

## St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry January 23, 2018, Meeting Minutes and News



"Mother of Life"

### RLM February Dates

02/??	NaPro speakers at Sunday Masses (Sat. vigil too), rescheduled after Oct. cancellation
02/02	7:00 - 8:00 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (RLM, Gabriel Proj, Legis. Advocacy) 8:00 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Friday Movie & Munchies (canceled this month)
02/03	8:30 AM SSTM Mass (before going to Kent) 9:30 - 11:00 AM 1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday Kent Truth and Prayer witnessing
02/07	7:30 - 5:30 PM 1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday Renton Cedar River Clinics Sidewalk Prayer Vigils (1-hour each) 8:45 AM Mass at St. Anthony, then Process to Sidewalk Prayer Vigil
02/10	Kent Lent for Life promotion begins in SSTM narthex
02/14	9:00 AM Ash Wednesday Mass, then Kent Planned Parenthood for Lent for Life kick-off vigil
02/18	Jericho Walk Day 1 of 7 at Kent Planned Parenthood
02/24	Jericho Walk Day 7 of 7, 7 times around Kent Planned Parenthood, etc.
02/27	7:30 - 9:00 PM RLM meets in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)

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

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

### Attending

Rudy and Rita (St. John); Mary K., Nancy, Rowena, Kathleen, Craig, Bernie, Fr. Ed (briefly), Mary S. (St. Stephen)

### Opening

We opened our meeting praying an Our Father.

We welcomed Rita to her first RLM meeting at SSTM. Rita has been our friend during years of sidewalk prayer vigils and of riding the Marie Parker Coach from St. Johns.



**Kent Lent for Life**  
February 14 - March 24  
Praying to End Killing the Innocent  
Kent Planned Parenthood, James at 102<sup>nd</sup>S.  
with Jericho Walk  
February 18 - 24



See <http://ststephenslife.com/kent-lent-for-life> for details of prayer vigils that include a 7-day Jericho Walk. We pray in solidarity with the national 40 Days for Life effort to end killing of innocent unborn babies.

We hope to increase participation by making Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, the first day of the 7-day Jericho Walk that closes with the 7-times-around walk on Saturday, the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Participants may sign up in the narthex, beginning February 10<sup>th</sup> or online, now through March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Promotion began with distribution of the dates and website link to passengers on the Marie Parker Coach Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>. We're asking SSTM parish groups hosting events in the social hall to help spread the word by setting out "table tents" that promote our event. We hope to reach prospective Protestant prayer partners with such invitations during Terrific Tuesday dinners. Easels or a table will remain in SSTM's narthex until the last weekend of Lent.

### Coffee and Donuts and Tee-Shirts

We hosted Coffee and Donuts **January 7<sup>th</sup>**, to maximize our promotion of the January 21-22 Candlelight Vigil and

Mass for Life, March for Life, Meet for Life. Net profit was \$168.63. In addition, we sold 2 more of our "Blessed Is the Nation" tee-shirts, recovering more than half of our \$626.50 outlay for the 50-shirt order. 20 shirts remain.

Fathers Day, **June 17<sup>th</sup>**, Fathers Day, is our next scheduled Coffee and Donuts date. We've asked for opportunities when other groups cancel. We'll sell remaining "Blessed is the Nation..." tee-shirts at our next Coffee and Donuts.

**NOTE: Our previously scheduled Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> Coffee and Donuts has been canceled.**

### Ongoing Sidewalk Prayer Vigils

Three of the **six** who **prayed January 3<sup>rd</sup> at Renton Cedar River Clinics** were SSTM parishioners. Eight of the **10** standing in prayerful witness to truth at **Kent Planned Parenthood January 6<sup>th</sup>** were SSTM parishioners. A newcomer joined us because he noticed us standing witness and said he, too, needed to proclaim the truth that killing unborn babies is so terribly wrong. Father Ed's schedule permitted him to join us on both dates this month.

SSTM **8:30 Mass** is encouraged before **1<sup>st</sup> Saturday** witnessing at **Kent Planned Parenthood 9:30-11:00**.

As usual we will pray a Rosary **1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>**, **as we process from St. Anthony church to Cedar River Clinics after St. Anthony's 8:45 am Mass**. Processions begin outside the vestibule about 9:45 am.

### Pro-Life Events Calendars

**Current calendars of events**, one for SSTM parishioners and neighboring parishes, and another for our Protestant prayer partners (omitting Mass, Adoration, etc.), flyers detailing events listed on the calendars, a 2017 resource brochure, and more are available for downloading from our website <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life/>

The calendars include the link to the Kent Lent for Life website, <http://ststephenslife.com/kent-lent-for-life/>, which has been set up to accept online signups.

January 21-22, 2018

**Candlelight Vigil: Remembering Unborn**

**Babies** followed Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30pm Sunday Mass. Our new battery-powered LED votive lights worked great in the bases of the pink and blue crosses that marked the procession route. Rain and wind made cross setup unpleasant and repetitive but vigil attendance was good. Thank you to Paul Schwarz for taking photos!

Father liked Kathleen's proposal to move next year's candlelight vigil to 9 days before the March for Life date to start a 9-day novena for the success of the March.



As she's done for many years, Kathleen arranged comfortable bus transportation for the **March for Life** day. Kathleen's skilled planning and scheduling allowed some 200+ passengers to be transported

on five buses from our area, Burien, and Magnolia (with this year's addition of Our Lady of Fatima parishioners). With bus contract payments being required in advance of the date, donations made by this year's passengers and their sponsors go toward payment of next year's buses.

Thousands attended Mass with Archbishop Sartain at St. Martin's University in Lacey. An estimated 5,000 attended the noontime rally (the March) under umbrellas on the Capitol steps. Hundreds met with their legislators on behalf of Life before praying during their journeys home. We continue praying that all legislators will come to respect, protect and affirm human life, families, and religious liberty.

**Northwest Catholic Magazine** photographer Janis Olson and her camera were with us all the way, from the dawn of our day in the SSTM parking lot until we returned. The photo essay Janis wrote for NWCatholic.org is target of a link from our site. Having talented Janis with us was truly a blessing and made this year's day very special for SSTM and for all 58 passengers on our Marie Parker Coach.

Once again, our Respect Life Ministry donated mementos for Marie Parker Coach passenger groups to leave with the legislators they visited while in Olympia. Each memento packet included a chocolate bar, a Precious Feet pin with fetal development description, and a card reading:

Thank You for Supporting Legislation that:

- Supports and Protects all Human Life.
- Supports and Protects Conscience Rights.
- Supports and Protects Religious Liberty.
- Opposes Government Overreach.

~St. Stephen the Martyr Respect Life Ministry

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

Fr. Ed stressed the importance of us, as individual constituents, continuing to build relationships with our legislators by our conscious efforts to initiate more frequent communication with them. Attending townhall meetings, sending thank you notes for their (Jan. 22) meetings with us, and such will encourage casual friendships. Eventually



**Next meeting February 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) in the Copy Room**



legislators are likely to respect and become influenced by what their friends say to them.

<http://ststephenslife.com/march-for-life> offers many photos from the day as well as links to news site articles with photos. Northwest Catholic Magazine articles and photos feature many from our group. Please email photos from your camera taken that day to [ststephenchooseslife@yahoo.com](mailto:ststephenchooseslife@yahoo.com) so we may add them to a PHOTO ALBUM posted on our site.

With the help of NorthWest Catholic Magazine's featuring our parish's efforts to stress the importance of personally visiting our legislators (as the March organizers have always done), we hope to convince 100% of rally attendees to do likewise, to flood the Capitol offices until Washington laws protect human life, families, and our religious liberty.

**Miscellaneous**

- Bernie suggests we replace the word "abortion" with its accurate description, "killing an innocent unborn baby."
- Father Ed plans to schedule **NaPro speakers** to talk during Sunday (vigil too) Masses as soon as possible.
- **"Theology of the Body" study** resumes next month.
- **Please continue praying for Life, for families, and for our liberty** regarding religious and family issues! All three Washington State legislative branches in Olympia are dominated by pro-abortion, anti-traditional "marriage" legislators in Olympia. <http://fpiw.org> and <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy> offer up-to-date information on legislation. Rudy reminds us to pray with confidence in this spiritual battle for the preservation of Life and the traditional family, the unit essential to a civilized moral society.

**Reminder:**



When holding signs on the sidewalk, drivers are likely to **read** your message when all signs are identical.

- **Students for Life** Northwest representative Katie Lodjic is eager to form a **Students for Life chapter at SSTM**. Katie will come to talk with SSTM Youth about Students for Life <http://studentsforlife.org/> as schedules permit.



- **Louise** is looking forward to her grandson's birth in early summer. Please continue praying for her healing!

**Closing**

We closed with the **Memorare to St. Joseph**, asking for conversion of legislators in Olympia so all will protect Life.