

Yearly Calendar for Parish Coordinators

Prayer & Worship

Prayers at Mass & Bulletin Inserts – Arrange for priests or deacons to add pro-life intentions to “prayers of the faithful” at Mass. Suitable prayers are included in the monthly Archdiocesan mailing to pastors or are available from the USCCB website. Bulletin Inserts are ready to place in Bulletin weekly.

Available in Spanish and English at:

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

Weekly

Annual Mass for Life – Encourage attendance at this special Mass celebrated by the Cardinal annually in January or February.

January or February

Homilies – Ask parish homilists to give pro-life homilies, especially on the 1st Sunday in October (Respect Life Sunday) and January (anniversary of Roe v. Wade Jan 22). Homily outlines are available in USCCB Respect Life packets distributed by the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office to each parish in August/September, or from the USCCB website at www.USCCB.org

October & January

Helpers of God’s Precious Infants - Encourage participation in these Mass and Rosary processions to Houston abortion clinics. The sessions are held several times a year. For information contact **Vicky Whynott** at 832-875-5126.

**Weekly clinics
Processions
monthly**

Rosary For Life – Encourage parishioners to pray the Rosary for the pro-life cause. An easy way to do this is to introduce the Decade-A-Day for Life project. For information contact **Jim Connors** at 281 557-8480.

Ongoing

Divine Mercy Sunday - Our Holy Father is constantly reminding us of the need for Reconciliation and healing in our world and in our own lives. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is one way to do this, at the abortion sites and in our own lives. <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/index.htm>

**1st Sunday after
Easter**

A Particular Day of Penance and Prayer for January 22 is mandated by the Bishops for each parish. Arrange for a special Mass or other observance on January 22 with a pro-life liturgy and homily. Strongly encourage parishioners to attend. <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/fastpray.shtml>

January 22

Adoration before Blessed Sacrament – Several parishes solicit 30 or 31 volunteers during one month of the year with each volunteer spending 15 minutes on his or her assigned day praying for the pro-life cause before the Blessed Sacrament. Nearby parishes select different months with the intention of having 12 parishes covering the entire year.

Ongoing

Day of the Unborn - observance on the feast of the Annunciation, the day Our Lord was conceived. Also special day for NFP.

http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/leadership_institute/surge_with_service/church_activities/day_of_unborn/

March 25

A. Prayer & Worship

Spiritual Adoption – This is a nine-month education and prayer project. Parishioners are urged to “spiritually adopt” an unknown baby who has just been conceived and is beginning life in the womb and is in danger of abortion. During the next nine months volunteers pray each day for their spiritually adopted child. Each month posters showing fetal development for that month can be displayed in the church vestibule and explanatory paragraphs on the developing baby can be shown in the parish bulletin. At the end of nine months there can be a parish birthday party in celebration. See website below for further information:

<http://www.archbalt.org/respect-life/spiritual-adoption/index.cfm>

Nine Months

Parish Reconciliation Services—During Advent and Lent most parishes hold reconciliation services. This is a very good time to inform others about the Gabriel, Rachel and Courage outreaches, which offer true reconciliation and healing with Christ.

**Lent
Advent**

B. Education

Respect Life Program is prepared by the USCCB Pro-Life Office for use throughout the year, educational materials, liturgy guide, and clip art catalog. Contact **Dr. Marcella Colbert** at 713-741-8728.

Collect August/September. Use all year

Certificate in Life, Justice & Peace - This new course in the basic teaching of the Church in personal and social morality and its application is for all who are interested in a more in-depth understanding. It takes 11 sessions on Monday evenings starting in February and September. Contact **Dr. Marcella Colbert** at 713-741-8728.

Starting January or February and September

Parish Bulletins – Word of Life series Frequently insert pro-life messages into parish bulletins. These can be obtained from , or from the parish secretary who has access to bulletin items included in monthly Archdiocesan mailings to the pastor. These inserts should include announcements of upcoming pro-life events.

Weekly

<http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wolarchive.shtml>

Parish Organizations – Offer to provide a pro-life speaker or brief pro-life reports at meeting of all parish organizations. Contact **Dr. Marcella Colbert** at 713-741-8728.

As needed

Information Table with pro-life literature outside Mass weekly.

Ongoing

Parish Ministry Weekend - Most parishes have a weekend set aside in August/September, to inform parishioners of the opportunities to become involved in ministry. Have a Respect Life table.

August/September

Literature– Provides a selection of pro-life flyers on parish pamphlet rack and in parish library. These are available from the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office. Contact **Dr. Marcella Colbert** at 713-741-8728.

Ongoing

Fairs or Bazaars – Have a Respect Life information booth at parish fairs or bazaars.

September/October

Youth For Life, Justice & Peace service projects for Youths throughout the Archdiocese. See Brochure at:

Ongoing

<http://www.archgh.org/RespectLifeyouthforlifejustice&peace.htm>

C. Pastoral Care

Gabriel Project® – Contact **Cathy McConn**, Archdiocesan Gabriel Coordinator at 713-741-8729. See The Gabriel Angel and Resource Manual[©] at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/gabrielproject.htm> **Ongoing**

Project Rachel – Place Rachel flyers in church pamphlet rack. Also, periodically insert Rachel “ads” in parish bulletin. Give priests and deacons information on the Rachel Project located at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/projectrachel.htm> **Ongoing**

Natural Family Planning – Maintain flyers and literature in the parish pamphlet rack and library. See website at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/naturalfamilyplanning.htm> **Ongoing**

Mother and Baby Assistance – Conduct a parish-wide baby shower during the year, preferably on Mothers Day the 2nd Sunday in May, to collect baby and maternal goods (and financial help) for mothers in need. Coordinate with Project Gabriel®. How to instructions in The Gabriel Angel and Resource Manual[©]. See website at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/mother&babyassistance.htm> **Ongoing**

Courage - Pastoral care for homosexual persons within the Catholic Church. Brochure at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/courage.htm> **Ongoing**

D. Public Policy and Legislative Change

Voter Registration – Conduct a voter registration drive outside Church six weeks before major elections on first Tuesday in November. Make available literature on importance of voting pro-life. See website at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/voterregistration.htm>

**February/August
May for High
School Grads**

Write For Life – Periodically recruit parishioners to participate in the Archdiocesan Write For Life organized letter-writing project. For info contact **Jim Connors** at 281-557-8480.

Monthly

District Action Committee – Meet with legislators and candidates to stress the importance of pro-life legislation. Publicize the results of meetings in the parish, perhaps by means of bulletin inserts. Be sure to adhere to the “Dos and Don’ts” of political involvement shown in the appendix. **Call Joe Kral** at 281-799-8040.

Occasionally

Rally For Life – In January on the Sunday following Jan 22, encourage parishioners to attend the pro-life rally in Austin. Organized by Texas Catholic Conference and other groups. See website at: <http://www.archgh.org/RespectLife/rallyforlife.htm>

January

Petitions and Post Card Campaigns – Participate in Archdiocesan or national campaigns to solicit petition or postcard signatures asking legislators to support pro-life legislation. See website at: <http://www.usccb.org/postcard/index.shtml>

Occasionally

E. Miscellaneous

Fund raising	Christmas card sales	September
	Baby Shower	May
	Collections at pro-life events	
	Help from parish organizations	Ongoing
	Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Program and Randall's Cards	

Recruiting – The Respect Life Committee can recruit new members by periodically asking for help in the parish bulletin. Also, have an information table at parish ministry recruiting drives. New converts are also a source for likely candidates.

Publicity-There are many wonderful resources available from the Respect Life Office, brochures, posters, bumper stickers, business cards, note cards. Use them. Contact **Dr. Marcella Colbert** at 713-741-8728.

Websites:

www.usccb.org/prolife (everything)
<http://www.nchla.org> (public policy and legislative change)
www.txcatholic.org (Texas Catholic Conference)
http://www.archgh.org/pastoral_respectlife.htm Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston