

# RESPECT LIFE

## 2023 ACTIVITIES & UPDATES

January is a time to focus our efforts and prayers on saving the most vulnerable among us. This year, there are several opportunities for you and your family to participate along with fellow parishioners from Essex, from Vermont and from our nation.

### WORSHIP

- ♥ The Essex Catholic Community is invited to attend Mass at St. Pius X Church for the annual “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”, to be held on Wednesday, January 25th at 6:30p.m. You can also view the Mass via livestream from the parish website.
- ♥ Bishop Coyne will celebrate Mass for Life at St. Augustine Church in Montpelier on Saturday, January 28th. Rosary for Life begins at 9:00a.m. followed by Mass at 9:30a.m. The Rally for Life takes place immediately following Mass.
- ♥ Watch the Opening Mass and Holy Hour for Life from the Basilica in Washington, DC on EWTN or the Basilica’s webpage on Thursday, January 19th from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. These events kick-off the National Prayer Vigil for Life, which concludes with the televised Closing Mass on Friday morning at 8:00 a.m.

### PRAYER

- ♥ **The 9 Days for Life Novena** is a daily activity that combines intentions, prayer, reflection, penance, and further study. Sign-up at [www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life](http://www.respectlife.org/9-days-for-life) to have the daily activities emailed to you, starting January 19th through January 27th. They are also available to print from the same website. Take a half an hour from your busy day to take this spiritual journey.

### ADVOCACY

- ♥ **Rally for Life** join fellow parishioners from the Essex Catholic Community in Montpelier on Saturday, January 28th. The Rally will start at 10:45am following the church services, and a luncheon will be hosted by Vermont Right to Life Educational Trust following the Rally. Luncheon reservations are required. Call Vermont Right to Life at 802-229-4885 or email [vrlc@vrlc.net](mailto:vrlc@vrlc.net).
- ♥ Watch the **National March for Life** from Washington, DC on EWTN on Friday Morning, January 20th starting at 9:30am.
- ♥ **Walking With Moms in Need** is an initiative by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops to encourage parishes to assess and support local resources serving pregnant moms and families in need. Can the Essex Catholic Community get behind this initiative? Learn more at [www.walkingwithmoms.com](http://www.walkingwithmoms.com).

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### EDUCATION

- ♥ Excerpt from Bishop Coyne's statement of November 9, 2022: The passage of Article 22 amending the Vermont State Constitution to enshrine abortion without restriction up until birth as a fundamental right and value of our state is deeply troubling and tragic. We Catholics and others who share our love for all human life will continue to do what we have been doing: encouraging, supporting, and forming a greater culture of life. We must increase our efforts to support pregnant women, new mothers, and families. While others are promoting abortion...we must offer other options. We must continue to create a culture of life. Read the entire statement on the Diocesan website here: <https://vermontcatholic.org/vermont/bishop-christopher-coynes-statement-regarding-the-passage-of-article-22/>
- ♥ **The 9 Days for Life Novena** includes suggested readings to learn more about Catholic Respect Life teachings. The website of the United States conference of Catholic Bishops also provides links to several documents on the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life) written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1995.

Visit these websites;

- \* [www.usccb.org/resources/gospel-life-brief-summary](http://www.usccb.org/resources/gospel-life-brief-summary)
- \* [www.usccb.org/resources/gospel-life-brief-compendium](http://www.usccb.org/resources/gospel-life-brief-compendium)
- \* [www.usccb.org/resources/gospel-life-brief-study-guide](http://www.usccb.org/resources/gospel-life-brief-study-guide)

Other resources can be found at;

- \* [www.feministsforlife.org/](http://www.feministsforlife.org/)
- \* [www.physiciansforlife.org/](http://www.physiciansforlife.org/)
- \* [www.studentsforlife.org](http://www.studentsforlife.org)
- \* [www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/respect-life/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/respect-life/)
- \* [www.vrlc.net](http://www.vrlc.net) (Vermont Right to Life Committee)

### SUPPORT

- ♥ Consider providing financial support to two local organizations that provide services to mothers facing unplanned pregnancies.

Visit these websites;

  - \* Birthright of Burlington ~ [www.birtright.org/burlington](http://www.birtright.org/burlington)
  - \* Aspire Together ~ <https://aspire-now.org/>
- ♥ Vermont Catholic Charities offers counseling services and emergency aid, including financial assistance.
  - \* [www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/crisis-pregnancy-services/](http://www.vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/catholic-charities/crisis-pregnancy-services/)
- ♥ Project Rachel is a ministry of the Catholic Church in the United States that provides integrated services to anyone who has been involved in abortion.
  - \* [www.hopeafterabortion.com/](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com/)

*This information is provided by  
St. Pius X Parish Council Social Action Committee  
Contact the parish office for more details*