

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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January 2022

Pro-Life Breakfast

The tradition continues! People for Life's 44th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast is only days away. Although plans for this year's Breakfast are still unfolding, it looks like it is going to be another memorable event. The Breakfast will take place once again at the Erie Bayfront Convention Center, on January 15 just a week prior to the 49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Doors will open at 8 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Reservations (required) are: \$20 for adults and teens, \$12 dollars for children ages 3-12, and free for kids under 3. Your reservations are needed by January 10 at the latest but preferably earlier if at all possible. The box at the bottom of this page outlines four ways you can make reservations. Unless you choose Option 2, your tickets will be mailed to you as soon as your payment is received.

THE PROGRAM

We are looking forward with great anticipation to our Special Guest Speaker Rachel Bovard. Rachel is the Senior Director of Policy at the Conservative Partnership Institute in Washington, DC. She is also affiliated with the Institute for Faith & Freedom at Grove City College.

Rachel graduated in 2006 from Grove City College summa cum laude in history and political science. She went on to earn a master's degree from the George Washington University School of Political Management. In 2013, *National Journal* named her one of the "Most Influential Women Under 35 in Washington."

Beginning in 2006 she served in both the

U.S. House and U.S. Senate in various roles, including as Legislative Director for Sen. Rand Paul and Policy Director for the Senate Steering Committee under the successive chairmanships of Sen. Pat Toomey and Sen. Mike Lee. In the House, she served as Senior Legislative Assistant to Rep. Donald Manzullo (R-IL), and Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX). Rachel has also served as Director of Policy Services for the Heritage Foundation.

Rachel's policy analysis and punditry have appeared in: *The Hill*, *Real Clear Policy*, the *Boston Herald*, the *Sacramento Bee*, the *Daily Signal* and *Conservative Review*, among others. She has done many radio and television appearances including on MSNBC, CNBC, Fox Business, EWTN, National Public Radio, and Tucker Carlson Tonight. Just last month, the *American Spectator* published an excellent op-ed piece in which Rachel examines the challenge to Mississippi's 15-week abortion limit that is now before the U.S. Supreme Court (Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization) and how the Court might rule in that case.

There is more about Rachel in the January 2022 section of peopleforlife.org.

We are hopeful that Professor Paul Kengor, our 2015 Breakfast headliner, will be up from Grove City to introduce Rachel and hear her message. Dr. Kengor was one of Rachel's political science professors during her undergraduate studies at Grove City College.

Two outstanding pro-life legislators, U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly and state Sen. Michele Brooks, have accepted Breakfast invitations and will speak briefly. Several other of pro-



Guest Speaker Rachel Bovard

life government officials have been invited and are expected to attend.

A group from Gannon University Students for Life is also coming. Sarah White, the President and Christopher Abraham, the Vice President will have a chance to introduce themselves and their organization.

Catholic Bishop Lawrence Persico will share his thoughts after the main speaker.

Other confirmed participants are: Sister Carmen Haemmerle, Pastoral Minister and Students for Life Advisor at Gannon University and Rev. Mike Kaczorowski, Lead Pastor at the First Alliance Church, Erie.

We are delighted to announce that musical artist Brandon Fox of the popular group Brandon Fox Worship enthusiastically accepted our invitation to perform during the Breakfast.

We will have our customary tables with pro-life literature and merchandise including: car magnets, stickers, and the recently introduced pro-life flags. Come prepared to stock up on some quality pro-life materials.

Urgent Action Alert

A constitutional amendment has been introduced in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to counter a pro-abortion offensive to convince the courts that there is a right to abortion hidden away in the Pennsylvania Constitution. This pro-life legislation, SB 956, was introduced on December 16 by Sen. Judy Ward. A constitutional amendment must be approved by two successive sessions of the legislature and then be approved by the voters.

The abortion industry is trying to force Pennsylvania to allocate tax dollars for Medicaid abortions, arguing that equal

protection provisions in the state Constitution effectively make abortion a "constitutional right." If the state Supreme Court, which has a pro-abortion majority, accepts this argument, all restrictions on abortion, including post-viability abortions, are likely to be overturned. Even modest provisions such as informed consent, parental involvement, and the 24 hour waiting period are likely to be thrown overboard.

It is critical for all pro-life Pennsylvanians to get behind this constitutional amendment and let their legislators know exactly where they stand. Please contact and continue to

lobby your state Senator and state Representative, no matter their position on legalized abortion. Pro-life legislators need
continued on page 2

Four ways to make your reservations BREAKFAST & BUS TRIP

- 1. MAIL YOUR CHECK**
People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512
- 2. VISIT *PEOPLE FOR LIFE***
1625 W. 26th St., Erie Call to check open hours.
- 3. GO ONLINE**
www.peopleforlife.org/january2022. Use the red, Breakfast or Bus Trip Register button to get started.
- 4. CALL (814) 882-1333**

Erie rallies for Mississippi's 15 week limit

Erie area residents rallied for life in downtown Erie on December 1, the day the U.S.

Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. A favorable ruling in this case could relegate the *Roe v. Wade* decision to the ashbin of history, alongside such infamies as *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, which upheld slavery, and *Buck v. Bell*, which upheld forced sterilization. *Dobbs v. Jackson* is a challenge to a law that was enacted in 2018 by the state of Mississippi to protect unborn children after 15 weeks gestation (13 weeks after conception).

At 15 weeks, all of the unborn child's organs and major body systems, for example, digestive, nervous, and circulatory systems, are present. As everyone should know by now, the baby's heart is beating and, yes, pumping blood at 21-23 days after conception. By 15 weeks, the baby has been moving about, turning her head from side to side, and changing facial expressions. If an object is placed on the palm of her hand, she will make a fist. This is known as the grasping reflex. Many other reflexive behaviors have also become well-established by this time.

Stepping and swimming motions are two more examples. Sonograms taken at 15 weeks sometimes show the baby sucking her thumb.

It is very important to understand what the pro-life lawyers are saying to the Supreme Court justices in this case. They are not simply arguing that 15 weeks is the right time to begin protecting human beings from destruction. They are asking the pivotal question, Who is best suited to work out society's proper role in protecting human dignity, human rights, and human beings in the womb in light of our ability to save premature babies at ever-earlier ages and given society's ever-evolving comprehension of the humanity of the unborn child? Is it a majority of unelected people on the Supreme Court, or is it the American people themselves, working these matters out through the legislative process within their own state governments? In *Roe v. Wade*, seven of the nine justices decided that they had all the answers and that the role of the people was to be quiet and just submit to the legalization of abortion on demand, even the states where large majorities held that abortion is an unspeakable crime. If the current Supreme

Court decides that the people are the ones who are better equipped to shape the society and culture in which they live, it will spell disaster, the end of the road, for *Roe v. Wade*.

Over 40 people responded to People for Life's call to rally in support for the Mississippi law on the day of the oral arguments. This is a respectable number for a noontime gathering during the school and work week and in cold weather. We conducted the hour long rally at State St. & South Park Row, across the street from the Federal Court House. Most people held a "Protect Every Child" sign or an American Flag. We even used one of the new pink, white, and blue pro-life flags. Many thanks to everyone who participated!

Erie News Now gave us a fair amount of news coverage. People for Life Board Secretary Shauna Jackson did a great job as our on-camera spokesperson.

If you would like to be notified in advance about future pro-life demonstrations like this one, please let us know. We will place you on a dedicated list so you will receive a notification by e-mail and/or robocall call.

Mother's Day Carnations

Yes, it might be a touch early to be thinking about Mother's Day, but the next Erie Echo is not due out until late April or early May. By then it might be too late to remind everyone about the Mother's Day Carnation Project and assure them that it is on the agenda for 2022. We also understand that many of the churches that participate in this worthy effort need to make their plans well in advance.

Hopefully this notice will prompt some people to take a moment to reserve some time on their new 2022 calendars for lending a hand. We are always in need of volunteers.

The Carnation Project is a northwestern Pennsylvania tradition that began in 1970s. It has grown into a substantial operation involving literally hundreds of volunteers and approximately 110-120 organizations in any given year, Erie-area churches primarily.

Carnations have been a favorite flower for honoring mothers since at least the early 20th Century. Today they continue to help us celebrate mothers and remember the infinite value of every human life.

Mother's Day carnations were a lifeline that helped get People for Life up and running in the early years. Even today, the Carnation Project generates a lot of the necessary funds needed to continue the indispensable work of local, neighbor-to-neighbor, pro-life education and advocacy right here in our own communities.

Typically, church volunteers receive a consignment of carnations and make them available for members of their congregation

on their way in or out of church, and donations of \$2 per carnation or \$10 for each half-dozen are collected.

The carnations are intended especially for mothers and grandmothers, but almost everyone enjoys them and they practically sell themselves. Any leftovers can be returned and do not have to be paid for. We can also accept lump some donations in exchange for a predetermined number of carnations if the consignment method is not feasible.

If your church does not currently host the Carnation Project, we would be very happy to talk with you about how you might get something going. Please contact People for Life at your earliest convenience.

2nd New Board Member

In the previous Erie Echo, we introduced a new board member, Karli Van Der Volgen, and now we have another new Member to tell you about. Her name is Megan Bonk. She has been a faithful People for Life volunteer for a number of years, working on a variety of endeavors including the Mother's Day Carnation Project and Life Run 5K/10K.

In January 2017, Megan spoke at the Erie March for Life as a graduate student at Gannon University. She really impressed the assembled marchers. There were many compliments, right after the program and over the following weeks. Megan participated in several of our March for Bus Trips as part of Gannon Students for Life, beginning in 2013. She was one of our favorite Students for Life contact persons throughout her years at Gannon.

Megan is now a pediatric physical therapist. She lives in the City of Erie with her husband Jacob.

FROM PAGE 1 Urgent Action Alert

your support, and pro-abortion legislators need to feel the heat. Contact information is easily accessible online, including at peopleforlife.org/legislators.html. For those who don't like computers, here are some phone numbers: Sen. Michele Brooks (724) 588-8911, Sen. Dan Laughlin (814) 453-2515, Rep. Ryan Bizzarro (814) 835-2880, Rep. Curt Sonney (814) 897-2080, Rep. Pat Harkins (814) 459-1949, Rep. Bob Merski (814) 455-6319, Rep. Kathy Rapp (814) 723-5203, Rep. Brad Roae (814) 336-1136, Rep. Parke Wentling (814) 774-3105.

January 2022

www.PeopleforLife.org/january2022
www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, January 15, 2022, 9 a.m.

Erie Bayfront Convention Center

Special Guest Speaker: Rachel Bovard

www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

March for Life Bus Trip

Leave Erie January 20, 2022 at 11 p.m.

Return about 1:30 a.m., January 22

\$60 per seat

www.facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip

Erie March for Life

Saturday, January 29, 2022, 11 a.m.

Starts and Finishes at Perry Square

2022 Student Oratory and Essay Contests

People for Life will sponsor pro-life student oratory and essay contests this spring.

Speeches and essays may range in tone from polemical (argumentative) to purely informational, from inspirational to provocative. Topics can be chosen from a wide range of basic human life issues related to abortion, euthanasia (including assisted suicide), denial of life-saving medical treatment, exploitation of human embryos, human cloning, and the harvesting of tissues and organs from aborted babies.

Contestants may address the sad or unpleasant realities that go along with the culture of death, but there are many upbeat topics to consider as well: adoption, motherhood, pregnancy, fetal development, personal experiences with pro-life activities (e.g., the March for Life, volunteering), and the blessings of knowing people with mental or physical challenges (e.g., Down Syndrome), to name a few. We are happy to advise contestants who are unsure about what topic they should choose and to suggest places to look for accurate information.

The Oratory Contest will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2022. It is open to any high school student who would like to participate. Each contestant will study a human life topic of his or her choice, write an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech, and present it in

person on April 9. Grades 9-10 and 11-12 will compete separately. A set of cash prizes will be awarded to the winners in each age group: \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. A panel of judges will score each speech and offer the speaker some positive, constructive suggestions, noting the speech's strong points and weak points. The speeches will be evaluated on originality, depth of research, accuracy, and careful reasoning, as well as delivery style.

Students are required to register in advance by e-mailing their name, age, grade, school, and phone number to office@peopleforlife.org.

Middle school as well as high school students are invited to submit an entry in the Essay Contest. However, the Essay Contest is open only to students in Erie, Crawford, Warren, Mercer, Venango, Ashtabula, and Chautauqua counties. The submission deadline is April 25, 2022.

Grades 7-9 and 10-12 compete separately. Word limits are 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. As in the Oratory Contest, a set of \$100, \$50, and \$25 cash prizes will be awarded in both age groups. Essays are judged by the same criteria as the Oratory Contest speeches, but grammar and spelling also count.

Essays can be e-mailed to office@peopleforlife.org as attachments in Microsoft Word or PDF format or placed in the body of the e-mail. They may also be mailed to People for Life; P.O. Box 1126; Erie, PA 16512, postmarked no later than April 25. All entries must include the student's name, address, phone number, grade, and school.

Bus Trip Sponsors

We want to thank everyone who is helping one or more of our Marchers for Life get back and forth to Washington, DC this month.

If you would like to be a People for Life Bus Trip sponsor, seats are now \$60 but any amount will help. Even a partial sponsorship frees up money for meals and Metro fair. The Metro costs between \$9 and \$15, depending on how a marcher's group decides to spend its time before the March for Life Rally gets underway. If you would like to be a sponsor, please call or go online to use a credit or debit card, or send a check marked, Bus Sponsor.

Social Media

Our biggest social media following is on Facebook, but you can also find us at:

- Twitter.com/gopeopleforlife
- Instagram.com/peopleforlife1
- MeWe.com/p/peopleforlife

Memorials

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Duane & Marcie Kerstetter John & Louise Lynch Mark & Linda Maloney Brian & Kathleen Praetzel & Family	Mark Borowy Teresa Convey Rhonda Estella (Graves) Capron Mary Ellen Ferrick	Brandt Hammer Ronald Kopf Anita Smith	Great Aunt Jean Anne Hammer Patricia Kopf Cynthia Manna

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____
 ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 Best Phone _____ Mobile? Yes | No Other Phone _____ Mobile? Yes | No Do not text
 AFFILIATED WITH (e.g., church, organization, business) _____ WORK/PROFESSION _____

1. DONATION: \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other Amount _____

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES (one year): Individual \$10 Family \$20 Senior Citizen /Student \$5 New Renewal

3. TRIBUTE DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory of or In Honor of _____

4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.life or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Booths	<input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Another Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> March For Life Bus Trip Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Calling	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Demonstrations	<input type="checkbox"/> Mother's Day Carnation Project
<input type="checkbox"/> Office Attendant	<input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Life Breakfast Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> Erie March for Life Worker
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter Mailing	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Run Worker	<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Call when you need an extra hand.</i>

Please make your check payable to: PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC. P.O. Box 1126 Erie, PA 16512

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible. The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE
www.PeopleforLife.life

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 phone / fax (814) 459-1333
 office@peopleforlife.org
 www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Mailing Address
 P.O. Box 1126
 Erie, PA 16512

— Office Location —
 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
 Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays
 Call for evening and Saturday hours

Erie March for Life

The Erie March for Life will take place on Saturday, January 29. Please mark that new 2022 calendar!

The March will get underway at 11 a.m. A brief program of speakers will follow the actual marching. Marchers are asked to arrive by 10:45 a.m. or earlier. Remember to dress for winter weather, including warm non-slip footwear.

Last year, because of COVID-19 restrictions, the March was limited to the sidewalks on the perimeter of Perry Square. This year, we will be back out on the city streets. Signs will be provided. Marchers are welcome to bring their own signs, but People for Life reserves the right to exclude messages that do not reflect the pro-life mission of People for Life or that run counter to the philosophy or persona of the organization.

The planning process continues to move forward, but some details are already confirmed. Erie County Councilman Brian Shank is going to donate his DJ services. Gannon Students for Life will participate, and two of their leaders will speak during to closing program. We are also planning to hear from one of our own People for Life volunteers about the emotional trauma she has had to endure after of being pressured into an abortion as a teenager.

Erie weather can be a problem in late January, but the March usually goes forward, rain, snow, or sunshine. An ice storm did force us to cancel the March a few years ago due to treacherously slippery sidewalks and streets. If for any reason there is another cancellation or major change, a notice will be posted on the front page of peopleforlife.org.



There will be lots more to tell you as January 29 approaches, so stay tuned. Please follow the Erie March for Life at peopleforlife.org/january2022 and subscribe to our E-Mail Updates.

March for Life Bus Trip

Bus seats are beginning to fill up for People for Life's 49th annual trip to the Washington, DC March for Life. We are hosting student groups from Gannon University and St. George School. This will go a long way toward filling both of our buses, but plenty of seats are still available, for now. We would be happy to charter a third bus if enough people decided to go, but that might be difficult. This year for the first time, there is a shortage, not of buses, but of bus drivers.

With the Supreme Court considering an abortion case that could that very possibly result in the complete dismantling of Roe v. Wade, this March for Life is sure to have a somewhat different feel. Hope is running high that decisive changes are coming, not in years or decades, but rather in the next few months. Prediction: the excitement and energy in DC this January 21 will be intense!

Bus seats are \$60 each, a price that just covers the amount we have to pay the bus company.

Your payment will reserve your seat. There is a box on page one that shows four ways to make a payment. Reservations will continue to be accepted until all seats are filled

SPONSORSHIPS If the cost is prohibitive, please call Tim Broderick at (814) 882-1333 to arrange financial help. Our goal is to make sure, with the help of our generous sponsors, that every dedicated pro-life person from the Erie area who wants to go to Washington for

the March for Life is able to do so.

For late-breaking news about the March for Life Bus Trip, please refer to the January Activities section of peopleforlife.org and follow the Bus Trip on Facebook at [Facebook.com/marchforlifebustrip](https://www.facebook.com/marchforlifebustrip).

ATTENTION MARCHERS A draft copy of our Bus Trip Itinerary and a set of preliminary instructions and suggestions are available from our website.

Please note that the bus company is asking us to wear a face mask when entering and exiting the buses (not once you are seated). Please do so out of courtesy toward the motor coach operators, if for no other reason. Please also monitor the January section of peopleforlife.org and the Bus Trip Facebook page for up to the minute, including last-minute, news and information. If you have provided an e-mail address, please keep an eye on your e-mail, too. It is unlikely that we will have to announce a cancellation like we did last year because of COVID-19, but it will not hurt to pay attention.

2022 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2022

Jan. 15	44th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, 9 a.m. - Bayfront Convention Ctr.
Jan. 20	March for Life 49th Annual Bus Trip, 11 p.m. departure
Jan. 21	March for Life - Washington, DC
Jan. 22	March for Life Buses return to Erie, approximately 1:30 a.m.
Jan. 22	49th anniversary of Roe v. Wade
Jan. 29	Erie March for Life - Downtown Erie, PA
March 1	Last day for statewide PPLF Student Essay contest entries
March 19	Pro-Life Outreach Table - WCTL Women's Conference
March 21	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
April 9	People for Life High School Oratory Contest - Erie
April 15	Last day for statewide PPLF High School Oratory Contest entries
April 17	Easter Sunday
April 25	Last day to submit People for Life Student Essay Contest entries
May 6-7	Mother's Day Carnation Project in full swing
May 8	Mother's Day
May 16	Annual Election Meeting
June 24-25	National Right to Life Convention - Atlanta, Georgia