

NATIONAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE, JANUARY 24-25, 2013

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will be held from Thursday afternoon, January 24, through Friday morning, January 25, 2013. The [schedule](#) includes the Opening Mass on Thursday, January 24, at 6:30 pm followed by the National Rosary for Life at 10 pm in the Crypt Church. Evening Prayer (Byzantine Rite) begins at 11 pm. Holy Hours begin at midnight and conclude at 6:00 am on Friday, January 25 with Morning Prayer and Benediction. The Closing Mass begins Monday at 7:30 am. A detailed schedule is [here](#).

Opening Mass Seating

Please note that there is no reserved seating. Additional seating is provided in the Lower Level Memorial Hall during the Opening Mass. Television monitors and communion distribution will allow those seated in this area to fully participate in Mass.

Concelebrants, Deacons and Seminarians

Bishops and priests are invited to concelebrate the Opening Mass on January 24 and the Closing Mass on January 25. Deacons are invited to vest and process. Seminarians are welcome to participate in the processional of the Opening Mass; however, they will not recess out after the closing prayer. All participating clergy and seminarians should register at [this Basilica web page](#) which includes important information on arrival times and vesting.

Holy Hours for Life

Seminaries are encouraged to lead an hour of the Holy Hours for Life, held in the Crypt Church from midnight to 6 am. The holy hour schedule is already full, but interested seminarian groups may be able to join in collaboration with already scheduled seminarians by contacting Mr. Matt Shoemaker at Mount St. Mary's Seminary at mjshoemaker@email.msmary.edu.

Regularly-scheduled Masses, January 24-25

All of the other regularly scheduled Basilica Masses will be celebrated. Visit [here](#) for Mass times. For planning purposes, please let the Basilica staff know if your group plans to attend any of the regularly scheduled Masses by e-mailing visitorservices@bnsic.org. Groups may also schedule private Masses in the side chapels of the Upper and Lower Levels.

Adopting a Holy Hour

As noted above, seminaries lead holy hours throughout the night. Their commitment provides the laity with an opportunity to participate in the 39-year-old tradition of prayer throughout the night to promote a culture of life. The holy hours are a beautiful way to spend time in the patronal church of the United States. Pilgrims who arrive in the middle of the night to pray will be ensured safe and controlled access to the Crypt Church through the lower level front entrance by the gift shop. Please notify parish respect life coordinators, especially those in the Washington region, of this special invitation to prayerfully consider spending time with our Lord in Eucharistic Adoration and “adopt an hour” during the Vigil. Dioceses, parishes or school groups may contact Mary McClusky at mmcclusky@uscce.org to adopt an hour from midnight to six a.m.

Communications

Closed Captioning and live coverage from EWTN will be provided for both the opening and closing Masses of the Vigil.

Bus Parking & Drop-Off Times

Bus parking permits are no longer available for the Basilica parking lot. Open parking will be available on Harewood Road during the 2013 National Prayer Vigil for Life and related events.

Please note that the new policy for 2012 will be continued into 2013! Buses may begin dropping pilgrims off for the 7:30 am Closing Mass at the Basilica at 5:30 am. Only pilgrims heading to the Crypt Church for Holy Hours will be allowed into the Basilica before this time. Groups dropping off pilgrims are encouraged to contact their bus company and arrange an appropriate arrival time.

MARCH FOR LIFE

The March for Life and Rally will take place at noon on the Mall in Washington on Friday, January 25, 2013. Please check marchforlife.org for more information on the March for Life and to register your buses.

RELATED AREA EVENTS

See "[Washington Area Events](#)" for information on other activities commemorating Roe v. Wade. For regular updates and more information on other events, please visit this page often.

Archdiocese of Washington Youth Rally and Mass for Life

Once again the Archdiocese of Washington will host the Youth Rally and Mass for Life on the morning of the March for Life. The event will be held at the Verizon Center in DC and – new this year – the University of Maryland Comcast Center. All tickets have now been reserved. If you would like the opportunity to be put on a waiting list, please contact Michelle Carper at mcarper@adw.org or 301-853-4555. For more information about the event, visit <http://youthrallyandmassforlife.org/> or www.facebook.com/youthrallyandmassforlife

DATES FOR 2014 - MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 2014 National Prayer Vigil for Life is Tuesday evening, January 21 to Wednesday morning, January 22.

The 2014 March for Life and Rally is Wednesday, January 22, 2014.