

My Dear Parish Family,

As St. Paul tells us in his Letter to the Romans, *As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ... Now the body is not a single part, but many. You are Christ's body, and individually parts of it.* We are all one part of the Body of Christ and as a result we have certain duties towards our brothers and sisters in need.



On January 22, 1973 the Supreme Court ruled that certain persons do not have rights and that their lives may be taken by another person. *Roe v. Wade* ruled that abortion could occur at any time during the pregnancy right up to the moment of birth.

The womb as a result is now the most dangerous place on earth. There are well over a million abortions every year in the United States. In Washington DC alone, there are 200 abortions for every 100 live births. This Supreme Court ruling has been devastating to our country. A nation cannot survive when something like this occurs.

This weekend many pilgrims from the Diocese of Saginaw, including some from Mary of the Immaculate Conception will be joining 500,000 people for the March for Life in Washington D.C. It is where mostly young people (I feel like one of the oldest ones there if that gives you an idea) come together to let our nations leaders know that the future of this country is pro-life.

The March for Life is public prayer and witness to the dignity of human life and this march goes from the Washington Memorial, down Constitution Avenue, and then over to the Supreme Court building.

I will also be attending the March this year and you can follow along on television with the many events like the Vigil Mass for Life on January 21st and the March itself on January 22nd. EWTN Catholic Television will be broadcasting these events. It is also available to watch on their website if you do not have cable. You will see that the future of the pro-life movement is found in our young people.

I encourage you to pray and offer up sacrifices that this grave evil ends in our country and around the world. Pray for those women who are considering abortion that their hearts will be changed and that they will give life for their child. Pray for our politicians who support this grave evil by their votes and may

we be a public voice for the dignity of human life and why it must be protected from conception to natural death.

As the Body of Christ, we are called to protect the most vulnerable in our society; the most vulnerable right now are those persons in the womb. It is a tragedy that largely remains hidden in our Country.

We also must assist those organizations that do such a wonderful job of helping so many women in need during crisis pregnancies. These organizations support these women before and after the birth of their child. There are also many people who are looking to adopt children.

Please pray as well for all those women who have had an abortion that they may come to our Lord to receive His forgiveness and healing of something that leaves such a deep wound on them. There is a beautiful organization called Rachael's Vineyard that provides retreats of healing for both women and men. There is one that occurs here in our own Diocese and there is more information on these at saginaw.org/respect-life/project-rachael.html or nationally on their website at rachelsvineyard.org.

Just a quick note that since I will be attending the March for Life this week, I will be away from the Parish until Tuesday January 27th and as a result there will not be daily Mass during this time. Please pray for safe travels for all the pilgrims from around the Country and pray too, that many hearts may be touched during the March for Life.

May God Bless you and Mary keep you,

Fr. Christopher Coman