

## Dates to Remember

**January 20, 2022** (Thursday) **6-7pm— Candlelight Vigil** and bus send-off at Shelby County Courthouse in Sidney. (Bus departure planned for 7:30pm.)

**January 21, 2022** (Friday) — **National March for Life in Washington DC** and anniversary of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. *See bus trip schedule below and registration form on page 4.*

**February 21, 2022** (Monday) — **Oratory Contest 6:30-9:00pm** at St. John's Lutheran Church, Sidney. For high school juniors and seniors. Students must register. *See details on page 2.*

**March 24-26, 2022** (Thursday-Saturday) — **Garage Sale** at St. Remy Hall in Russia.

**May 14, 2022** (Saturday) — **Golf Outing at Shelby Oaks Golf Course.** Shotgun start at 8:30am.

**May of 2022** — Important primary elections. It's not too early to promote pro-life candidates.

## Local Pro-Life Candlelight Vigil Scheduled

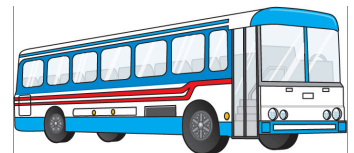
Shelby County Right to Life's annual Candle Light Vigil will be held **Thursday, January 20th from 6:00pm to 7:00pm**, at the **Shelby County Courthouse**, in commemoration of the anniversary of Roe v. Wade and the millions of lives lost to abortion since that time. There will be a speaker (RTL member John Adams), a time of prayer and an outdoor candlelight procession, followed by a send-off for the buses headed to the March for Life in Washington DC.

At this time each year, we sadly commemorate the court decisions that canceled out state laws in 1973, throughout the nation, which had protected children and families from abortion. The court action made abortion legal nationwide essentially through all nine months of pregnancy, for any reason.

For the commemorative procession, bring wind-protected candles or lights.

## Registration Still Open for March for Life Bus Trip

**Schedule:** The trip involves an overnight trip to and from Washington DC.  
Thursday, January 20, around 7:30pm—Depart from Sidney;  
Friday morning—Arrive in Washington DC;  
Friday, around 6:30pm—Buses leave DC for return trip home;  
Early Saturday morning (around 4:00 or 5:00am)—Buses arrive in Sidney.



*Most of Friday will be spent outdoors, with no bus access. Friday morning, passengers will be dropped off for Mass at the Cathedral before the March.*

**Payment** can be made to Shelby County Right to Life by check or [online](https://www.shelbycountyrighttolife.org), along with required contact info form (found on page 4 or [www.shelbycountyrighttolife.org](http://www.shelbycountyrighttolife.org)). Once registered, final itinerary and travel info will be sent by email. Payment is required to reserve a seat.

**Contingencies:** All checks will be held until the trip, in case of an unforeseen cancellation. **We are monitoring Washington DC's COVID policies and will adapt our itinerary as needed, keeping all activities outdoors if needed.**

### Thrift Shop Report

*Month of Oct*  
402 Customers  
3 Work-to-Earn Shifts  
205 Units, Assistance Program

## January-February Prayer Intentions

Pray for all of the March for Life organizers, speakers and participants. Continue praying for the Supreme Court to recognize abortion as a violation of Constitutional principles.



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## Pro-Life Oratory Contest, Shelby County Students

The 2022 pro-life speech contest **for high school juniors and seniors** will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sidney on Monday, **February 21, 2022** (President's Day). **Prizes are \$400+ for 1<sup>st</sup> place, \$250 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$100 for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.** The **winner will receive an additional \$100** if able to participate in the state contest (usually in May, in Columbus). The state-level winner continues to the national competition (June 24/25), in Atlanta, GA.

All high school juniors and seniors who are residents of Shelby County or attend a Shelby County high school are eligible to participate. Contestants are to give a pro-life speech, 5-7 minutes in length, on one of four topics: abortion, doctor prescribed suicide, infanticide or the unethical practices of embryonic research.

Please let us know of your **intention to participate by Friday February 18 (by 11:59pm)**. For rules and contest resources go to the oratory contest page on the RTLSC website:

<http://shelbycountyrighttolife.org/oratorycontest/oratorycontestmain.html>.

Students are welcome to ask for guidance and assistance. Contact information:

[director@shelbycountyrighttolife.org](mailto:director@shelbycountyrighttolife.org) or 937-658-3535. The 2021 state winner, Cara Walker of Immaculate Conception Academy in Cincinnati, and the national winner for 2021, Anna Young of Nashville, Tennessee, can be viewed online. Ohio's 1st place speech can be found at [IC Academy's website](#) and the over-all winner at [National Right to Life's website](#) or on [youtube](#).

## SCOTUS Hearing: No Right to Abortion in Constitution

During the December 1st Supreme Court hearing on a Mississippi pro-life law banning abortions at 15 weeks, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas made it clear...that there is no right to abortion in the Constitution.

Thomas questioned...where in the Constitution abortion is protected as the Supreme Court heard oral arguments over a Mississippi abortion law case that challenges Roe v. Wade.

"Would you specifically tell me, specifically state what the right is, is it specifically abortion? Is it liberty? Is it autonomy? Is it privacy?" Thomas asked.

He knew full well the Constitution affords no right to abortion, but wanted to see where the pro-abortion attorney would make it up.

"The right is grounded in the liberty component of the 14th Amendment, Justice Thomas. But I think that it promotes interest in autonomy, bodily integrity, liberty and equality. And I do think it is specifically the right to abortion here, the right of a woman to be able to control, without the state forcing her to continue a pregnancy, whether to carry that baby to term," one of the lawyers challenging the Mississippi law said.

Thomas pressed further knowing that the pro-abortion lawyer didn't cite anything in the Constitution protecting a so-called right to kill babies in abortions. "I understand we're talking about abortion here," Thomas said. "But what is confusing is that we, if we were talking about the Second Amendment I know exactly what we're talking about cause it's written there....What specifically is the right here that we're talking about?" *Continued on page 3*

In memory of Velma Holdheide and Leonard Bensman in whose names memorials were made to Right to Life. Velma was a long-time supporter and volunteer for Right to Life. May they rest in peace, and their families be consoled.

“It’s the right of a woman prior to viability to control whether to continue with a pregnancy,” the lawyer replied, still without finding any Constitutional basis for abortion.

The irony is that the attorney used the 14th Amendment to justify abortion, but that’s the amendment that protects the right to life. Unborn babies were recognized as “persons” under the law for more than 100 years before *Roe v. Wade* and their right to life should be restored, two prominent legal scholars argued in their briefs in the case.

Professor John Finnis at the University of Notre Dame Law School and Professor Robert P. George at Princeton University filed an amicus brief presenting a detailed history of American law that, according to their research, recognized unborn babies as persons under the Fourteenth Amendment up until *Roe v. Wade* in 1973.

At issue in the case is the question of “whether all pre-viability prohibitions on elective abortion are unconstitutional.” In their brief, Finnis and George refuted the idea that the U.S. Constitution is “silent” on the matter of whether an unborn baby is a legal “person” under the Fourteenth Amendment.

“*Roe v. Wade* conceded that if ... ‘the fetus is a “person” within the language and meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment,’ the case for a constitutional right to abortion ‘collapses,’” they began.

The professors cited 19<sup>th</sup> century laws and court cases, statements from prominent medical groups and experts, and other evidence to show that an unborn baby was considered “a person” from conception under the law and “to all intents and purposes a child, as much as if born.”

According to Finnis, unborn children are properly understood as “persons” under the 14th Amendment’s equal protection clause, and state-level homicide laws therefore cannot discriminate by protecting live people but not unborn people.

*From [LifeNews.com](https://www.lifenews.com) by Steven Ertelt Dec 1, 2021 (Edited for Space)*

Editor’s note: The Dobbs decision is expected to be announced by June 2022.



## Abortion Recovery Advocates Conference

Shelby County Right to Life Director, Anne Schmiesing, attended an aR Advocates Conference in Canton. Organizers abbreviate Abortion Recovery to aR, to focus on the power of recovery over the darkness of the abortion experience. The main take away from this year’s conference was how the sharp rise in chemical abortions, versus surgical abortions, is dramatically changing the abortion recovery landscape. Women are seeking recovery programs sooner, even while in the midst of the abortion process... during the acutely traumatic event. The lack of information and care during the abortion process has long been a problem with abortion facilities, but is becoming even more scarce with self-administered abortions. Women are often birthing their aborted children at home and don’t know what to do with their baby’s remains. Conference participants were informed that Morgan’s Place Cemetery in Shelby County is specifically dedicated to children who die prior to birth, by miscarriage, or abortion.

The aR panel discussion two years ago (2019) was also powerful and relevant to the rise in chemical abortions, focusing on the impact of the movie *UnPlanned* which portrays Abby Johnson’s chemical abortion. That panel discussion is well worth watching and is available at

<https://www.afterabortioncaretoledo.org/Testimonials>.



Wishing you blessings throughout  
the remaining Christmas season  
and the new year!



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## 2022 March for Life Trip Registration Form

Passenger Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Name of adult/group leader accompanying passenger if under age 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Passenger's Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Can this cell phone number be included in the bus handout Yes / No

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (of passenger/or responsible party): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Will you attend the Mass in Washington DC before the rally and March begin? Yes / No

Make Checks payable to Shelby County Right to Life at \$85 per seat.

Mail payment and form to Shelby County Right to Life, PO Box 72, Sidney, OH 45365

Or pay via our website donations button at <http://www.shelbycountyrighttolife.org/>

And email form to [director@shelbycountyrighttolife.org](mailto:director@shelbycountyrighttolife.org)

**Questions:** Call Anne Schmiesing at 937-658-3535.

2022 National March for Life Theme

EQUALITY  
BEGINS IN  
THE WOMB