



St. Joseph Catholic Church

228 East Hendricks Street, Shelbyville, IN 46176
Phone (317) 398-8227

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Athletic Directors, and Activity Directors

FROM: Rev. Michael Keucher, Pastor of St. Joseph
Rev. Mark Svarczkopf, Pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood
Caroline Reuter, Roncalli High School

RE: Student Attendance at the **March for Life (Washington D.C.)**
Depart: January 17, 2018, after school and Return: January 20, 2018

The annual March for Life trip is scheduled for January 18-20, 2019, in Washington D.C. We at St. Joseph Church, St. Vincent Church, and Our Lady of the Greenwood Church realize that attending this event will entail absence from school and extracurricular activities. I am writing to request that students be allowed an excused absence due to the nature of this pilgrimage. This is a religious pilgrimage is an event in which 400,000 young people from around the nation travel to Washington D.C. to take part in the National Pro-Life March. The event is held every year around the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, which struck down bans on the abortion throughout the country, an youth from around the country take a stand for the rights of the unborn. As Catholics, we believe in the sacredness of all life from conception to natural death and we gather with others throughout the nation to pray for the sanctity of life. The opportunity is one of faith and also education for the students as they exercise their freedom of speech by participating in this peaceful protest. We will also be visiting historical sites while in Washington D.C. For more information about the March for Life, feel free to visit the National March for Life website, www.marchforlife.org. In addition, please feel free to contact me, Patty Schnarr in the Youth Ministry office of Our Lady of the Greenwood Church, or Fr. Mike Keucher at 812-391-0047 at St. Joseph Parish in Shelbyville, IN for more information. Your cooperation in enabling your students to attend is greatly appreciated.

Blessings,

Fr. Mike Keucher
Pastor at St. Joseph
In Shelbyville, Indiana

Monsignor Mark Svarczkopf
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Pastor of Our Lady of the Greenwood

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