

## St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry September 26, 2017, Meeting Minutes and News



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"Mother of Life"

### RLM October Dates

<b>NOTE: Rosary 30 minutes before every Sunday Mass (vigil too!), beginning 5pm Sept. 30</b>
10/01 2:00–3:30 PM Life Chains, Kent or Renton
10/04 7:30–5:30 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Renton Cedar River Clinics Prayer Vigils (1-hr each) 8:45 AM Mass at St. Anthony and Process to Sidewalk Prayer Vigil
10/06 7:00–8:00 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (RLM, Gabriel Proj, Leg. Advocacy) <del>8:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Movie &amp; Munchies (canceled for October, resuming November 3rd)</del>
10/07 9:30–11:00 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Kent Truth and Prayer witnessing
10/24 7:30– 9:00 PM RLM meets in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)
<b>10/28 8:30 AM Mass and Saturday Kent Truth and Prayer witnessing</b>
<b>10/29 NaPro speaker at Sunday Masses (Sat. vigil too!)</b>

<http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life/>

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry met at 7:30 PM in St. Stephens Copy Room

### Attending

Rudy (St. John); Craig, Bernie, Mary S. (St. Stephen).

### Opening

Our meeting opened with the Prayer for Beatification of Blessed Solanus Casey, asking for healing for Louise.

### "Theology of the Body" Study

"Theology of the Body" study continued with reading further into the cover essay entitled "Freedom, Truth, Gift, Communion, Dignity, Love..." This document, "The Theology of the Body – What, Why and How?" may be downloaded from [www.jp2.info/Theology\\_of\\_the\\_Body.pdf](http://www.jp2.info/Theology_of_the_Body.pdf).

One way in which man reflects the "image and likeness of God" is through the communion of persons formed by man and woman, an image of an inscrutable divine communion of persons, as exists in the image of our Triune God.

A downloadable version of St. John Paul II's entire "Theology of the Body" is available at [www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf](http://www.sjcursillo.org/theology%20of%20the%20body.pdf)

### Sidewalk Prayer Vigils

Five of the **eight** who stood to pray and witness to truth at **Kent Planned Parenthood September 2<sup>nd</sup>** were SSTM parishioners. Four of the **16** who **prayed September 6<sup>th</sup>** at **Renton Cedar River Clinics** were SSTM parishioners.

Thanks to encouragement from others, in September we resumed leading **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday processions from St. Anthony church to Cedar River Clinics after St. Anthony's 8:45 am Mass**. At Mass's end, St. Anthony pastor, Father Jack Schrum, led everyone, St. Anthony School included, in praying a Hail Mary "for the babies." Nine prayed a Rosary as we processed to the vigil site, passing in front of Renton High School along the way.

We strive to increase on-site prayer as we keep in mind the **6, 244 babies surgically aborted in 2015 in King County**.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays at St. Stephen

Our September **Movie & Munchies Night** fare was the 27-minute instructional DVD on the Four Levels of Happiness

that Mark Cerasuolo, director of marketing and programs for **Healing the Culture** ([www.healingtheculture.com](http://www.healingtheculture.com)), had given us when he came to our July meeting. The thought-provoking instructional program appeals to virtually all audiences, from devout Catholic to unchurched non-believers.

Due to the number of members anticipated attending on October 6<sup>th</sup>, **the October 6<sup>th</sup> event was canceled**.

We may watch a movie entitled, "Purgatory: The Forgotten Church" (<http://purgatoryforgottenchurch.com/>), November 3<sup>rd</sup>. It runs 75 minutes.

### Pro-Life Month, October

**Promotion of Pro-Life Month began September 24<sup>th</sup>**, with **Coffee and Donuts**. Posters promoted upcoming pro-life events. Our sister pro-life ministry Legislative Advocacy offered postcards for people to sign that urged their congressmen to support a **Conscience Protection Act**, as encouraged by the USCCB "Fact Sheet." (Find the link at <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy/>)



Probably due to sports events of the day, Coffee and Donuts attendance was low. Net profit was \$187.76.

We honor our Blessed Mother, Mary, with a **Rosary 30 minutes before each SSTM October Sunday Mass, beginning at 4:30 Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>**. The signup sheet is in the narthex. Father asks two lead each Rosary.

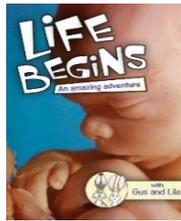


A September 24<sup>th</sup> bulletin insert asks all to become links in an **October 1<sup>st</sup> Life Chain** ([www.lifechain.net](http://www.lifechain.net)) in Kent or in Renton from 2:00 - 3:30 o'clock. The

flipside of the insert is our **Respect Life Event Calendar, October 1 through January 2018.**

St. Stephen's **October 1<sup>st</sup>** bulletins will have "**Life Begins**" comic book inserts (<https://www.humanlife.org/product/life-begins/>). A sticker on each reads:

*Yours to keep for the children  
in your life. From  
St. Stephen the Martyr  
Respect Life Ministry.*



**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday Kent Truth and Prayer** will take place as usual from **9:30 until 11 AM on October 7<sup>th</sup>.**

October will end with a weekend of special events:

- **Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM Mass** before a special **9:30 – 11:00 o'clock prayerful witness to Truth at Kent Planned Parenthood**; and
- **A NaPro speaker** at each **October 29<sup>th</sup> SSTM Sunday Mass** (vigil too). We are very grateful to Father Ed for arranging this!

**Our website**, <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life/> has been updated to include links to downloadable current calendars of events, one for SSTM parishioners and our ministry members who live in neighboring parishes, and another for our Protestant prayer partners (omitting Mass, Adoration, etc.), downloadable flyers detailing events listed on the calendars, a 2017 resource brochure, and more. Photos and archives of meeting minutes are there too.

#### "It's MY body!" Banner



We've been given a powerful 3' x 6' vinyl banner produced by the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, pictured above. We discussed possible ways to ready it for use. It could be wrapped around a backing to show only one image on each side of the board. The sign can be flipped from one side to the other. Or it can be attached to a pole for display to show the full banner, same as our other banners.

Sarah has witnessed many "saves" while holding a sign as she prays near an abortion facility. Sarah notes the **Baby Malachi sign** has been the one with her during all but one of these "saves." (The other sign was "Abortion stops a beating heart," with its familiar red heart graphic.)

#### Miscellaneous

- **September 1<sup>st</sup> SAVE:** Sarah was standing near Renton Cedar River abortion Clinics, holding the Baby Malachi sign, when a young man told Sarah he needed a hug. She hugged him, he went inside the building, emerging a few minutes later with the mother of his baby, both wearing big smiles while announcing to Sarah they had canceled the scheduled abortion. Everybody hugged before the young couple went on their way, still all smiles. Praise the Lord!
- Some possibilities for fundraisers to keep in mind: We know a source for large quantities of locally grown apples and cherries when these fruits are in season, September and June respectively.
- With intentions of improving participation in our own **sidewalk prayer** campaigns in mind, Mary and Mary attended a planning meeting for the **Tacoma Fall 40 Days for Life**. The leaders of the Tacoma 40 Days for Life group are eager to help us by letting us adapt some of their many resources for our use. They recommend: 4 pairs praying on the sidewalk 4 different hours rather than 8 praying together for one hour; their **goal is maximizing duration of prayer coverage at the site**.
- We ask all to support **the only Fall 40 Days for Life team in our area** with prayer and fasting as they stand in prayer **September 27<sup>th</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>** at the **Tacoma Cedar River Clinics** abortion facility. Details at [www.tacoma40days.com](http://www.tacoma40days.com) or phone 253-5365433.
- **There Will Never Be Another You** is a brand new pro-life children's book penned by Christy Higbee, one of the Tacoma prayer partners, telling children each human life is precious because it is a gift from God.
- The ACCW local deaneries' treasury will soon be managed by the Archdiocese. The Central Deanery's treasurer will continue handling the revenue for our 2018 March for Life in Olympia bus. ACCW buses serving other parishes will manage their own funds.
- **Northwest Catholic Magazine** ([NWCatholic.org](http://NWCatholic.org)) is considering running an article on the January 22, 2018, March for Life in Olympia in December, rather than reporting on the event after it has taken place, as they've done in previous years.
- **Reminder:** When holding signs on the sidewalk, choose signs with messages easy to read by passing traffic. Where traffic passes quickly, drivers are likely to read your message when all signs held are identical.
- **Louise** recently reports feeling stronger! She appreciates our prayers. Please continue!

#### Closing

We closed the meeting with an Our Father.



Next meeting **October 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) in the Copy Room**

