



"Mother of Life"

St. Stephen Respect Life Ministry February 27, 2018, Meeting Minutes and News

RLM March Dates

- 03/01 **Kent Lent for Life** continues (details at <http://ststephenslife.com/kent-lent-for-life>)
- 03/02 7:00 - 8:00 PM 1st Friday Pro-Life Eucharistic Adoration (RLM, Gabriel Proj, Legis. Advocacy)
8:00 PM 1st Friday Movie & Munchies (March "movie substitute" is a recent pro-life podcast)
- 03/20 7:30 - 9:00 PM RLM meets in Copy Room (after 6:30 PM Mass)
- 03/24 Closing Kent Lent for Life (details at <http://ststephenslife.com/kent-lent-for-life>)

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

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

Attending

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

Opening

We opened our meeting with the **Nine Day Novena Prayer Against Spiritual Warfare** (www.pamphletstoinspire.com) for Christine Charbonneau, C.E.O. of Planned Parenthood of the Great Northwest and the Hawaiian Islands, and the Planned Parenthood staff under her leadership.



Kent Lent for Life
February 14 - March 24
Praying to End Killing the Innocent
 Kent Planned Parenthood, James at 102ndS.
ststephenslife.com/kent-lent-for-life



See website for details, current vigil schedule, suggested prayers, handouts and photos of our 7-day Jericho Walk, Feb. 18 - 24. We continue praying in solidarity with the national 40 Days for Life effort to end killing of innocent unborn babies. MANY hours remain uncovered by onsite prayer. Signups continue at the website or in the narthex.

The national 40 Days for Life campaign expects onsite prayer to cover the facilities as close to 24/7 as possible. To date, our schedule shows **4 hours covered each week** for most of the 6 weeks of Lent. Five of us opened the onsite prayer vigils Feb. 14th after 9 a.m. Mass.

Some do not realize that **signing up is important**. It allows prospective spontaneous prayer partners to know when they'll not be alone should they want to go to pray on site. It also invites reluctant prayer partners to adopt open hours.

11 from three parishes walked around the Kent Planned Parenthood block on Day 1 of the Jericho Walk. 9-11 walked Days 2-4, 6. Day 5's walk was delayed by icy roads; 2 of us went to walk in the afternoon. 15 came from six churches to walk Day 7, when we ended our Jericho Walk prayers shouting the holy name of "Jesus!" three times.

We'd hoped to increase participation by beginning the Jericho Walk on a Sunday and closing (with walking 7-times around) on a Saturday. Although babies keep dying, the numbers of prayer partners in our Lenten sidewalk vigils has fallen from each previous year since we began in Kent in 2016. The next Jericho Walk we schedule will be later in the day for warmer temperatures, with less risk of icy roads.

March 24th will **close the 40 days of prayer vigils with a candlelight vigil** on the sidewalk where we've been praying in Kent. Dinner after 5p.m. Saturday Mass will be open to all who want to come to the vigil. Availability of the SSTM Social Hall on March 24th will determine whether we consider a potluck or whether we'll reserve group seating at either the Golden Steer or Paolo's Restaurant, with both near the Kent PP vigil site. Details will be posted online as they become firm.

Something to ponder: Might we want to purchase a ceremonial ram's horn to blow on Day 7 of Jericho Walks?

Easels or a table will remain in SSTM's narthex until the last weekend of Lent. Signups remain available online too.

Narthex Displays

Many walk past our narthex displays without noticing them. We will look into buying a battery-powered **LED picture light to affix to the poster easels used in our narthex displays**.

We will consider making use of a large sturdy 4-legged wooden easel with two panels that measure 4' x 6'.

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.), and flyers detailing events listed on the calendars are available for download from <http://ststephenslife.com/respect-life/>

A new calendar for April – June 2018 will be posted to our website before the end of March. It will include our sister pro-life parish group's Legislative Advocacy events as well as its monthly meeting dates.

Our April Calendar



We will **sell 11" x 14" "Mother of Life" prints**, taking payments with orders after Mass in the narthex during one weekend in April. Picture artist, Nellie Edwards, has agreed we may sell her prints at the same price we did last year. We will have our sale in time for delivery before May 13th, Mothers' Day. With the same prints and more available from www.paintedfaith.net, this will be the **last chance** for parishioners to order prints through us.



The third annual national **Defund Planned Parenthood Day** is Saturday, **April 28th**. We plan to participate at the Kent Valley Planned Parenthood site and will promote the event by inviting all area prolife friends to join us.

legislators in Olympia. <http://fpw.org> and <http://ststephenslife.com/legislative-advocacy> offer up-to-date information on new legislation made in Olympia.

Miscellaneous

- Last month, great friend of Life and co-leader of Helpers of God's Precious Infants Seattle chapter (www.seattlehelpers.org), **Matt Ulrich**, lost his battle with cancer. Father Ed was one of several priests offering his funeral Mass that was attended by many, including his friends Louise & Brian. Please remember Matt, his widow, Georgine, and their family in your prayers.
- Bernie suggests we substitute "**killing the unborn child**" in place of the word "abortion," from now on.
- We will watch an **Our Lady of Guadalupe DVD** during a 1st Friday Movie Night within the next few months.
- **Human Life Alliance** (www.humanlife.org) has a new pamphlet entitled, "The Truth Behind Planned Parenthood," that quotes many in its national pro-life alliance, including Pastor Walter Hoyer, Eric Scheidler.
- Father Ed plans to schedule **NaPro speakers** to talk during Sunday (vigil too) Masses as soon as possible.
- "**Theology of the Body**" study is suspended due to the difficulties inherent in the document's translation, as we look at alternatives to reading the direct translation.

• **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.
- We are looking for someone to make **umbrellas with "signage"** of our design on them, for year-round use on the sidewalk.
- **Louise** is looking forward to her grandson's birth in early summer. Please continue praying for her healing!



Closing

We closed with the **Father Casey Novena Prayer** (<http://solanuscasy.org/franciscan-charism/pray-for-others/canonization-prayer>), asking for healing for Louise.

Volunteer Opportunities

As our activities have grown over the years, so have the volume of duties that a few have assumed. It's time to engage more of our members in sharing the wealth of behind-the-scenes preparations that make our events happen. There is more opportunity to be active members than just participating in events!

In addition to chairmen to oversee and coordinate tasks required for individual events, a treasurer is needed.

Treasurer duties include coordinating with SSTM's bookkeeper, Eric, keeping organized invoices and receipts, and tracking all debits and credits in an Excel file that matches parish bookkeeping records for both accounts.

The Budgeted Account is money allocated for our use from parish funds at the start of each fiscal year. Its amount is determined on an annual basis. Any amount remaining in the account at fiscal year's end is returned to the parish general fund. Our Custodial Account is funded by donations made directly to our group. Its balance remains in our account and carries from one year to the next.

Jane has been chairing the Rosaries prayed before Masses in May and in October. Bernie and Sarah have been chairing Life Chains in Kent and Renton each October.

As noted above, two April events are "Mother of Life" picture sales and April 28th Defund Planned Parenthood Day, a national effort. Both events have open "chairs."

Please consider taking on one of these three duties and/or volunteering for any other job you want to do. A chairman need not do everything alone! Experienced help with individual tasks involved is available to chairmen for the asking, as is on-the-job training... for everything!

VERY IMPORTANT: Praying for Life and our Liberty

On March 20, SCOTUS will be hearing the case of **NIFLA v Becerra**. The National Institute for Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA <https://nifla.org/>) suit is against the state of California for an unconstitutional law that mandates and compels prolife pregnancy centers to refer for abortion.

Please pray with us daily that NIFLA will prevail and have victory with this case. The SCOTUS decision is critical to maintaining our constitutionally protected liberties. Fr. Frank Pavone addresses this specific intention in prayer at <http://www.priestsforlife.org/novenas/novena.aspx?id=150>

And please continue praying for Life, for families, and for our liberty regarding religious and family issues, as all three Washington State legislative branches in Olympia are dominated by pro-abortion, anti-traditional marriage



Next meeting March 20th, 7:15 PM (after 6:30 PM Mass) in the Copy Room

