

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry January 24, 2017, Meeting Minutes and News



RLM February Dates

02/01	7:30 - 5:30 PM 1 st Wednesday Renton Cedar River Clinics Sidewalk Prayer Vigils (1-hr each)
02/03	6:00 - 7:00 PM 1 st Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (with Knights of Columbus) 9:00-10:00 PM 1 st Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (RLC, Gabriel Proj, Legis. Advocacy)
02/11	National Defund PP Day (www.protestpp.com) 9:30-11:00 AM 1 st Saturday Kent Truth & Prayer witnessing, Kent Planned Parenthood 
02/13	7:15 - 9:00 PM February Legislative Advocacy meets in Conference Room (after 6:30 Mass)
02/19	Coffee and Donuts after both morning Masses promoting Kent Lent for Life March 1 kick-off
02/28	7:15 - 9:00 PM February RLM meeting in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry met at 7:25 PM in St. Stephen's Copy Room.

Attending

Mary K., Gina (& Sophie), Nancy, Rowena, Tim, Craig, Bernie, and Mary S. (St. Stephen); Richard and Sarah (St. Anthony); and Rudy (St. John).

Opening

Our meeting opened with a prayer to end all taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood.

We began with brief self-introductions, since all present hadn't met one another at previous meetings.

Mary K. talked about each item listed in the calendar. Note: Our usual 1st Saturday Kent Truth and Prayer witnessing defers to the 2nd Saturday of February, the **National Defund Planned Parenthood Day**.

National Defund Planned Parenthood Day

www.protestpp.com

Saturday, February 11th

9:30 – 11:00 AM

10056 S.E. 140th in Kent

<http://ststephenslife.com/events/kent-truth-and-prayer-1-5>

Recently enacted legislation restricting abortion taxpayer funding, etc., increases likelihood of counter-protesting by angry "abortion rights" advocates. As we've done in the past for national events, we will notify the Kent Police of our sidewalk event by 9a.m. Saturday morning. **Our event will begin and end with prayer for our own protection.** Warm clothing is advised.

The national event organizers have alerted us to suspicious email "inquiries" that indicate a wide-spread effort to counter-protest is underway.

Event info for all participating locations is available from www.protestpp.com. The event was promoted to passengers of Central Deanery ACCW-arranged buses to the Mass, March, Meet for Life.



Kent Lent for Life: March 1 – April 9

in solidarity with national 40 Days for Life

We will sponsor 40 days of prayer vigils at Kent Valley Planned Parenthood in a similar way our St.

John the Baptist Covington parishioner Linda did last year. Sidewalk vigil schedules will be posted online. The mechanism will be different from last year's but we will offer sign-ups online and in the narthex.

Continuity throughout the day allows banners and signs to pass from one to another on site. Therefore, we will encourage contiguous time-shift sign ups.

Events will include:

- Kick-off/opening
- Jericho Walk
- Mid-point event (maybe)
- Closing potluck

The national 40 Days for Life is designed for groups having more participants able to provide broader coverage than we can. We may collaborate with the small pro-life group that prays at Planned Parenthood in Federal Way.

Coffee and Donuts Notes

Proceeds netted \$240.00 from our **January 8th** Coffee and Donuts. (Our current balance is approximately \$1,700.00.)

We will promote Kent Lent for Life March 1 – April 9, during our **February 19th** Coffee and Donuts. Bernie will order the donuts and bring the juices and cream. Bernie and Rowena and Mary and Mary and Nancy will be there. **Will 3 or 4 more, please arrive between 12:45 and 1:00 to help cleanup?**

Kent Lent for Life's closing event will be promoted during our **April 2nd Coffee and Donuts**.

January 22-23 Vigil, Mass, March, and Meet for Life



SSTM Youth Core Team planned their January session focusing on respecting Life to coincide with our January 22nd Candlelight Procession and Vigil. SSTM Teens prayed with us and helped distribute song sheets.

Participation in the January 23rd Mass, March, and Meet for Life was strong. St. Anthony School required two 36-

passenger buses for students, chaperones, and teachers. ACCW-Central Deanery arranged four additional buses to stop at ten parishes. The new Westside Ride for Life bus offered West Seattle and Burien parishioners transportation. Another 47-passenger and two 56-passenger buses were filled.

Holy Spirit's pastor, Fr. Ray Cleaveland, asked Knights of Columbus to speak on the importance of participating during all Masses the second weekend in January. More Holy Spirit parishioners than ever before rode the John Peyton Express.

BIG THANKS to Thomas Koch for giving us several new banners. SSTM had a recognizable presence on the capitol steps during the rally with some six large banners bearing our name on display.

SSTM's Legislative Advocacy arranged group meetings with legislators of four districts and also offered SSTM parishioners opportunity to sign their names to Pro-Life Talking Points in support of Life. These pages were delivered to legislators on the 23rd

Richard talked with his representative, one of the Catholic Democrats who consistently votes with his caucus on Life and family issues—opposing our cause. Richard pointed out the legislator's position would allow him to courageously stand up for rights of the unborn. He reminded him that slaves were once considered property, their personhood denied. Then he shared the Mass for Life prayer intention, "We pray to end the prejudice against the unborn." Richard also reminded him of the Biblical account of the Lord standing by Queen Esther, as she risked her own life to speak up from her unique position, to save the Jewish people from slaughter.

We will suggest the 2018 rally organizers end the rally with, "Go visit your legislators--now!"

There are photos from the day online at <https://www.facebook.com/NorthwestCatholic> <https://twitter.com/nwestcatholic> <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life> (soon).

Last January's NW Catholic Magazine article on our vigil, with photos, remains online too. See...

<http://www.nwcatholic.org/news/local/parish-vigil-crosses-remember-babies-lost-to-abortion>

<http://www.fpiw.org/> is an excellent site to visit frequently for invaluable info on proposed legislation.

Things to Ponder

- Mary K proposes we produce another set of "business cards" for our ministry, similar to our 2016 "Mother of Life" cards. The new card will have a prayer we will pen that reflects our mission. What do we want this, our own prayer, to be?
- Thomas has offered to make a **double-sided 72" wide banner**. We must provide the "camera-ready" digital image. The "Mother of Life" artist

has given permission to use the image on the banner. What will the banner look like, what text? Can we get this in time to use during Kent Lent for Life?

Miscellaneous

- Sidewalk prayer warriors we counted on **first week** duty at the local abortion facilities during the first week of January numbered **nine in Renton** and **eight in Kent**.
- **First Friday Movie & Food nights** will resume in 2017 (but not in Feb.) so we can preview pro-life videos, etc.
- We will make more **handout packets for our sidewalk prayer warriors**.
- Watch www.facebook.com/StStephenProLife for posts and reminders of our next-day events. <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life> offers downloadable meeting minutes and resources of interest to sidewalk prayer warriors and more. Our other **SSTM Respect Life Ministry sites** are <https://sites.google.com/site/respectlifecommittee> and <http://ststephensrespectlife.blogspot.com/>.
- **Students for Life**  <http://studentsforlife.org/> will have its annual regional leadership summit in Seattle April 8th. We will ask if any SSTM youth need help funding their attendance. Richard suggested offering housing to out-of-town summit attendees is another way to support the most-worthy pro-life organization, whose mission it is to abolish abortion in their lifetime.
- We will resume **study of "Theology of the Body"** next meeting. We have read "The Pope's Thesis," the first section describing St. John Paul II's revolutionary concept of using the visible mystery of man and woman's sexuality as a sign to the invisible mystery hidden in God. See <http://www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf> for a downloadable version of the work.
- Debbie and Deacon Carl suggest learning more about "**Theology of the Body**" from these resources: ***YOU: Life, Love, and the Theology of the Body***, for youth by Brian Butler, Jason & Crystalina Evert <https://shop.ascensionpress.com/t/category/study-programs/teen-chastity/you>; and ***Theology of the Body Made Simple*** by Anthony Percy, <http://store.pauline.org/english/books/productid/2715#sc.tab=0>

- Thank you to **Gina** and **Rowena** for tonight's **snacks**.
- **Louise** appreciates our prayers. Please continue!

Closing

We closed with St. John Paul II's "Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of Life," and spontaneous prayer for Louise, others whose illnesses prevented their joining us tonight, and for our families.



Next meeting February 28, 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) in the Copy Room

