

## 2022: A year of new beginnings

**Celebration & Prayer for Life Rally**

Come be part of this prayer event with Christians from the city of Kalamazoo.

*In unity, we are Seeking God's blessing on all human life and protection for the unborn.*

This is not a political event. This is an opportunity to pray in public for the sanctity of all human life.

**Guest Speaker: Physician - Dr. Robin Pierucci**  
Neonatologist and Chair of American Academy of Pediatrician's ProLife Committee

**Please bring diapers & wipes to be donated to Alternatives & Caring Network**

Pray With Participants From...

Catholic Diocese of Kalamazoo	Assemblies of God
Reformed Church in America	Alternatives of Kalamazoo
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	Kalamazoo Right to Life
Catholic Charities Diocese of Kalamazoo	Kalamazoo United
Kalamazoo For Life	Jesus Loves Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition	Holy Family Healthcare
Lutherans For Life of Michigan	40 Days for Life
Youth For Christ	Life Chain
Destiny Rescue	Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
Bethany Christian Services	....and more!
Kalamazoo House of Prayer	

**JANUARY 23, 2022 | 3PM**  
**Kalamazoo Christian High School**

Outdoor Event - 2121 Stadium Drive  
Grass Area (corner of Howard / Stadium)

In the event of inclement weather, we will relocate to the K Christian gymnasium.

**KALAMAZOO PRAYER FOR LIFE RALLY**

**Invitation to all KRTL members and community pro-lifers**



### Membership Renewal Time! Look for your renewal form in the mail in early February.

With the Supreme Court very likely to roll back on abortion rights with the *Dobbs* case (keeping praying for this daily!) now is not the time to think we have finally WON. NOW is the time to dig in for the long haul to make sure that we hold onto that win. Remember: the pro-abortion camp will fight to the death to win back the Supreme Court and reimpose *Roe* with all its catastrophic consequences for the unborn. We must not let them gain the advantage. Renew your membership. Make Kalamazoo Right to Life stronger than ever as we enter 2022. With the Mid-Term Election this November, we must maintain pro-life majorities in Lansing and defeat pro-abortion Governor Whitmer. Your membership will help make that happen.

## What an Important Year!! Pro-Life Ten Top of 2021

### 1. Supreme Court hears *Dobbs* case

On May 17, 2021 the Supreme Court agreed to hear an abortion case emanating from Mississippi. In the build-up to oral argument, dozens of pro-life groups, lawmakers, and scholars submitted friend-of-the-court briefs to show the justices that the original *Roe* decision was flawed, both legally and historically. They called on the Court to not only uphold the Mississippi law but to reverse *Roe*. The very fact that the Court agreed to hear this case signaled that it would possibly take a new look at the matter of fetal viability. On December 1, the Supreme Court heard oral argument on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health*. This is the most important abortion-related case since the 1992 *PP v. Casey* decision that reaffirmed *Roe* but also scrapped the three-trimester policy in favor of the "undue burden" standard. A pro-life law would be permitted provided that it did not impose an undue burden on a woman's right to obtain an abortion. *Casey* also reaffirmed that until fetal viability, a state could not enact legislation restricting abortion. The *Dobbs* case centers on a 2018 Mississippi law that bans abortion after the 15th week of pregnancy. Since 15 weeks is "pre-viability," the law strikes at the heart of both *Roe* and *Casey*. During oral argument, several conservative justices asked questions that seemed to imply that they very well could rule in favor of the Mississippi law. If the justices uphold *Dobbs* it would signal to other states that they too could enact new pro-life laws prohibiting abortion after 15 weeks. The viability policy would be shattered and states would have much more flexibility in determining their abortion-related legislation. As expected, the three liberal justices dug in, determined to protect and save legal abortion at all cost. Fortunately for us, the pro-abortion justices are in the minority.

### 2. Will Court use *Dobbs* to overturn *Roe v. Wade*

The larger and more important question facing the Supreme Court is whether or not it will use the *Dobbs* case to reverse *Roe* completely. During oral argument many of the pro-life justices seemed open

to the idea that states could adopt their own abortion laws. In particular, Justice Kavanaugh asked why the Court could not be neutral on the issue, not favoring the pro-life or pro-choice positions. States could enact their own laws, thus sending the issue back to local jurisdictions, a situation that existed in the US prior to 1973 when 18 states passed new laws governing abortion. Four repealed old laws and permitted abortion on demand through the 24th week of pregnancy. Fourteen other states passed reform laws that permitted abortion early in pregnancy in cases of rape, incest, and fetal deformity. The remaining 32 states retained their century-old pro-life laws. Will the Court take that final step and overturn *Roe* and return the issue to the states? We will know the outcome when the Court issues its decision in June or July. After nearly 50 years and 62 million abortions, we may finally see the dawning of a new age when human lives are protected and sanity restored in America. If *Roe* is overturned Michigan's 1846 law banning abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy would take effect.

### 3. Supreme Court allows Texas heartbeat law to take effect

If pro-abortion supporters were angered by Mississippi's controversial Gestational Age Act that became the subject of the Supreme Court's *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* case, they were almost apoplectic when the State of Texas enacted its Heartbeat Act in August, 2021, to take effect on September 1. The law stipulated that abortion was prohibited once a fetal heartbeat could be detected, usually around the sixth week of pregnancy. What made the law even more loathsome to pro-abortion advocates was the provision that permitted citizens and non-citizens of Texas to sue doctors, other abortion providers, or anyone who aided or abetted a woman to procure an abortion beyond the sixth week of pregnancy. Pro-abortion supporters labeled these as "bounty hunters," who could collect \$10,000 if someone was convicted of violating the law. Immediately, pro-abortion groups took their challenge to the Supreme Court. On September 2,

the high court ruled 5-4 that the Texas law could take effect. The Court ruled on procedural issues and not on the merits of the law. The sky was falling for pro-abortionists! Nearly all abortions in Texas were blocked. The case was reargued in October. At issue was could abortion providers sue state agencies who were enforcing the law. On December 10 the Court issued a complicated decision that required two votes. By a 5-4 majority the justices reaffirmed their September 2 decision that let stand the Texas law on procedural grounds. In *Whole Woman's Health v. Jackson*, the Court then ruled 8-1 that a challenge to the Heartbeat Act brought by abortion providers may continue against state agencies. The law is the most restrictive in the nation. That the Court has decided (at least for now) not to decide on the law's constitutionality has surprised many court observers. That issue will probably be revisited in 2022. But the Heartbeat Act remains the law and thousands of babies are being saved.

#### **4. Future of Hyde Amendment at stake in Biden budget**

The more liberal or progressive Democrats have long insisted that the 1976 Hyde Amendment punished poor women by denying them the funding needed to procure abortions. The Hyde Amendment has been reauthorized every year since then, usually with bi-partisan support. That support (especially in the House) has completely disappeared. In 2009 64 House Democrat blocked final passage of the Affordable Care Act unless the House restore Hyde Amendment language. President Obama was forced to sign an executive order pledging that no federal money would be spent on abortion. The ruse worked; the Democrats fell in line, and ObamaCare became law. When the new Congress convened in January, 2021 there were only two pro-life Democrats. The future of the Hyde Amendment falls to the Senate where pro-life Republicans must mount a filibuster to protect the Hyde Amendment.

#### **5. Democrats demand end of filibuster but expand Supreme Court**

Both Democratic and Republican senators have used

the filibuster for decades to kill legislation. The only way to stop a filibuster is to invoke cloture—that means 60 senators must agree to end the filibuster. It remains very difficult, if not impossible, to get those 60 votes. Democrats used the filibuster dozens of times during the Trump years. Now that they are in power, Democrats do not want to see their agenda blocked by minority Republicans. By a simple vote they could change Senate rules and remove the filibuster. Bills could pass with simple majorities and minority lawmakers would be unable to stop them. Fortunately, two Democrats, West Virginia's Joe Manchin and Arizona's Kyrsten Sinema oppose eliminating the filibuster rule. Democrats also want to see reforms at the Supreme Court. Many members have called for a court expansion of four new members. The reason is clear. With a current 6-3 conservative majority on the Court, Democrats fear reversals on key issues, especially in overturning *Roe v. Wade*. If Democrats could add four new liberals then they would have the ideological control 7-6. They claim that the current Court has become too politicized. Can't they see that by altering the size of the Court to ensure liberal control that they are also engaging in brazen, partisan politics. President Biden established a commission to study the proposal. On December 7 the 34-member group voted unanimously that it would neither support nor oppose structural changes on the Court. The lack of recommendations disappointed liberals. The matter is probably dead although if the Court upholds *Dobbs* in 2022 expect Democrats to resume calls to expand the Court with like-minded judges.

#### **6. Joe Biden's problem with abortion**

Joe Biden was inaugurated on January 20 and became our 46th president. The former "moderate" Democrat who claimed that he would restore America's goodness, pledged unity to heal the nation. The professed Catholic has his own demons to contend with. His growing support for abortion puts him at odds with many of the country's bishops and his own faith. A long supporter of the Hyde Amendment, Biden abandoned that commitment and now demands that Congress pass legislation that would remove Hyde and permit federal funding of

abortions. Traditional Catholics recoiled at the president's embrace of radical pro-abortion policies. Many bishops purposed to draft a document that would punish pro-abortion Catholic politicians by denying them Communion. That proposal has been temporarily shelved by the pope. It remains to be seen if the Church will punish lawmakers for their complicity with abortion policy and practice.

### **7. Pro-Life Youngkin defeats pro-abortion McAuliffe in Virginia**

On November 2 pro-life businessman Glenn Youngkin defeated former Virginia governor Terry McAuliffe 50.6 percent to 48.7 percent. This contest was considered a trial run for the 2022 mid-term elections, perhaps an indication that Democrats may under-perform and lose both House and Senate. The issue of abortion factored in the Virginia race, McAuliffe accusing Youngkin of being a right-wing pro-life ideologue (which he is not), and Youngkin accusing McAuliffe of supporting late-term abortion and of wanting to enact a law that would codify *Roe v. Wade* (which he does favor).

### **8. Pro-Life leader Bob Dole passes away**

On December 5, 2021 former Kansas senator Bob Dole passed away at the ripe age of 98. In 1996 Dole became the Republican nominee for president. Bill Clinton defeated Dole. Robert Joseph Dole was born in Russell, Kansas in 1923. He had a long political career: member of Kansas State House of Representatives (1951-1953), member of U.S. House of Representatives (1961-1969), U.S. senator (1969-1996). Dole served as Senate Minority Leader from 1987 to 1995 and Majority Leader from 1995 to 1996. He was a strong pro-life leader throughout most of his political career. He took strong stands against Bill Clinton's first veto of a partial-abortion bans in 1995. A former WW2 veteran who suffered war injuries, Dole was a great statesman, a true pro-life leader, and one who would have made an excellent pro-life president.

### **9. More states enact heartbeat laws**

Fifteen states have passed "heartbeat" laws that prohibit abortion once a fetal heartbeat is detected,

usually around the sixth week of pregnancy. They are: Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee. Eleven of those states enacted their bans since 2018. Federal courts have blocked or struck down 13 of these laws. The law in Oklahoma, passed in 2021 by wide margins (80-19 in State House, 37-10 in State Senate) has been temporarily blocked by a state court. Also passed in 2021 were laws in Idaho and Texas. The only law in effect remains the Texas law.

### **10. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upholds Ohio law**

In 2017 the Ohio legislature passed the "Down Syndrome Non-Discrimination Act," that prohibits abortion of infants with Down Syndrome if the procedure is chosen on the basis of a pre-natal diagnosis. The law was challenged and a district court struck down the law. On April 13, 2021 the Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit (which includes Michigan) overturned the lower court. This decision is important because in 2018 the Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit (based in Chicago) ruled the opposite regarding a similar law in Indiana. Typically, the Supreme Court will intervene when differences arise at the appellate level. Given the conservative majority on the Court, and the possibility that it will uphold the *Dobbs* case on a 15-week abortion ban, and if the Court agrees to hear a challenge to the Ohio law, it is possible that the Court would affirm the 6th Circuit's ruling and prohibit abortion for babies with Down Syndrome.

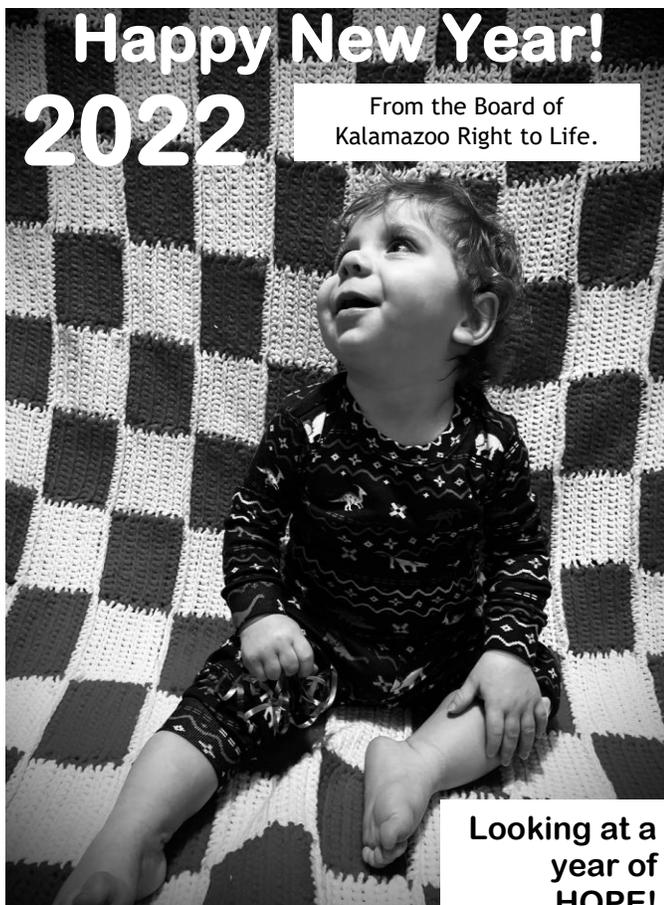
## **Pro-Life Calendar of Events**

### **40 Days for Life: March 2 - April 10, 2022**

Pro-lifers of all stripes are encouraged to participate in this year's spring, Lenten 40 Days for Life campaign. If interested in signing up or for more information, contact Joe Magalski at 989-992-6085 or at [40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com](mailto:40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com)

## Save the “Tentative” Date: May 19, 2022 Focus on Life Dinner A Celebration of Life!

We are preparing a dinner that celebrates recent victories. We anticipate a positive report from the Supreme Court this spring in the *Dobbs* decision. While that may not be a full reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, we expect a major decision that severely diminishes abortion policy in the states. More information is forthcoming in the March-April newsletter. We are lining up a few speakers who will address various pro-life topics. One who has already committed to speak is Dr. Robin Pierucci of Kalamazoo. Dr. Pierucci is a local neonatologist who has spoken all over the US including testifying before congressional committees. Invitations will be mailed soon.



## Kalamazoo Right to Life High School Oratory Contest February 19, 2022

Attention to all high school students:

Every year students from public, private, and home-school prepare original 5-7 minute pro-life essays on topics such as abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, and embryonic stem-cell research. The top three winners receive cash awards. The winner advances to the Right to Life of Michigan State Oratory Contest. Even though the last two contests were conducted with students submitting recorded speeches, we are trusting that this year's event can be held in person. This is an excellent opportunity to hone your student's writing and public speaking skills. Every year our judges are amazed on how thoughtful and well-crafted the essays are. We are very proud of all the students who have participated in the past. We look forward to a new crop of student scholars this year as well. The contest will be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 7211 Oakland Dr. Portage, MI 49024 beginning at 10 am. For more information call Rob Karrer at 269-599-4954.

**Pro-Life Week,**  
**watch on the website**  
**([kazoortl.org](http://kazoortl.org)) or on YouTube.**

KRTL president Rob Karrer records a new 5-10 minute video each Wednesday. They are posted on the website on Friday. Rob offers commentary and the latest in pro-life news.



## President's Corner by Rob Karrer

On December 26 the pro-abortion movement lost one of its heroes, one of its shining bright lights of the past. Texas attorney Sarah Weddington passed away at the age of 76. For those of you who are not familiar with that name...Sarah Weddington was the attorney who won the *Roe v. Wade* case before the Supreme Court in 1973. Fresh out of law school, and only 26 years old, Weddington wanted to challenge the constitutionality of Texas's century-old anti-abortion law. She found a woman who was pregnant but wanted to abort her baby. The woman was Norma McCorvey but the courts afforded her privacy and named her "Jane Roe" of *Roe v. Wade*. Weddington had done her homework and assembled a last array of documents purported to prove that abortion was a long-standing practice in American history and that woman were legally able to abort up until the Civil War. She was also able to convince the Supreme Court that the unborn baby possessed no legal rights. I find the timing of Sarah Weddington's passing quite symbolic. Fifty years ago she helped launch the pro-abortion movement and she (more than any other) played the pivotal role in securing the final *Roe* outcome. With the Supreme Court ready to decide the future of fetal viability and possibly overturn *Roe* altogether with the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* case, the Court is beginning to close the door on legal abortion. She opened the door in 1973. Her death symbolizes the closing of that door.

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