

Now More Than Ever: March For Life

In the movie Apollo 13, as astronaut Ken Mattingly tried desperately—from the base station—to find a safe reentry procedure for his endangered crew in space, a coworker asked if he needed a break; Mattingly responded: “If *they* don’t get a break, *I* don’t get a break.” Mattingly had been grounded from the moon mission because of exposure to German measles. Mattingly never got the measles but his providential presence and inspiring determination on the ground were major factors in saving the Apollo 13 crew in deadly circumstances in 1970.

Since the legalization of abortion in 1973, there has not been a break in the death toll of unborn children; only a wake of millions of broken-hearted parents whose children were lost to abortion. Organizers of the [National March for Life](#) will not take a break from protesting the massive genocide that has been sanctioned by Supreme Courts and national legislative bodies since January 22 for 48 years.

For this reason, Shelby County Right to Life is, once again, organizing a trip to Washington DC for the National March for Life, in spite of obstacles. Now more than ever, pro-life voices must be heard by our national leaders! See details of the trip below. If you have any interest in joining the group, please contact us ASAP, and we ask that you would commit by January 6 at the latest. (*Note the official March is a week later than usual due to presidential inauguration events planned for the week of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.*)

Trip details

Depart: Thursday, January 28 at 8pm (time approximate) from Sidney

Return: Saturday, January 30 around 4am (time approximate) to Sidney

DC itinerary:

Begin near [Arlington National Cemetery](#) with a prayer service for our group

Pilgrimage [by foot to the National Mall](#) (3 mile hike crossing the beautiful Arlington Memorial Bridge, and passing the major national memorial sites. Special accommodations can be made for those needing assistance (wheel chair assistance or a small group taking the Metro, but the main group will avoid Metro travel.)

11 am – [Official March for Life events begin](#): with a concert, followed by the rally at noon (with a [fantastic speaker’s line up](#)) and the March beginning at 1pm.

[After the March](#), walk to Union Station (0.5 miles/10 min. hike) for dinner, free time, and departure to Sidney. Walking distance in DC from beginning to end: [approximately 5 miles](#).

Cost: \$100/person, or [\\$80/person—family discount](#) for more than 3 people from a single household. Cost does not include meal expenses. One meal should be packed in a paper bag; bring money for breakfast and dinner. Trip cost is refundable in the event of cancelation.

To register and pay: Go to our [online payment form](#) or send a check to Shelby County RTL, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365. Please provide registrant’s [phone number, email address, mailing address and names and ages of all travelers from each family](#). Check [our home page](#) for updates. Email or call with questions: 937-658-3535 or director@shelbycountyrctl.org.



Online payment options:

- Dues plus 8 dollar donation - \$20.00
- Donation - \$100.00
- Annual membership dues - \$12.00
- March for Life DC trip Individual - \$100.00
- March4Life Family of 3 Discount - \$240.00
- March4Life Family Add On - \$80.00
- Other:



[Sidney Alive](#), and all organizers of the [2020 Winter Wonderland Parade](#), deserve a lot of credit in a year that required creativity and innovation to bring a celebratory event to our community in spite of challenges and cancelations of so many other events. The entries were beautiful and even included one band (Jackson Center) which braved the cold for three hours to bring us live music.

The entry for Shelby County Right to Life featured a live representation of the journey of Joseph and Mary, with Jesus *in utero*, on their way to Bethlehem. Luminarias displayed the theme “Hope on the road to Bethlehem.” It’s a theme immensely important in pro-life ministry. Many thanks go to [Do Good Restaurant](#) (Osgood, Ohio) for lending the costumes; Teresa Chaney for obtaining the costumes and the actors; Tori Meyer (and her preborn baby) and brother Joseph Bruns who took the first shift as Mary and Joseph; and Hayley Barhorst (and baby) along with Jake Braun who held out for the long, last shift. Their generosity and sacrifice helped spread a message of joy and hope, which is much appreciated, as is the generosity of Makayla Goins who lent us Johnny for his debut showing. Johnny is actually a mule, but he did a fantastic job posing as the donkey that traveled with Mary, Joseph and the pre-born Jesus to Bethlehem! It was a pleasure having all of you help.

Coming Events: Roe v. Wade Commemoration, Candlelight Vigil

The annual Candle Light Vigil will be held Thursday, January 21 from **6-7pm**, in anticipation of the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton SCOTUS cases the following day. At this time each year, we sadly commemorate the court decisions that canceled out state laws in 1973, throughout the nation, which had protected children and families from abortion. The court action made abortion legal nationwide essentially through all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason.



The event will be held at the Shelby County Courthouse in Sidney, as usual, with prayer for the current Supreme Court and other federal courts, with hope they will bring a fresh Constitutional, ethical perspective to abortion laws. **Our guest speakers will be Nathan and Molly Verdier, founders of [Morgan’s Place Cemetery](#)**, who recently testified for the passage of an Ohio law requiring humane burial of babies who die from abortion. See article on page 3.

[In memory of Sally Tebbe, in whose name a memorial was made to RTLSC. May she rest in peace.](#)

Thrift Shop Report

Month of October

330 Customers

6 Work-to-Earn Shifts

129 Units, Assistance Program

Month of November

198 Customers

3 Work-to-Earn Shifts

173 Units, Assistance Program

Recent Events: Doing Good in the Winter Wonderland 2020 Parade

January-February Prayer Intentions

For the organizers of the March for Life and for all the vulnerable people they work to protect. For the safety of all travelers witnessing at pro-life marches nationwide.



Humane Disposition of Fetal Remains Legislation Passes

COLUMBUS—The members of the Ohio House of Representatives debated and voted on legislation, Senate Bill 27 originally introduced by former Senator Joe Uecker, which would ensure the humane and dignified disposition of the remains of children aborted in Ohio. The measure was passed by the House on a vote of 60-35.

The bill, supported strongly by the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio (RTLACO), requires abortion providers to inform women prior to the performance of an abortion of their decision on whether to have the body of the aborted child buried or cremated by a licensed funerary or crematorium. Documentation to allow the transfer of the remains to a funeral home or crematoria is required for each set of remains, and a copy of such documentation to be submitted to the Ohio Department of Health.

“We are pleased, even though it has been over a year and a half since the last pro-life legislation in the form of the Heartbeat bill passed this Assembly,” commented Molly Smith, President of RTLACO and President, Cleveland Right to Life, “that we have now passed another important bill to honor life and keep the abortion industry accountable.”

The measure was introduced as a result of an investigation in 2015 undertaken by the Charitable Law section of then-Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine's office on whether or not Ohio's Planned Parenthood abortion facilities were involved in potentially improper or illegal disposition of fetal remains. In a summary of the investigation report, the Attorney General noted: “It became readily apparent following the receipt of the Planned Parenthood responses that there was no means by which the team could account for the fetuses comprising those totals...the investigation would have undoubtedly benefited from a legal requirement mandating that providers of abortion services document the disposition of each and every fetus taken as a result of an abortion procedure. Absent such a requirement, the team was unable to conclude with certainty that no Planned Parenthood organization engages in transaction of fetuses or fetal tissue.”

“The United States Supreme Court recently upheld a similar Indiana law on this topic, so our elected officials know that this measure has a very strong possibility of standing up against any lawsuits,” stated Jeffrey Barefoot, Vice President of RTLACO and Chairman of the Board of Greater Toledo Right to Life. “This type of law is just common sense: treat unborn baby remains with the same respect and handling that is given to other deaths.”

Senate Bill 27 responds to the lack of specificity in Ohio law noted by the Attorney General's office and would provide verifiable accounting for the disposition of the remains of unborn children terminated through abortion. “The sheer volume of fetal remains from abortion facilities in any given year is tens of thousands,” observed Margie Christie, Executive Director of Dayton Right to Life and past president of the Coalition, “Under current law, the remains of these thousands of aborted children could end up in our area landfills and trash. The passage of this bill ensures that Ohio properly disposes of fetal remains in a manner standard to burial customs and safeguards of our public health and safety.”

From Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio, Dec. 2020

Pictured: Mollie and Nathan Verdier (who were featured in the Nov/Dec 2020 issue of our newsletter) [testifying in the State House committee hearing](#) for SB27 on Thursday, December 3, about the relevant services they will provide at Morgan's Place Cemetery. As noted on page 2, the Verdiere are also slated to speak at the Candlelight Vigil, January, in Sidney.



Funeral Mass for 640 Unborn Babies is Held in Poland

It was reported in the National Catholic Register on December 17 that:

“A Catholic bishop presided Saturday at a funeral Mass for 640 unborn children in Poland. Bishop Kazimierz Gurda of Siedlce celebrated the Mass Dec. 12 in the Church of Holy Trinity in Gończyce, 50 miles southeast of the capital, Warsaw. In his homily, he said: ‘These children have the right to a worthy burial as they are persons from the moment of conception. The right to life is a right that cannot be taken away from anyone, including and above all from a defenseless child in the womb.’”

“The unborn children’s coffins were solemnly buried in a nearby cemetery. The coffins contained the bodies of children who had died following stillbirths, miscarriages and abortions. They were collected from different hospitals, mainly from Warsaw.”

See the full article at [National Catholic Register](#)

Oratory Contest Goes Digital

The 2021 pro-life speech contest **for high school juniors and seniors** will be held remotely this school year, with a later deadline. Even before 2020, some local contest organizers had moved toward remote contests, with participants entering videos of their speeches. It is the advantages of this format which led to the decision. This will be a trial year for the format.

With that change, we’ve also **increased the prize amounts to \$500 for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd and \$100 for 3rd place.** The winner will also be asked to participate in the state contest (usually in May, in Columbus), with the chance of winning a trip to the national competition (June 25/26), details TBA.

All high school juniors and seniors who are residents of Shelby County or attend a Shelby County high school are eligible to participate. Contestants are to give a pro-life speech, 5-7 minutes in length, on one of four topics: abortion, doctor prescribed suicide, infanticide or the unethical practices of embryonic research.

Please let us know of your **intention to participate by March 8.** The deadline for **video entries will be March 15 by 11:59pm.** Entries will *not* be judged on video quality, only on speech quality and content. For rules and contest resources go to the oratory contest [page on the RTLSC website.](#)

If a student would be unable to record their speech for any reason, we can assist them in recording the speech, upon request. Students are welcome to ask for guidance and assistance. Contact information: director@shelbycountyrntl.org or 937-492-5584.



Pictured from 2010: Shelby County’s National winner with Sarah Palin



Merry Christmas!
We wish you blessings & grace
in the new year!