

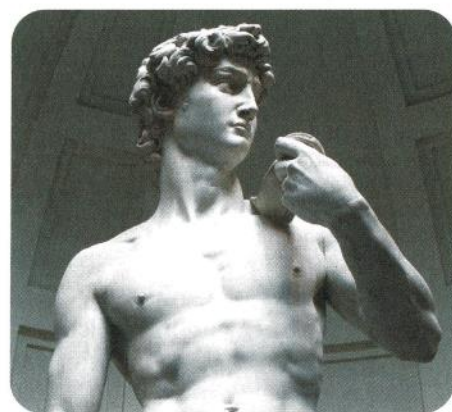
# Dear Padre,

*In the Church's eyes, what constitutes pornography? Art museums have statues of nude men and women, some of which are quite explicit. Is the only difference the respectability of the venue?*

The "respectability" of the location or publisher doesn't matter. A product is pornographic if it was created to sexually arouse users of the product regardless of the venue. Michelangelo's intention in carving his famous statue of David was not to arouse the people who look at it, so the Church does not call it pornography.

Pornography has existed for centuries, but it didn't arrive in our homes uninvited until recently. People with internet access are regularly confronted by pornographic images and literature, and many find it a very powerful temptation. In response, the US bishops issued a helpful document, which is available online at usccb.org: *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*.

From this document: "Using and/or producing pornography is a sin against chastity and against human dignity...The sin of pornography needs the Lord's forgiveness and should be confessed in the sacrament of penance. Pornography objectifies people and brings hurt and pain. It is an illusory substitute for real relationships and intimacy, which in the end bring true joy. Many good people struggle with the sin of pornography and [strive] to cultivate chastity. You are not alone. Jesus is with you, the Church offers you love and support. Trust in the Lord's mercy and his power to free and heal you." ●



MICHELANGELO'S DAVID / SHUTTERSTOCK

[The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org](https://www.dearpadre.org)

## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*If God is the God of life...*

*then it is wrong for us to kill our brothers and sisters in his Name.*

*If God is the God of peace...*

*then it is wrong for us to wage war in his Name.*

*If God is the God of love...*

*then it is wrong for us to hate our brothers and sisters.*

PRAYER FOR THE VICTIMS OF WAR, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021



### MONDAY

March 11  
Lenten Weekday  
Is 65:17-21  
Jn 4:43-54

### TUESDAY

March 12  
Lenten Weekday  
Ez 47:1-9, 12  
Jn 5:1-16

### WEDNESDAY

March 13  
Lenten Weekday  
Is 49:8-15  
Jn 5:17-30

### THURSDAY

March 14  
Lenten Weekday  
Ex 32:7-14  
Jn 5:31-47

### FRIDAY

March 15  
Lenten Weekday  
Wis 2:1a, 12-22  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

### SATURDAY

March 16  
Lenten Weekday  
Jer 11:18-20  
Jn 7:40-53

### SUNDAY

March 17  
Fifth Sunday of Lent  
Jer 31:31-34  
Heb 5:7-9  
Jn 12:20-33

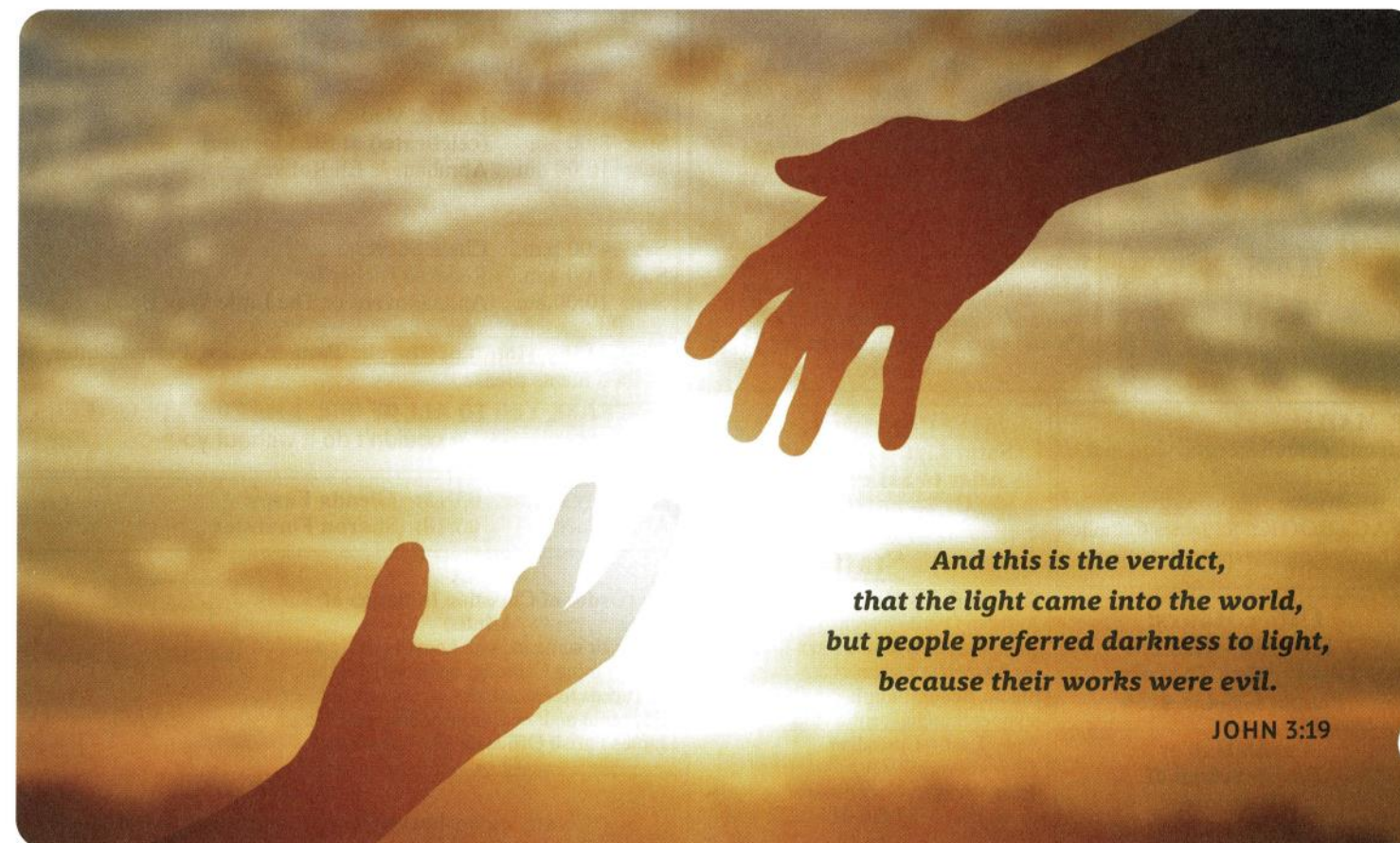
**Timely Topics Viewed with a Catholic Perspective**  
*Catholic Update* explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit [Liguori.org](https://www.liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 / Ephesians 2:4-10 / John 3:14-21



**And this is the verdict,  
that the light came into the world,  
but people preferred darkness to light,  
because their works were evil.**

JOHN 3:19

## The Saving Game

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A** long time ago, I came across a piece that I still remember because it's pretty much a commentary on how life is for most of us. It goes something like this: At the age of ten, we think we can live forever. When we're twenty, we think we can save the world. When the big thirty rolls around, we think we can save the company. When the fortieth birthday arrives, we think we can save our children. Then, when we're fifty, we think we can at least save our marriage. And by the time we're sixty, we think we should just save aluminum cans.

A bit flippant perhaps, but it reminds me that even given my own best efforts, I really do not save much of anything. It is always God who does the saving, not me.

It's a conversation replayed in our heads again and

again. We find ourselves unwittingly thinking that if we do all the right things, when we die and go to heaven, then God will have to take us in. If we say the right prayers and follow all the rules, then we will have earned salvation. Yet then we will have saved ourselves and there will have been no need for God's gracious goodness. Then we will have lifted ourselves up by our own bootstraps and not by the Lord Jesus.

Then we will proclaim ourselves as the light to overcome darkness, and it will not be the death and resurrection of the Lord which does so. ●

### Reflect

**How have you been saved and how do you need saving now?**





# St. James Parish Family

201 N. Missouri Street  
Potosi, MO 63664



## March 2024

### Mass Schedule

St. Joachim	Mon:	8:00 AM
St. James	Tues:	8:15 AM
St. Joachim	Wed:	8:15 AM
St. James	Thurs:	8:00 AM
St. Joachim	Fri:	8:00 AM
St. James	First Sat:	8:00 AM
St. James 1st & 3rd	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. Joachim 2nd/4th	Sat:	4:00 PM
St. James	Sun	10:00 AM
St. Joachim	Sun	8:00 AM

### \*HOLYDAY SCHEDULE:

Please check the Bulletin for Mass Times.

**E-MAIL:**  
stjameschurch@centurylink.net  
**WEBSITE:** \*\*\*\*\*

[www.stjames-potosi.org](http://www.stjames-potosi.org)

**FACEBOOK:** St. James Catholic Church @stjamespotosi

### Confessions:

**Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 PM;**  
prior to Sat evening Mass  
Or by appointment

### Staff

**Rev. Anthony Dattilo**—Pastor  
[AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org](mailto:AnthonyDattilo@archstl.org)  
**Rev. Vince Nyman** - Part-time Senior Associate Pastor  
**Susan Broombaugh**—Admin Asst  
[stjameschurch@centurylink.net](mailto:stjameschurch@centurylink.net)  
**Judy East**—Custodian

**Julie Wright:** Coordinator of Religious Ed. (573) 436-0144/727-808-9273

[stjamespsr@gmail.com](mailto:stjamespsr@gmail.com)

**Laura Allen**—Assistant Coordinator, Religious Ed.

### Office Hours:

**8:00 AM - 2:00 PM**  
Tuesday thru Thursday  
Phone: 573-438-4686

**Parish Hall or Parish School of Religion**  
Phone: 573-436-0144

Live Your Life for an Audience of ONE: **GOD!**



### MASS INTENTIONS FOR WEEK OF: March 11th, 2024

MON	8:00 AM	(Mass at St. Joachim)
Mar 12 TUE	8:15 AM	Bess Lalumondiere
Mar 13 WED	8:15 AM	(Mass at St. Joachim)
Mar 14 THU	8:00 AM	Heather Farrow
Mar 15 FRI	8:00 AM	(Mass at St. Joachim)
Mar 16 SAT	4:00 PM	Bill Cain
Mar 17 SUN	8:00 AM	(Mass at St. Joachim)
Mar 17 SUN	10:00 AM	Parish Family



### We Need Your Help Please

Have you moved, or have you changed your Phone number? Are you new to our parish? If so, please call the office to register, or update your information. 573-438-4686

### Week of: Mar 3, 2024

Envelope.....\$	6530.00	On-Line donations.....\$	80.60
Loose .....	574.39	Retired Priests.....\$	70.00
SVDP.....\$	2086.00	Holy Land.....\$	75.00
Votive Lights.....\$	65.52	Easter offering.....\$	50.00
Light House.....\$	10.00	Easter Flowers.....\$	85.00
Main & Repairs.....\$	1075.00		

### Special Ministers March 16 & 17, 2024

#### Lectors:

**Saturday 4:00 pm**      **Sunday 10:00 am**  
**Bob Mills**                      **Jamie Warden**

#### Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:

**Saturday 4:00 pm**      **Sunday 10:00 am**

**C: Paul Villmer**              **Dave Woodland**  
**L: Annette Portell**          **Danny Mueller**  
**R: Vikki Neier**                **Kim Coleman**

Sat: 4:00 pm Lane & Madison Battreal  
Sun: 8:00 am (celebrated at St. Joachim)  
Sun: 10:00 am Abraham & Eli Rolwes

#### Music:

Sat: 4:00 p.m. Chala Short  
Sun: 8:00 a.m. Rebecca Richards  
Sun: 10:00 am Anita Govero or The Little Way Band

**Food of the Month of March:** Pasta & sauce, Peanut Butter, and canned meats please.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS.**

~We couldn't do it without you~

Heavenly Duster: 03/15: **Glenda Farow**  
Altar Linens: **03/18: Sharon Forrester**

### OCIA

(Order of Christian Initiation of Adults)

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, being fully initiated (needs to receive the sacraments of Eucharist and/ or Confirmation) call St. James Parish Office @ 573-438-4686



"Charity enters heaven when humility opens the door."  
St Maria Natividad Venegas de la Torre (1868-1959)  
First female saint from Mexico

### Homemade Baked Desserts

Ladies Sodality is hosting bake sales during Knights' Fish Fry Lunches. Homemade Baked goods by the piece or whole dessert, for sale. Just drive by and pick out your dessert. Thank you for supporting our Ladies Sodality.  
Next sale - Mar 22nd



**St. James Knights of Columbus**  
Lenten Drive-Thru Fish Lunches  
**03/22**  
11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Fish, baked Beans & potato salad, \$10.00



### Word of Life

The Gospel of Life is "meant to be a precise and vigorous reaffirmation of the value of human life and its inviolability, and at the same time a pressing appeal addressed to each and every person, in the name of God: respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life! Only in this direction will you find justice, development, true freedom, peace and happiness!" (The Gospel of Life 5)

For those nearing the end of life: May they be given the grace to persevere in faith and place their trust in God as they prepare in hope for eternity with Christ; We pray to the Lord:

### What's on the Calendar???

Mar 11: SVDP mtg, 6:00 pm, Food Pantry  
Mar 12: Parish Council, 5:30 pm, Parish Hall  
Knights of Columbus mtg, 6:30 pm, Parish Hall  
Mar 13: PSR Reconciliation, 6: 00 pm in Church  
Mar 20: PSR: Dinner @ 5:15 pm, class @ 6:00 pm .  
**Mar 22: 8:00 am Daily Mass will be @ St. James parish due to work being done inside St. Joachim Church**  
**Mar 22: Mass & Live Stations Time Change: 6:00 pm NOT 6:30 pm (St. James)**  
Mar 27: Fall 2024 Picnic mtg, 6:00 pm, Parish Hall  
Jul 17: National Eucharistic Congress, Indianapolis, IN

### Lenten Services

**St. James Mass & Stations**  
**\*\*Mar 22, 6:00 pm, NOT 6:30 pm\*\***  
**Penance Services**  
Mar 26, 6:00 pm  
**Fish Fry's**  
Mar 22, 11:00 - 1:00 pm

**St. Joachim Mass & Stations**  
Mar 15, 6:30 pm  
**Fish Fry's**  
Mar 15, 3:00 pm  
Mar 29, 3:00 pm

**Holy Week** Sign-up sheets are in the vestibule. Please, please take a moment and sign up for Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday Adoration, Holy Thursday Mass and Easter Sunday Mass. We need Lectors, servers - several servers, Special Ministers, gift bearers, and musicians! (Good Friday and Holy Saturday will be celebrated at St. Joachim.)

\*\*\*\*\*FORMED\*\*\*\*\*

### LENT: Week :

**Perpetua and Felicity/The Faithful:** The Story of Saints Perpetua and Felicity: Based on the account written by St. Perpetua while in prison, this moving presentation captures the courageous witness of these saints, whose example has inspired generations

**Return: Lent w/Fr. John Burns, Session 4:** Fr. John reflects on weeping & lamentation as a remedy for coming to terms with the reality that things in life do not always go as we want. In the Bible, the Israelites cried out to the Lord when things went wrong-not as an accusation against God-but as a display of their continued faith in Him. In preparation for Good Friday, Fr. John reflects on the truth that God allows certain things to happen to bring about a greater good-without the cross there is no resurrection. Therefore, we are called to unite our suffering to Christ & trust in the divine will of the Father. How can you be steadfast & trust in the Lord even through difficult times?

### Bible Study on the Sorrowful Mysteries: The Carrying of the Cross:

**Restore: Lent with Sr. Miriam James Heidland, SOLT, week four:** In week four, Sr. reflects on almsgiving and how it heals your relationships with others. One of the most powerful ways to heal your brokenness is to give-not only money or clothing, but also your presence and love-to those whom God has placed in your life, even those who have wounded you.

### To sign up for "Formed"

Go to: <https://signup.formed.org/>

Enter our parish's zip code

Enter your name and your email address. That's it, you're in.

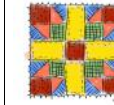
### Missionary Discipleship Light and Darkness

Every single day of our lives, we have a great number of choices to make. We can choose God in various situations, making the conscious decision to choose goodness and light. On the other hand, we can choose to reject God as the ancient Israelites did before going into exile. The lay faithful have the beautiful blessing of sanctifying the world. While priests and religious sanctify the Church, the lay faithful can sanctify the world in its increasing secularity. What does this mean for us? It means choosing prayer, silence, patience, compassion, and selfless love over unnecessary noise, anger, self-gratification, and individualism. Choose wisely in each situation and help lead people to encounter God through you.



Live Stations of the Cross  
March 22, 2024

St. James PSR will be presenting a live Stations of the Cross following Mass.  
Mass begins @ **6:00 pm**.  
Please make sure you mark this on your calendar and come join us for Mass and Stations.



### Quilt Bingo

St. James Bingo Ladies are wanting to hold a Quilt Bingo on **April 21st**, but they need your help. If anyone would be willing to donate a quilt, store bought or hand made, please contact Judy Cain @ 573-210-8220 for more information. All proceeds go to St. James Church. Thank you!

Lenten Bible study begins again, Tuesday evenings 6:00 pm @ Judy Wright's home. All are welcome. If we need to move the location, we will be happy to move to the hall! Actually, that would be a blessing that so many want to join us! We are doing potluck again as well, so bring a dish to share! Call Judy Wright at 573-631-9721 for more details.

### SCHEDULE CHANGES

**Friday, March 22nd**

**8:00 am Daily Mass will be celebrated at St. James Church**  
(due to work being done inside St. Joachim Church)

Lenten services will also be celebrated at St. James Church  
**11:00 to 1:00 Fish Fry & bake sale**  
**6:00 pm Mass & LIVE stations (time changed from 6:30 pm)**

### Q&A

**Question:** Why do Catholics leave Jesus crucified on the cross in Catholic churches when Jesus is risen?

**Answer:** Jesus is not "left on the cross" but rather his saving love is displayed. Jesus died for our sins out of love is the central message of a crucifix. The centrality of this to the mission of Jesus on earth is mentioned several times in the New Testament:

*For Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. . . (1 Cor. 1:23)*  
*"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour." (Jn. 12:27)*  
*And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (Jn. 3:14-16)*  
*Then he took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you. (Lk. 22:19-20)*

God could have chosen any method for the redemption of humanity. In his desire that humanity should know the depravity of sin and the depths of God's love he chose to die on the cross. Displaying a crucifix does not in any way deny the resurrection of Jesus. After all, do faith communities that display only a cross want to downplay the sufferings of Jesus? Of course not, it is just a different preference of emphasis. In the Catholic Church the crucifix has been the traditional sign and statement of our faith in God's love and mercy. It reminds us that Jesus never promised his followers an easy life (Matt. 16:24) but that if we join our sufferings to his, we too we ultimately triumph as he did.

Catholic Answers @ [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com)

### St. James PSR NEWS

**\*\* Next in-person class:** Wednesday, **March 20th:** Dinner @ 5:15pm, class will begin @ 6:00 pm, **Unit 6** will be due.

**March 13th 6:00 pm PSR Reconciliation**

**\*\*If you are a server, please volunteer to serve for Friday Evening Mass & Stations of the Cross.**

**\*\*There will be a sign-up sheet for Holy Thursday, please sign-up to help then as well.**

Join our Facebook page for all the latest and greatest information.







# 90 Prayer Days for Life

February 5 – May 5, 2024

## Archdiocese of St. Louis Prayer Campaign to Save Preborn Children and Protect Women in Missouri



*"Only with prayer...will the culture of death that surrounds us today be replaced with a Culture of Life."*  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Through May 5, pro-abortion supporters are attempting to collect signatures for a ballot initiative to insert abortion language into our state constitution. Committed to saving preborn children and protecting Missouri women, the Archdiocese of St. Louis invites Missouri Catholics and other pro-life advocates to unite in prayer before our Eucharistic Lord to stop these efforts.

During 90 Prayer Days for Life, individuals, families, groups, schools, and parishes are invited to:

1. Choose a day to pray.
2. Sign up online or via the QR Code below.
3. Pray before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, through our Blessed Mother's intercession, specifically for this intention on your scheduled day.

**Pro-Life Prayer Resources**  
 U.S. Catholic Conference of Bishops  
[uscbb.org/pro-life-prayer](https://uscbb.org/pro-life-prayer)  
 Walking with Moms in Need  
[walkingwithmoms.com/pray-for-moms](http://walkingwithmoms.com/pray-for-moms)  
 Respect Life Apostolate  
[https://www.archstl.org/Portals/0/agency/1000267-respectlife/Step1PrayerDetailResource-BallotInitiative\\_12\\_2023.pdf?ver=2024-02-10-131207-877](https://www.archstl.org/Portals/0/agency/1000267-respectlife/Step1PrayerDetailResource-BallotInitiative_12_2023.pdf?ver=2024-02-10-131207-877)

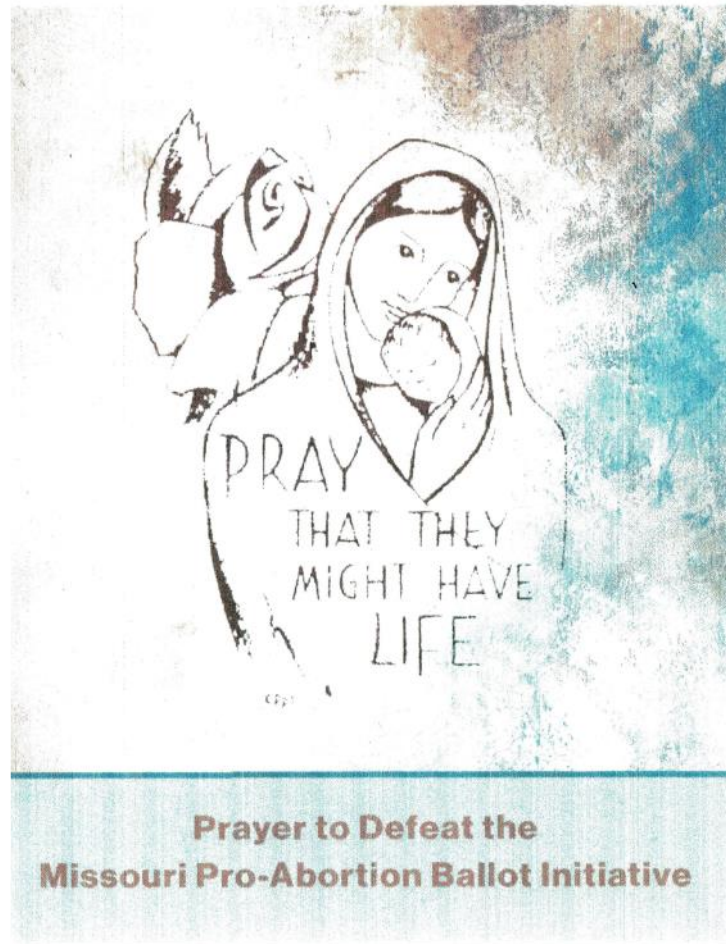


Join 90 Prayer Days for Life:

[bit.ly/90DaysForLife-2024](https://bit.ly/90DaysForLife-2024)



For additional resources about the Missouri Ballot Initiative, contact:  
Respect Life Apostolate - Archdiocese of St. Louis  
[prolife@archstl.org](mailto:prolife@archstl.org) — [314-353-8777](tel:314-353-8777)



## Prayer to Defeat the Missouri Pro-Abortion Ballot Initiative

Dear Gracious God

By Your hand we received the gift of life at the moment of conception.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, You call us to live out our faith even in the midst of a troubled world. You call us to proclaim the truth of the Gospel of Life and Your love to all around us.

We ask you to bless us as we share Your teachings on the dignity of all human life, especially the preborn and their mothers.

Give us strength of heart and mind. Do not allow us to be discouraged as we make our voices heard to proclaim Your teachings that are now being threatened.

Give us a clear voice as we work to overcome the trial before us for the sake of all people in Missouri.

We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen



### Statement of the Missouri Catholic Conference on the Abortion Initiative Petition

The Catholic Church supports and defends society's most vulnerable, especially women and children, through accompaniment, social services, and material assistance. A misleading proposed amendment to the Missouri Constitution suggests that a "right to an abortion" is needed to protect women, while the amendment could actually put women at risk and endanger preborn children. This ballot initiative would legalize abortions in this state and remove long standing health and safety standards for women. In addition, this initiative does nothing to reduce or eliminate the underlying social causes for abortion and does not further a true culture of life in the state. Groups are currently collecting citizen signatures to add the amendment to the November 2024 ballot. We encourage all Catholics and people of good will to not sign any petition that would put this amendment on the ballot. The Catholic Church in Missouri will continue to provide spiritual and material support to expectant mothers and their families through our parishes and ministries, and to advocate on their behalf and on behalf of their preborn children. For those women suffering from the pain of an abortion, the Church will continue to offer true healing and hope through its Post Abortive Healing Ministries. We ask all to help us in these efforts to safeguard the right to life. We look forward to the day when every child, born and unborn, has the love and support needed to thrive and reach his or her full potential. Let us pray for a greater recognition of the gift of each and every human life in our society.

#### CATHOLIC BISHOPS OF MISSOURI

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski General Chairman Archbishop of St. Louis	Most Reverend James V. Johnston, Jr. Vice Chairman Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph
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Most Reverend W. Shawn McKnight Executive Chairman Bishop of Jefferson City	Most Reverend Edward M. Rice Bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau
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Approved February 22, 2024



## 5 Things You Can Do Right Now to Save the Preborn & Protect Missouri

With the June 24, 2022 Dobbs v. Jackson decision, Missouri became the first state in the nation to restore legal protections that save the preborn and protect women. Missouri Catholics and other pro-life advocates are committed to keeping these safeguards in place by telling the general public the truth about the harm the passage of any pro-abortion ballot initiative petition would do in Missouri.



Here are 5 things you can do right now to help:

### 1. Pray

Be bold and confident in asking our Good Lord's help in stopping these pro-abortion initiative petitions. Pray and invite others to pray to help save babies and protect moms.

- Ask your pastor to start a regular Rosary for Life and Holy Hour!
- Join in the Archdiocesan 90 Prayer Days for Life: [bit.ly/90DaysForLife-2024](https://bit.ly/90DaysForLife-2024)

### 2. Walk with Moms

Support moms in your parish and community, especially those facing an unexpected pregnancy. You can partner with your local pregnancy resource center to help walk with them. Go to [walkingwithmomsstl.com](http://walkingwithmomsstl.com)



### 3. Decline to Sign

Now that the ballot language has been certified, pro-abortion supporters can collect signatures. **DO NOT SIGN** any petition to insert abortion into our state constitution on the fall 2024 ballot. Educate others and encourage them to do the same.

### 4. Promote Voter Registration

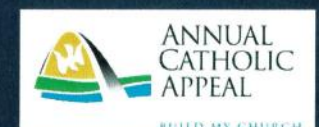
Encourage young people and other new voters to register. Help at a registration drive in your community or ask your pastor if you can organize one at your parish (per the Secretary of State's guidelines).

### 5. Help Those Wounded by Abortion

Encourage those affected by abortion to reach out for compassionate help, hope, and healing at [archstl.org/hope-healing](http://archstl.org/hope-healing)



For additional resources about the Missouri Ballot Initiative, contact:  
Respect Life Apostolate - Archdiocese of St. Louis  
[prolife@archstl.org](mailto:prolife@archstl.org) — [STLRespectLife.org](http://STLRespectLife.org)





# Pro-Abortion Initiative Petitions in Missouri in 2024

(Prepared by Samuel H. Lee, Campaign Life Missouri, on 1/29/2024. Contact: [samuelllee@mindspring.com](mailto:samuelllee@mindspring.com))

## • The Words of Pope St. John Paul II Are as True and Demanding Today as They Were 25 Years Ago When He Visited St. Louis.

- “There are times of trial, tests of national character, in the history of every country. America has not been immune to them. One such time of trial is closely connected with St. Louis. Here, the famous Dred Scott case was heard. ... America faces a similar time of trial today. Today, the conflict is between a culture that affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings – the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered “unuseful” – to be outside the boundaries of legal protection.” – [The Holy Father’s Address on Jan. 26, 1999, at his arrival](#)
- “The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of life in every situation.” – [Pope St. John Paul II’s Homily during the Eucharistic Celebration, Jan. 27, 1999](#)
- Something that is done **unconditionally** is done or given freely, without anything being required in return. To do something **unconditionally** means there are no conditions, requirements or stipulations at all.
- Each of us individually – as well as in our families, parishes and larger groups – must ask ourselves:  
During this time of trial, during this test of character, how will I serve the Gospel of Life by serving mothers and their unborn babies, so that they are not thrown outside the boundaries of legal protection through the passage of a pro-abortion state constitutional amendment?

## • Pro-Abortion Groups Announced on Jan 18, 2024, They Have Chosen One of 11 Initiative Petitions to Attempt to Put On the Ballot for the Nov. 5 General Election.

- [Missourians for Constitutional Freedom](#) (MCF) – a pro-abortion group [which has the support of Abortion Access Missouri, the ACLU of Missouri and Planned Parenthood affiliates in Kansas City and St. Louis](#) – announced on January 18 that they are getting behind [one of the 11 initiative petitions](#) that the group had filed in in March 2023.
- MCF and its supporters have chosen initiative petition [2024-086](#), which would allow abortions in Missouri up until the unborn child is viable but states that the “general assembly may enact laws that regulate the provision of abortion after Fetal Viability”.
- Note that the legislature would only have permission to “regulate” – but not “restrict,” “prohibit,” “outlaw,” etc., abortions of unborn babies. “Regulate” after viability might mean that the abortion can only be performed or induced by a physician. But before viability, abortions could be legally performed or induced without “discriminat[ing] against persons providing ... reproductive health care” (subsection 6).
- But as a practical matter, the initiative petition would effectively allow abortions until birth because:  
[U]nder no circumstance shall the Government deny, interfere with, delay, or otherwise restrict an abortion that in the good faith judgment of a treating **health care professional** is needed to protect the life or physical or **mental health** of the **pregnant person**. (Subsection 4)
- Thus any “treating health care professional” (not just a physician) could determine in a “pregnant person[’s]” seventh, eighth or ninth month that an abortion is needed for “mental health” reasons. The [World Health Organization](#) says “**mental health**” is “a state of mental well-being that enables people to cope with the stresses of life, realize their abilities, learn well and work well, and contribute to their community.”

## • Pro-Abortion Initiative Petition Signature Gathering Begins February 1, 2024. Deadline to Collect Signatures is May 5, 2024.

- Rep. Deb Lavender (D-Manchester) wrote in her [Jan. 21 newsletter](#): “Signature Collection will Begin February 1, 2024.” [On Reddit, a volunteer for a grassroots group helping with the petition](#) wrote on Jan. 25:  
We were told tonight there will be a kickoff on Tuesday Feb 6th, around 6, in KC, STL, Columbia, & Springfield for people to be the first to sign. Specific locations and times to follow soon.
- Petitions to amend the constitution must be signed by eight percent of legal voters in any six of the eight congressional districts. That is a minimum of 171,592 signatures.
- Signatures must be submitted to the Missouri Secretary of State by 5:00 PM, May 5, 2024.
- As a practical matter, supporters of any pro-abortion initiative petition must get 300,000 or more signatures by the deadline, since many signatures are invalid, or the signer is in the “wrong” congressional district.
- (Another group called [Missouri Women and Family Research Fund](#) claims it is also [canvassing for signatures a competing pro-abortion ballot measure](#), but there doesn’t appear to be much activity.)

## • Recent Polling.

- **Remington/MOScout Poll:** Survey conducted Jan. 24–Jan. 25, 2024. 719 likely November Election voters participated in the survey. Survey weighted to match expected turnout demographics for the 2024 November Election. Margin of Error is +/-3.9% with a 95% level of confidence. Totals do not always equal 100% due to rounding. Survey conducted by Remington Research Group on behalf of Missouri Scout.  
*Do you want to amend the Missouri Constitution to remove Missouri’s ban on abortion, but allow abortions to be restricted or banned after Fetal Viability except to protect the life or health of the woman?*  
Yes: 52%  
No: 30%  
Not sure: 18%

## • Missouri Stands with Women – a New Coalition of Pro-Life Groups Devoted Solely to Defeating Pro-Abortion Initiative Petitions in Missouri – Has Been Formed.

- **Missouri Stands with Women** ([mostandswithwomen.org](#)) – a new coalition of pro-life groups (including the [Missouri Catholic Conference](#), [Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America](#) and [ThriVe Nation](#), a St. Louis-based pregnancy resource organization) – has been formed with the sole purpose keeping any pro-abortion initiative petitions off the ballot in Missouri, and defeating them if they get on.
- **Missouri Stands with Women** is educating voters to not sign any petitions, and if it can raise enough funds, will proactively reach out to voters in key areas of the six most likely congressional districts to “Decline to Sign” – before those voters are even approached for signatures. Donations are not tax-deductible.
- **Missouri Stands with Women** has retained a public communications expert who has worked on numerous Missouri political campaign, as well as a Columbia, Mo., based spokeswoman who is actively on radio and other media outlets.
- Contact information (including for donations not made online):  
Missouri Stands with Women  
P.O. Box 11792  
St. Louis, MO 63105  
<https://mostandswithwomen.org/>