



ASCENSION RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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Dear Parents and Religious Education Students,

Wednesday, September 23, marked the beginning of Ascension's "40 Days for Life." Coordinated by Ascension's Respect Life Committee, the 40 Day celebration is intended to focus our hearts and minds on Catholic teachings about life issues. We hope that everyone will have an opportunity to take part in the planned events, which are outlined in the Church bulletin.

As part of the 40 Days for Life, Ascension is participating in a Baby Bottle Drive to support the Women's Care Centers of Greater Chicagoland. This non-profit organization directly assists mothers and families experiencing crisis pregnancies by offering emotional, financial, material, and spiritual support through counseling, clothing & monetary provisions, prayer, and other aid. Each year the three locations together have over 5,000 appointments with expecting mothers. The Women's Centers have saved over 32,000 babies from abortion since opening in 1984.

The bottles are available in church. Please take a Baby Bottle home with you, fill it with your spare change, and return it to church on either November 7 or 8th. We have also given each Religious Education catechist a Baby Bottle so that Religious Education students who wish to can participate in their classrooms. This is a simple, but crucial fundraising effort for The Women's Centers. We hope that through Ascension's participation more women can receive the support necessary to choose life.

Sincerely,

The Respect Life Committee

Father, we praise you for the work of your hands. For human life, made in your image, for the gift of your Son who saved our nature, for the power of your Spirit, who fills our hearts, for all you bestow upon us, we praise you, we thank you, we bless you. Help us to protect the life you gave us: support the aged, guide the young, lift up the falling, and heal the sick. To all people grant your truth in its fullness. May those who are yet unborn soon see the light of day and live to give you glory, through Christ our Lord.
Amen

P.S. Please encourage your children to bring some change to class each week between now and November 8. We will let you know the total collected by the children in our program. Respecting life in all its stages is a very important lesson for us to teach and learn.

P.P.S. Thank you for using the children's envelopes we sent home. For recording purposes, it would help the secretaries at the Parish Center if you put your **family's parish number** on your child's envelope.

Gratefully,

Christine A. Ondrla, DRE