

## **A Word from the Respect Life Ministry**

October is Respect Life Month, but what does that mean? Is it simply being respectful to others, caring for those in need, or is it something much deeper? When God created the universe, He spoke and said, “Let there be...” and everything came into existence. When He made man, He did something even more profound: “Let Us, (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), make man in our image and likeness.” God formed man from the clay and breathed His Spirit—the soul—into him, and in that moment, body and soul were united in the image of God. Even today, at the moment of conception, life begins and the soul is present from the very first instant.

From the beginning, God’s love and care for humanity have been constant. Even when we turn from Him, He never gives up. He sent His only Son to show us the depth of His love and to offer the hope of eternal life. The members of the Respect Life Ministry know how sacred every human life is. Our mission is to stand for the sanctity of life, especially for those who are most vulnerable and without a voice. We do this through education, activities, and prayer, partnering with ministries such as Walking With Moms in Need, Students for Life, LOTV (Lily of the Valley), OAFC, and ATTWN. These partnerships allow us to support families facing infertility or infant loss, promote adoption and foster care, and help abortion workers leave the industry.

Every year, our ministry participates in numerous activities, including praying outside a local abortion clinic during 40 Days for Life with our pastor, raising funds for Birthchoice Pregnancy Center through the Baby Bottle Campaign, and hosting the annual Prayer Service for Lost Children. We also bring speakers to our parish, such as Jason Evert and Chris Stefanick, to teach the sacredness of life and human sexuality to our youth. This November, we will offer a two-day, three-part series on End of Life Issues, providing guidance on Catholic, legal, and medical decisions before, during, and after illness or death.

On Respect Life Sunday, the altar and chapel at St. Michael are decorated with white flowers in memory of the 3,000 babies lost each day to abortion in the United States. During October, parishioners are invited to visit the chapel, pray for unborn babies and their mothers, and place a prayer intention card in the basket. These intentions will be included in the Prayer Service for Lost Children on Friday, October 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM, presided over by Fr. Scott. We also invite you to stop by our information tables in the Gathering Space to learn more about our ministry and ways to get involved. Glass containers will be available for those who would like to “sponsor a flower” for \$1 to support the Respect Life Ministry and the work we do.

Thank you, and God bless you.