

2021 March for Life and Related Events – Alternative Options

Revised 11/13/2020

The March for Life in Washington D.C. is expected to proceed as scheduled on Friday, January 29, and this year's theme is "Together Strong, Life Unites!" HOWEVER, the COVID-19 guidelines authored by the Department of Pastoral and Educational Services of the Diocese of Youngstown stipulate that "overnight and offsite trips (activities not on parish grounds) are prohibited until further notice." EWTN will be televising the March for Life including the Pre-Rally Concert, the Rally Program as well as the March itself. For more information go to <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life/>.

Masses for Life – There will be three Masses for Life in the Diocese of Youngstown in January. Each will include the special Blessing of Children in the Womb.

- Sunday, January 24 at 11:00 a.m. in the Barrette Center at Walsh University, 2020 E. Maple St., North Canton. (Note: COVID-19 restrictions may necessitate a change of venue. Contact the Office of Pro-Life, Marriage and Family Life at the Diocese of Youngstown for more information: dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 ext. 272.)
- Friday, January 29 at 12:10 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, 154 W. Wood St., Youngstown, followed by a local "March for Life" at 1:00 p.m. sponsored by Right to Life of Mahoning County, which will include a prayerful vigil at the Thomas D. Lambros Federal Building at 125 Market St., Youngstown. For more information call 330-799-6160.
- Sunday, January 31 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Columba Cathedral, 154 W. Wood St., Youngstown

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9 Days for Life Novena for the protection of human life, January 21 to 29 -- for more information and resources go to: <https://www.respectlife.org/leaders-resources>.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. has had over 12,000 pilgrims attend the Opening Mass in years past. This year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, they can only accommodate 100 persons total, including the celebrant and liturgical ministers. Therefore, attendance will be by invitation only. (Even bishops are being discouraged from attending in person.) However, the Mass, which starts at 8:30 p.m. this year, will be televised by EWTN. The Opening Mass will be followed by a series of Holy Hours throughout the night, in various locations. The 8:00 a.m. Closing Mass on January 29th at the Basilica will also be televised by EWTN. More information may be found at <https://www.usccb.org/committees/pro-life-activities/annual-pro-life-events>.

The Youth Rally and Mass for Life hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington will be a virtual event this year. (This event has taken place in the Capital One Arena in years past.) The Rally will start at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, January 29, and Mass is expected to be livestreamed from St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington D.C. at 10:00 a.m. More details will be forthcoming. Registration for the event is necessary (and free). Go to <https://youthrallyandmassforlife.org/>.

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Life is Very Good – In recent years the Diocese of Arlington, VA has hosted an event called “Life is VERY Good” at the EagleBank Arena, on the Campus of George Mason University, in Fairfax, VA. This year they will be offering a livestreamed Evening of Prayer from the Cathedral of St. Thomas More on Thursday, January 28. This will include Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Burbidge as the principal celebrant, as well as nationally known musicians and keynote speaker. For more information go to <https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/youth-ministry/life-is-very-good/>.

Students for Life of America, which usually offers a large conference the day after the March for Life, will instead this year they be offering "Stand 4 Life -- A National Pro-life Training and Activism Weekend", January 27-30. Stand 4 Life looks to be a mixture of livestreamed presentations by nationally known speakers together with in-person events held in local communities throughout the nation. For more information go to: <https://www.studentsforlife.org/stand4life/>.

Georgetown University in Washington D.C., which usually offers their "Cardinal O'Connor Conference" the day after the March for Life will be offering a virtual conference via livestreaming on Saturday, January 30. The Keynote Address will be given by abortion survivor Gianna Jessen. This year's theme is "Global Pro-Life Approaches in the 21st Century." With the rise of gene editing, population control efforts, and eugenics, the sanctity of life must be protected from the moment of conception until natural death. A panel will evaluate how the Consistent Life Ethic is expanding in the 21st century and examine how to build a pro-life movement that stays at the forefront of technological, ideological, and political innovation. The panel will be moderated by Catherine Hadro from EWTN and will feature contributions from Reggie Littlejohn, Dr. Alevida King, Sr. Dede Byrne, and Valerie Huber. For more information go to: <https://www.oconnorconference.com/>.

For more information on any of the above events contact dschmidt@youngstowndiocese.org or 330-744-8451 ext. 272.