturday, we hold a Rosary for Life at 9:30 a.m. open to all pro-life pilgrims. We are grateful to our priests who have led us in prayer and our deacons and religious who have prayed with us. Please contact us if you or your clergy or religious would like to be involved with this beautiful ministry. We are also grateful to the Salesian Sisters of Mary Immaculate at Our Lady of Guadalupe Convent next door who have provided hospitality and additional prayer after each of our monthly vigils.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and all that you and your parishes and ministries do to build a Culture of Life throughout the year. Your faithful support of the Gospel of Life, including the efforts of the Respect Life Apostolate, has been vital in our efforts to “cherish preborn children, walk with pregnant and parenting mothers, and help those wounded by abortion to heal” as well as educate the next generation on the Gospel of Life.

Sincerely in Christ,

Mary Lovee Varni, *Director*
Respect Life Apostolate, Archdiocese of St. Louis



Supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal