



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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Media Contact:

Gabe Jones

314.792.7557

gabejones@archstl.org

Annual Memorial Mass Remembers Abortion Victims

Mass at Cathedral Basilica on Saturday Commemorates Anniversary of Roe v. Wade

WHAT: Annual *Roe v. Wade* Memorial Mass, hosted by the Respect Life Apostolate

WHERE: Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis (4431 Lindell)

WHEN: Saturday, January 21, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

WHO: Archbishop Robert Carlson and more than 500 pro-life supporters

ST. LOUIS – Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, will celebrate the annual *Roe v. Wade* Memorial Mass on Saturday, January 21, at the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court's tragic *Roe v. Wade* decision on January 22, 1973, which legalized abortion in the United States. The Mass is hosted by the Respect Life Apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The Mass will begin at 9:30 a.m. and will be preceded by a procession of 44 individuals, one for every year since 1973, to represent the more than 57 million children lost due to abortion in the past 44 years. A solemn rosary procession to Planned Parenthood on Forest Park Boulevard will follow Mass. More than 500 people are expected to attend.

"We have a rich history of defending the unborn in the Archdiocese of St. Louis," said Karen Nolkemper, Executive Director of the Respect Life Apostolate. "Despite enormous progress, the pro-life movement locally and nationally still faces stiff resistance. This annual Mass offers us an opportunity, through prayer and public witness, to re-commit to defending life and transforming our culture."

Next week, hundreds of thousands of pro-life pilgrims will descend on Washington, D.C. for the 44th annual March for Life. More than 2,100 students, volunteers, and chaperones from Catholic schools and parishes will depart the St. Louis area on Wednesday, January 25. The annual pilgrimage from St. Louis, known as "[Generation Life](#)" or "GenLifeSTL" since 2013, is organized by the Catholic Youth Apostolate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis was the first in the nation to establish a Respect Life Apostolate (RLA) following the landmark *Roe v. Wade* decision in 1973. The purpose of the RLA is to promote the Catholic Church's teachings on respect for and legal protection of every human life from conception to natural death by coordinating educational, spiritual, pastoral, and public policy advocacy efforts with particular focus on those issues in the culture that threaten life - abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, and unethical advances in scientific technology. In addition to the annual Memorial Mass in January, the RLA hosts its annual convention in October, which is Respect Life Month.

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