

THE ERIE ECHO

"voice for life"

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January 2023

March for Life in Erie with Congressman Mike Kelly!

Erie's very first post-Roe March for Life will take place on Saturday, January 28, 2023, and for the very first time, we are going to have the honor of marching with a sitting member of Congress. U.S. Representative Mike Kelly is coming to march with us and speak during the closing program.

This will be the 46th consecutive January that People for Life and the Erie pro-life community have marched in downtown Erie on behalf of pre-born babies, their mothers, and the unalienable right to life.

Words from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were chosen as the theme for this year's Erie March: "Unconditional love will have the final word."

You do not want to miss this milestone event! We need you as a voice for the voiceless. We also need you to help us welcome Congressman Kelly and express our gratitude for his consistent and passionate advocacy for the pro-life cause. Please make this Erie March for Life one of your top priorities.

Marchers are asked to arrive at the Pavilion in Perry Square by 10:45 a.m. or earlier. The March will get underway at 11 a.m. The mile-long route begins and ends at Perry Square. The walk will be followed by

a program of speakers. The entire Erie March for Life event will conclude by 12:30 p.m.

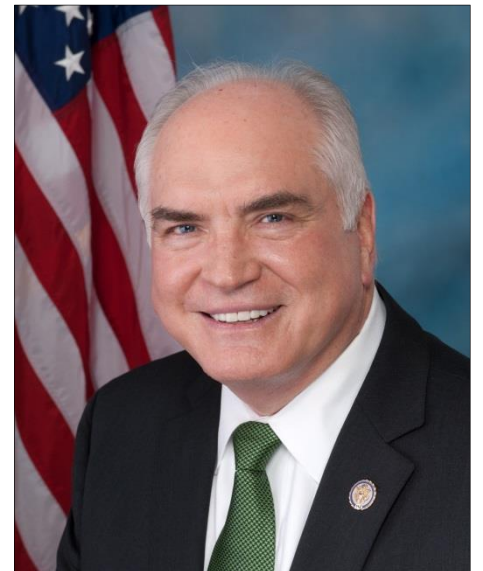
In addition to Congressman Kelly, we will hear from: second-year medical students Maia Austin and Pranuthi Gaddi, co-presidents of the Students for Life organization at LECOM; a representative from Gannon Students for Life, aka Knights for Life; and Erie County Councilman Brian Shank, who will also serve as the Erie March for Life DJ. An opening prayer will be offered by Rev. Bryan Kowalczyk, Pastor of Lake Erie Church.

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 the organization or that run counter to our philosophy or principles.

Erie weather in January can be problematic. But the March almost always goes forward, rain, snow, or sunshine. If the weather proves to be more problematic than usual and the March has to be cancelled, an announcement will be posted on peopleforlife.org and [facebook.com/peopleforlife](https://www.facebook.com/peopleforlife).

Please remember to dress for winter weather and be sure to use warm, non-slip footwear.

There will be lots more to tell you as January 28 approaches, so stay tuned. Additions to the program are likely. Please follow the Erie March for Life at peopleforlife.org/january2023 and subscribe to our E-Mail Updates for all the latest news.



U.S. Representative Mike Kelly
Our Pro-Life Congressman

50th March for Life Bus Trip

On January 20, 2023, pro-life Americans will gather in Washington, DC to March for Life and take a giant step into the future of pro-life activism. "Next Steps: Marching in a Post-Roe America" is the theme of this year's March. This will be the 50th March for Life and the first since the Dobbs decision toppled the judicial monstrosity known as Roe v. Wade. That infamous Supreme Court ruling forced practically unlimited abortion on the entire nation, resulting in 65 million lost lives.

Many of those who traveled with People for Life to the first March for Life, on January 22, 1974, are no longer with us.

Many of those who took up the March for Life tradition in the 80s and 90s are no longer up to the rigors of the red-eye bus trip and the winter chills of Washington, DC. Those of us who will be on the buses will remember those early pioneers with strong sentiments of gratitude and respect. After 50 long years, their patient dedication has carried the day. Roe is no more.

Among those to be reverently remembered is Joanne Wagner, a young mother of a large family who perished along with her pre-born child in a sudden, unforeseen medical emergency while on the way to Washington with People for Life on January 22, 1976.

Joanne's name appears on the list of passengers that is still displayed in our office. The late Mother Mary Beth Kennedy
continued on page 2

Four ways to make reservations BREAKFAST or 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 for hours.
- 3. GO ONLINE**
Visit www.peopleforlife.org/january2023. Use the BREAKFAST or BUSTRIP REGISTER+BUTTON.
- 4. CALL 814.882.1333**

FROM PAGE 1

50th Bus Trip

also appears on that list. Mother ðBettyö Kennedy was the beloved founder of the Community of Caring and the Community Country Day School. She was also widely admired for her work with the poor in Africa and Haiti.

The demise of Roe does not mean the end of the March for Life, although that was an important objective. Many battles at the federal level remain before us. Significantly, the terminus of the March for Life will now shift from the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court to the steps of the U.S. Capitol, where many legislative battles most surely lie ahead of us.

The March for Life Education and Defense Fund explains: ðMany national legislative battles loom, including even keeping longstanding Hyde protections, which limit government funding for

abortion on annual appropriation bills. The Hyde Amendment has saved over 2 million lives and is arguably the most impactful pro-life policy in our nationö history, but now cannot be taken for granted. Last, our most important work is changing hearts and minds. The goal of the national March for Life is to not only change laws at the state and federal level, but to change the culture to ultimately make abortion unthinkable.ö

Bus seats are \$65 each, a price that just covers the amount we have to pay the bus company. Your payment will reserve your seat(s). There is a box on page one that shows four ways you can make a payment. Reservations will continue to be accepted until all seats are filled.

For late-breaking news about the March for Life Bus Trip, refer to the January Activities section of peopleforlife.org and follow the Bus Trip on Facebook at Facebook.com/marchforlifebustrip. A draft

copy of our Bus Trip itinerary and a set of preliminary instructions and suggestions will also be available on the website.

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 and march to save lives is able to do so.

Attention Marchers

Bus number assignments, assuming there will be more than a single bus, will be listed on the front page of peopleforlife.org using first names and last name initials. Please check your bus number in the early evening of January 19 to save time and avoid confusion at our boarding site.

H.S. Oratory Contest

Pro-life high school students are invited to get some public speaking experience and compete for cash prizes in People for Lifeö annual High School Oratory Contest. The participants will experience a relaxed and friendly atmosphere at the Contest, which will be held in Erie on Saturday, April 15, 2023, tentatively at 11 a.m. The exact location is yet to be determined.

The competition is open to high school students regardless of where they live. Each contestant will gather information about a human life topic of his or her choice, write an original 5-7 minute pro-life speech, and present it before a panel of judges. 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.

Students may choose from a wide variety of core human life issues related to: abortion, euthanasia / assisted suicide, denial of life-saving medical treatment, exploitation of human embryos, and human cloning. Speeches may range in tone from: polemical (argumentative) to purely informative, from inspirational to provocative, from philosophical to scientific. They may address the sad or unpleasant realities that go along with the ðculture of death,ö but there are many upbeat topics to consider as well: adoption, motherhood, pregnancy and 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 such as Down Syndrome, to name only a few.

The judges will score each speech and offer positive and helpful

suggestions, noting the speechö strong points and weak points. Originality, depth of research, accuracy, careful reasoning, and delivery style will all be considered.

We are always happy to help students choose a topic and to suggest places to look for good information. Students are encouraged to choose a topic that seems interesting or one that is most relevant to their own life experiences.

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

Students may also enter the statewide PA Pro-Life Federation oratory contest by submitting a video of their speech to the Federation by April 15. People for Life will record speeches during our contest for those students who would like a copy for the statewide contest.

Open to Change

We are looking at the possibility of redirecting a portion of our fundraising efforts to something new, something less demanding of our many volunteers but more

effective than some of the other projects we have been engrossed in over the years. Tradition has its place, but sometimes the time is ripe to begin a new tradition.

One option under consideration is a pro-life dinner in late spring, perhaps between Motherö Day and Fatherö Day. Beyond raising critical funds, this kind of event would provide another opportunity to bring nationally-recognized pro-life speakers to Erie and facilitate new personal connections and friendships within the northwestern PA pro-life community. We would love to hear what you think!

Student Essay Contest

Middle school as well as high school students are invited to submit an entry in People for Lifeö annual Essay Contest. It is open to students in Erie, Crawford, Warren, Mercer, Venango, Ashtabula, and Chautauqua counties only. The submission deadline is April 24, 2023.

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 (see above) a set of \$100, \$10, 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, punctuation, and spelling also count.

Essays can be emailed 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 24. All entries must include the studentö name, address, phone number, age, grade, and school.

2023 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2023

Jan. 14	Pro-Life Breakfast - Bayfront Convention Center
Jan. 19	Buses depart for the Washington, DC March for Life
Jan. 20	50th Anniversary March for Life
Jan. 21	March for Life buses return to Erie
Jan. 28	Erie March for Life - based at Perry Square, Erie
March 1	PA Pro-Life Federation Essay Contest Entries Due
March 20	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
April 9	Easter
April 15	People for Life High School Oratory Contest - Erie
April 15	PA Pro-Life Federation Speech Contest Entries Due
April 24	People for Life Essay Contest Entries Due
May 14	Motherö Day
June 18	Fatherö Day
June 23-24	National Right to Life Convention - Pittsburgh, PA
Sept. 18	Pennsylvania March for Life / Bus Trip
Oct. 14	10th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk

Bus Trip Sponsors

Even if you will not be able to go to Washington, DC for the March for Life this month, you can give someone else a chance to march for the babies and their mothers by being a March for Life Bus Trip sponsor.

Donations for this purpose are already coming in, and we are grateful for every contribution. Each bus seat costs \$65, but even a partial sponsorship would help conserve money for meals and Metro fare. The Metro costs between \$9 and \$15 depending on what a marcher's group decides to do before the March begins at noon.

We were not even sure, a few months ago, that there would be a March for Life Bus Trip this year, because of a dramatic increase in the cost of bus transportation. The cost per seat jumped from an already pricey \$60 a seat to an even more prohibitive \$80 a seat. We published a plea for help in the November issue of this newsletter, and three very kind and generous people came forward with donations sufficient to offset the big price increase for two buses.

Even \$65 can be prohibitive for college students and families with several children, as well as for others. We must continue our custom of accepting sponsorship donations to help deserving individuals and families

on a case by case basis. Your generous support will help us put as many Erie-area marchers on the streets of Washington, DC as we possibly can.

Just write bus sponsorship on your check or call in with your credit card number.

2022 Elections

The good news is that we now have pro-life control over the U.S. House of Representatives. Unfortunately we may have lost control of the PA state House of Representatives. As we go to press, control of the state House is still in question.

Anti-Lifers Mobilizing

The pro-abortion battalions are going to take to the streets in Washington on January 22 in an effort to upstage the March for Life, which will take place two days earlier. This makes it all the more imperative for us to clear our schedules for a day and get down to Washington, DC on Friday, January 20.

In a nation that sold out to moral relativism and woefully lacking in fixed principles, public opinion and political correctness determine, for many people, what is right and wrong, good and evil, or true and false. The pro-aborts understand this, probably a lot better than we do. They understand the persuasive power that comes from the perception of superior numbers and strident protest. We, on the other hand,

January 2023

www.PeopleforLife.org/january2023
www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

Pro-Life Breakfast

Saturday, January 14, 2023, 9 a.m.
 Erie Bayfront Convention Center
 Special Guest Speaker: Patricia Sandoval
www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast

March for Life Bus Trip

Leave Erie January 19, 2023 at 11 p.m.
 Return about 1:30 a.m., January 21
 \$65 per seat
www.facebook.com/MarchforLifeBusTrip

Erie March for Life

Saturday, January 28, 2023, 11 a.m.
 Starts and finishes at Perry Square

would like to believe that common sense and reasonable discussions will necessarily carry the day.

If nothing else, the war cry from the other side should convince all of us that the March for Life needs to continue as an annual event in Washington, DC: We're taking to the streets. We're raising hell. We're marching again on the 50th Anniversary of Roe. We won't stop fighting until abortion is legal and accessible everywhere. None of this state-by-state business for the minions of death.

Memorials

Given by

Nancy Giebfried
 Susan Coleman
 Craig & Amy Dennen

In Memory of

John G. Giebfried
 Carole Harrington
 Carole Harrington

Given by

Mary Jo Matheis
 Terry A. Pawlowski
 Anita Smith

In Memory of

Carole Harrington
 Carole Harrington
 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.org 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"/> Call when you need an extra hand.

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

phone (814) 882-1333
 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

45th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast

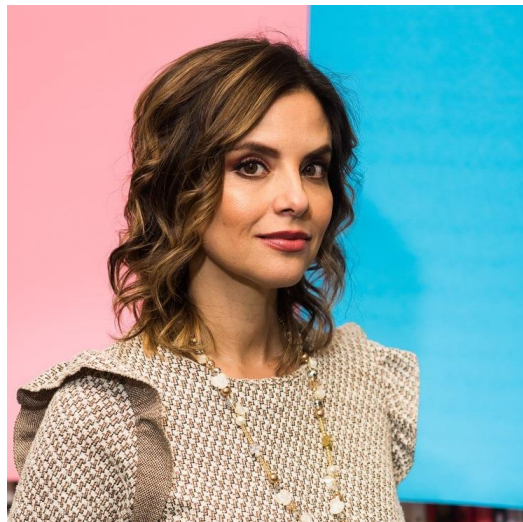
Are you ready for the best Pro-Life Breakfast ever? If you do not have your tickets yet, there is no time to waste. Saturday, January 14 will be held in the twinkling of an eye, and we need to tell the Erie Bayfront Convention Center how many guests to prepare for by January 6.

Best Pro-Life Breakfast ever? Well that will be up to you to decide. But with the overturn of Roe v. Wade to celebrate and a speaker with a story that will both bring you to tears and make your heart sing, this year's event will be hard to top.

RESERVATIONS

Reservations (required) are: \$22 for adults and teens, \$14 dollars for children ages 3-12, and free for kids under 3. The box on page one offers four ways to make your reservations. Please act by January 6 but preferably today. If you do not make your reservations in-person at People for Life, your tickets will be mailed when your payment arrives.

The doors will open at 8 a.m. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at approximately 11:30 a.m. Come early to check out the pro-life educational and



Patricia Sandoval

promotional items that will be available.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Our Special Guest Speaker is Patricia Sandoval. She will share perhaps the most remarkable and moving story ever heard at our annual gathering.

Patricia's life as a second-generation Mexican-American began in a happy, sheltered family environment, but problems developed and her family eventually unraveled.

At 19, she found a boyfriend and soon became pregnant. She decided to have an abortion. Her sixth-grade teacher had explained that abortion is a woman's right and that it's not a baby until the fifth month.

Nevertheless, Patricia left the abortion facility feeling empty. She soon began to experience nightmares. Seeing small children would upset her. She became emotional, getting angry or sad for the slightest reason.

She became pregnant again, this time sneaking off to Planned Parenthood for another abortion without telling her boyfriend. She began to feel self-loathing and became suicidal. Her anxiety deepened and she developed eating disorders. These are all classic symptoms of post-abortion syndrome (PAS), but Patricia had not yet connected the dots. She assumed her fragile emotional condition was entirely due to the breakup of her family. The worst was yet to come.

There was a third pregnancy and a third abortion, despite her boyfriend's pleas that she not go through with it.

After moving to Sacramento, Patricia learned that Planned Parenthood needed a bilingual nurse. She applied for the job but explained that she was not actually a nurse. They hired her anyway.

Patricia's testimony confirms that everything we have heard about Planned Parenthood is true: "Working behind the doors of a clinic is a step away from hell! I saw women screaming while our staff

dragged them down hallways. I wanted to ask, "Isn't anybody else horrified?" But they had no expression; they worked like robots, traumatized by the abortions."

One day, Patricia saw a girl come in for an abortion, six months pregnant. She was carrying twins. It was time for Patricia to get of there.

Next, she began doing drugs and soon lost everything, including her boyfriend. Patricia spent three years wandering the streets as a hopeless and homeless drug addict.

That this story came to a happy ending might seem truly miraculous, but it did. Patricia will share that part of her story, as well.

Today, Patricia is an international pro-life speaker who shares her story around the world. She currently hosts a weekly television program, "Pro-Life Report," on EWTN Español. Her biography, *Transfigured*, is highly acclaimed and has been translated into several languages. One of the book's endorsements comes from the heroically pro-life Archbishop of San Francisco, Salvatore Cordileone: "This well-written book is always engaging and has something to challenge and inspire each of us, particularly in support of God's littlest ones, the unborn."

Copies of *Transfigured* will be available to purchase after the Pro-Life Breakfast. Patricia will be on-hand to sign each copy.

MORE SPECIAL GUESTS

Congressman Mike Kelly and Bishop Lawrence Persico of the Erie Catholic Diocese are confirmed to attend and will say a few words. Leaders of Gannon University Knights for Life and the Students for Life group at LECOM will share the latest about their organizations. Erie vocalist Roy Hollis will share his music. You may have seen him at Eight Great Tuesdays or Celebrate Erie with his band, The Groove.

The best Pro-Life Breakfast ever? Join us at the Convention Center, and you can be the judge!