

Focus Life

2024 Annual Benefit Dinner

May 2, 2024

Kalamazoo First Assembly
of God Church
Portage, MI



May 2, 2024

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner & Program at 6:30 p.m.

Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Church

5550 Oakland Dr
Portage, MI 49024

Mailing Address

Kalamazoo Right to Life
PO Box 2366
Kalamazoo, MI 49003

For More Information

Rob Karrer
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John Bursch

special guest speaker

John Bursch is senior counsel and vice president of appellate advocacy with Alliance Defending Freedom. Bursch has argued 12 U.S. Supreme Court cases and three dozen state supreme court cases, and he has successfully litigated six matters with at least \$1 billion at stake. A recent study concluded that among all frequent Supreme Court advocates who did not work for the federal government, he had the 3rd highest success rate for persuading justices to adopt his legal position.

Bursch served as solicitor general for the state of Michigan from 2011-2013. He also worked for a large Michigan law firm and for his own appellate boutique, representing Fortune 500 companies, foreign and domestic governments, top public officials, and industry associations in high-profile cases, primarily on appeal. He was inducted into the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers and serves as a member of the American Law Institute.

Please Reserve My Place

Please return the completed form with payment by **April 25**.

Reservations

- _____ \$25 Student/Disabled
- _____ \$50 Individual
- _____ \$400 Table of 8

Donation

I am unable to attend. Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.

Information

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Table Captain (if applicable)



**Kalamazoo
Right to Life**
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All checks payable to Kalamazoo Right to Life (not tax-deductible).

40 Days for Life

This year's 40 Days for Life Campaign began on February 14 and will end on March 23, 2024. Joe Magalski is this year's campaign leader. He writes that we can be the hands and feet of Jesus and pray for an end to abortion. If you are interested in participating in this prayer ministry there are four convenient options.

1. sign up through your church contact

2. sign up directly at

<https://www.40daysforlife.com/kalamazoo>

3. email 40dayskalamazoo@gmail.com

4. call Joe Magalski at 989-992-6085

Lives can be saved and changed forever! Moms can learn that they have far better and richer options than death for their babies. Life is a precious gift from God!

Pro-lifers convicted of FACE Act violations

On January 30, 2024, six pro-life activists were convicted of blocking portions of an abortion clinic in Tennessee in an incident that happened back in 2021. Videos showed that they had entered the clinic, sat down on the floor, prayed and sang. The Biden Justice Department charged them with violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act (FACE Act). Those convicted could face an 11-year prison term and up to \$260,000. They will be sentenced in early July.

This is not the first time pro-lifers have been convicted on similar charges. In August, 2023, five other pro-lifers were convicted of FACE Act violations for engaging in a "rescue" at a Washington, DC clinic.

By way of comparison, only one person has been convicted for vandalizing a pregnancy care center in Bowling Green, Ohio. He spray-painted several pro-choice messages or threats on the outside wall and door of the building. To date, since the leaked draft of the *Dobbs* opinion back in May, 2022, at least 300 pregnancy care centers, pro-life offices, and churches (mainly Catholic) have been vandalized. Windows have been broken, walls painted with warnings and threats, churches have had statues damaged or destroyed. Protesters marched in front of the homes of a few Supreme Court justices, a clear violation of federal law. Yet, not one person has been arrested for intimidating or threatening in front of the home of a Supreme Court justice.

If ever there was a two-tier system of justice in America, this is it! Pro-life = arrest, convict, and go to jail; pro-choice = look the other way, slow-walk the legal process, ignore.

Check out our website: kazoortl.org

The Kalamazoo Right to Life website is under-going some needed "remodeling." But we still have Rob Karrer's pro-life news and commentaries in the form of short 8-14 minute videos. New videos are posted each week. You can also find them on YouTube by typing "Rob Karrer." Unfortunately, those on YouTube are not always in chronological order. You may have to do some digging to find his newest videos.

Pro-abortion referendum in Florida heads to court

Several months ago, pro-abortion groups in Florida launched a petition drive to place a state constitutional amendment on the ballot in November, 2024. It would restore abortion rights up to fetal viability and beyond for reasons of "health or medical emergencies." Thus, abortion would become a permanent fixture in the state Constitution. Supporters needed to collect some 900,000 valid signatures to get it on the ballot. About a month ago, these groups submitted the required number of names.

Although this scenario is reminiscent of Michigan's Proposal 3 and Ohio's Issue 1...where pro-lifers were defeated, the situation in Florida is uniquely different. By state law, a referendum that seeks to amend the state constitution **MUST** garner at least **60 percent of the vote**. Reaching that high a vote threshold will be difficult. Even in Michigan and Ohio, where the ballot initiatives passed handily, voters approved them by about 57 percent. Florida's demographics make it more friendly to pro-life measures.

In early February, the Florida Supreme Court heard arguments to either reject or approve the wording of the ballot measure. The state's Attorney General, a strong pro-life advocate, argued that the referendum's wording is misleading and deceptive, and violates the state Constitution that requires a single-subject requirement. The language would "completely deregulate abortion and disempower the three branches of government from any discretionary power to protect Florida citizens regarding abortion. Currently, the legislative branch is authorized to prohibit abortion through legislation, the executive branch is authorized to penalize citizens who violate abortion laws, and the judicial branch is authorized to delay or restrict any illegal or unconstitutional conduct. Lumping functional alterations to each branch of government in one amendment violates the single-subject requirement."

The Court is not expected to make a ruling until April or May. Be in prayer about this developing situation.

Hackett Catholic Prep Respect Life Symposium

by Mary Gergely

Respect Life Club faculty advisor On January 22, 2024, Hackett Catholic Prep held its first ever Respect Life Symposium. The students spent the day rotating between speakers that affirmed the dignity and value of human life. Speakers included physicians, ultrasound nurses, and a pharmaceutical expert as well as representatives from the Right to Life of Michigan, Caring Network, St. Tom's Migrant Ministry, and the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission. The day culminated in a beautiful Mass attended by both students, staff, and parents. Hackett Catholic Prep has a long tradition of providing opportunities for students to participate in pro-life activities and affirms the dignity and value of human life throughout its curriculum. This year's theme, "Unique, Unrepeatable, and Irreplaceable," summed up the intention of the symposium to affirm that every person has inherent value and worth as a child of God regardless of one's circumstances.

The school year commenced with a special opportunity to display the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe blessed by Pope St. John Paul II. This image has been associated with many miracles. Of special importance, Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the unborn as the black sash around her waist signifies that she is with child, Christ. Included in the symposium was an opportunity for each of the students to spend time in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. An image of Our Lady of Guadalupe was likewise displayed in the school's Chapel during this time, as a reminder of our special visit and as an encouragement to pray for Our Lady of Guadalupe's intercession that all may value the gift of life.

The Hackett Catholic Prep's Respect Life Club was especially thankful for the support of the Kalamazoo Right to Life which was present with a booth that included a beautiful display and helpful resources for the students.



KRTL president Jean Talanda at Hackett Symposium

Michigan Primary: February 27, 2024

We have an opportunity to exercise our cherished right to vote on February 27 when Michigan holds its presidential primary. Three Democrats are on the ballot: Joe Biden, Dean Phillips, and Marianne Williamson. Republican candidates are: Chris Christie, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Asa Hutchinson, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Donald Trump. Several GOP candidates have dropped out. Only Nikki Haley and Donald Trump are still running for the Republican nomination.

Kalamazoo Right to Life, Inc.
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Guest Column: Susan Talanda



New Feature:
Encouraging Words
Inspiring you to be
courageous, hopeful and
confident as we save pre-born
babies and their mothers
from the ravages of abortion.

***How Christopher Convinced His Critics
That He Was a Baby, Not a Blob***

Christopher was a 2.5-inch fetus who died during an emergency surgery in 1976. I was just a college kid defending "little ones" like Christopher in debates against highly credentialed, pro-abortion activists. After one heated debate, a urologist pulled me aside and showed me a small glass vial. Inside was a beautiful, fully formed fetus that he had preserved, because he didn't have the heart to dispose of "Christopher" as medical waste. "Please take him," he insisted. "He's worth a thousand words."

(Fifty years later I am still astonished that Christopher's fingers, toes and features were so refined, his expression so blissful.) After my next debate, a group of teen-aged girls surrounded me, insisting that a fetus was a "blob of tissue," so abortion was no worse than an appendectomy. Unable to get a word in edgewise, I pulled Christopher from my purse and held him up to the light. Instant silence. Shock and awe. Then a rush of reactions: "Oh, he's so beautiful! Is he real? He's so perfect! I can see through his skin! Can I hold him? Yes! Please, can we hold him?" No one called him a fetus, a clump of cells or a blob of tissue. Instinctively, each girl held Christopher just like mothers hold their babies. **Seeing is believing!**

See and share a potentially life-saving video at:
<https://www.windowtothewomb.app/>