

March for Life 2024

General Information

The Catholic Diocese of Saginaw offers adults and youth, grades 8-12, an opportunity to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. **Please note the maximum number of registrations allowed is 200.** Deadline to register is December 1, 2023, or until registration is full. Transportation will be by Great Lakes Motor Coach with lodging at the Hilton Garden Inn, 8301 Boone Boulevard, Vienna, VA. The cost, \$350, covers bus transportation to and from Washington D.C., two nights' lodging, and two breakfast meals. A boxed breakfast will be available at departure from Saginaw. Participants will need to pay for lunches and dinners, subway fare, and sightseeing.

Name of event National March for Life 2024
Destination Washington, D.C.
Designated Supervisor(s) of Activities ... Lori Becker and Kellie Deming
Date and time of departure..... January 18, 2024, approximately 9:00 a.m.
Date and time of return January 20, 2024, approximately 9:30 p.m.
Method of transportation..... Great Lakes Motor Coach
Participant cost..... \$350 per participant (4 people per room)
Sightseeing opportunities..... National museums, Arlington Cemetery, Pope John Paul II Museum, Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, etc. For more possible options please visit: <https://washington.org/find-dc-listings/attractions>

Tentative Schedule

Thursday, January 18th

6:30 a.m. Registration/Bus Loading at Holy Spirit, Shields
8:00 a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit
9:00 a.m. Depart (breakfast/snacks will be available for bus ride)
1:00 p.m. Stop for lunch (you pay)
7:00 p.m. Stop for dinner (you pay)
9:00 p.m. Arrive at Hilton Gardens Inn Vienna, VA

Friday, January 19th

6:00 a.m. Breakfast Group 1 in Conference Room
6:45 a.m. Breakfast Group 2 in Conference Room
7:45 a.m. Depart for Rally/Mass at Eagle Bank Arena, Fairfax
9:00 a.m. "Life is Very Good 2024" Rally/Mass
11:00 a.m. Pick up lunch and board buses for D.C.
12:00 p.m. National Rally
1:00 p.m. National March for Life
4:00 p.m. Dinner & Sightseeing in your groups
7:30-8:45 p.m. Hotel shuttles from Metro to hotel
9:00 p.m. Curfew to arrive at Hotel

Saturday, January 20th

- 6:00 a.m. Breakfast Group 1 in Conference Room
- 6:30 a.m. Breakfast Group 2 in Conference Room
- 7:00 a.m. Load luggage on buses
- 7:45 a.m. Depart for the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception (Basilica)
- 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Basilica
- 9:00 a.m. Basilica for Group Photo
- 9:15 a.m. Board buses at National Shrine
- 9:30 a.m. Depart for Saginaw
- 1:00 p.m. Stop for Lunch (you pay)
- 7:00 p.m. Stop for Dinner (you pay)
- 9:30 p.m. Arrive at Holy Spirit Parish, Shields

Youth Ministers' Instructions/Checklist

1. **It is your responsibility to provide adequate chaperones for the youth attending the March from your group (ratio of one chaperone per eight youth).** If you do not have a chaperone from your parish for the youth who want to attend the event, it is your responsibility to contact neighboring parishes to see if they have room for your youth. Also, if you know of youth from neighboring parishes who wish to attend, please consider taking them with your parish. If a youth registers separately without a chaperone we will contact you and ask for your assistance.
2. **It is also your responsibility to make sure** All chaperones/participants who are 18 years of age or older AND no longer attend high school must be Safe Environment/VIRTUS compliant by December 10, 2023. On page 4 are the list of requirements and instructions. They must also have received and reviewed the Background Check Authorization Policy and return a signed copy of the Background Check Authorization Form to Owen Deming at odeming@diosag.org. Both documents are attached. **This must be completed no later than December 10, 2023.**
3. **Since this is an overnight trip, the parish/school group leader must be employed by the Diocese of Saginaw, the parish or school. For the purposes of the ratio listed in item #1 (one chaperone per eight youth), this leader may be counted as a chaperone.**
4. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. They are required to have a cell phone and provide the diocesan supervisors of the event with the phone number. If a chaperone does not have a cell phone, we suggest purchasing a prepaid phone for the trip. This is very important because we will not always be in a large group together and will always need to be able to communicate with chaperones.
5. This trip is for youth in grades 8 – 12. No one younger than grade 8 will be allowed to attend.
6. Please have each youth from your parish complete the **Registration Form**, Sections A through F, and make sure their parent/legal guardian has signed all required sections.
7. Make sure all forms are completed properly, signed in the appropriate places, and send them, along with full payment, to Amy Dore, Office of Parish Life & Evangelization, 5800 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48603. **DEADLINE FOR ALL COMPLETED MATERIAL AND PAYMENT IS December 1, 2023, or until maximum number of 200 is filled.**

Use the provided check list to make sure you are sending everything that is needed. Your registration will be considered incomplete unless all requirements are fulfilled. (Criminal Background Check Authorization forms are sent to the Compliance Office, 5800 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48603. Attn: Owen Deming)

8. If, after a youth is registered, he/she is unable to attend, a substitution *may* be made, if the criteria listed on the Substitution/Cancellation Form are met. Please follow the instructions on the Substitution/Cancellation Form. No exceptions will be made on the deadlines or process (December 1, 2023).
9. Rooming lists: We will try our best to keep rooms the way they are submitted; however, our number one priority is to have every room full. Therefore, when you send your rooming list, do not put only three people in a room.

Checklist of materials to Amy Dore by December 1, 2023

- _____ Completed Registration Form for each participant
- _____ Verify that all chaperones and **those participants in your group who are 18 years of age or older AND no longer attend high school** have fulfilled **all** Safe Environment/Virtus and background check requirements
- _____ Completed Rooming List Form
- _____ Completed Chaperone and Youth Lists
- _____ Completed Payment Form
- _____ Payment

Instructions for Adults

1. Complete the Registration Form, Sections A through C, and submit it along with full payment to Amy Dore, Office of Parish Life & Evangelization, 5800 Weiss Street, Saginaw, MI 48603. **DEADLINE FOR ALL COMPLETED MATERIAL AND PAYMENT IS December 1, 2023.**

2. **Safe Environment/VIRTUS Compliance:**

All chaperones/participants who are 18 years of age or older AND no longer attend high school must be Safe Environment/VIRTUS compliant by December 10, 2023. Below is the list of requirements and instructions:

- Read the Background Check Authorization Policy and return a signed copy of the Background Check Authorization Form to Owen Deming at odeming@diosag.org. Both documents are attached.
 - Go to <https://www.virtusonline.org> to create an account or log into an existing account. After logging in, acknowledge the prompted Safe Environment Policy and the Code of Conduct Policy if they have not already done so.
 - Register for a Safe Environment training in VIRTUS. A list of all upcoming trainings can be found here: <https://saginaw.org/events?type%5B%5D=113>
 - If you have any questions, please contact Owen Deming at odeming@diosag.org or call 989.797.6677.
3. **Safe Environment forms must be completed and sent to the Compliance Office no later than December 10, 2023. VIRTUS attendance must be completed on or before December 10, 2023.**
 4. Read the Behavior Guidelines on page 5 and sign Section C on the Registration Form.

Chaperone Responsibilities

1. In order to facilitate communication, chaperones **must** provide us with cell phone numbers. If a chaperone does not have a cell phone, he/she/the parish should purchase a prepaid cell phone.
2. All chaperones **must** attend one of two scheduled meetings for instructions and updates at the **Center for Ministry, 5802 Weiss, Saginaw, MI 48603**

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

or

Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

3. Chaperones are to guide students by word and example. They may prevent, halt or correct misbehavior, but may not impose consequences, that responsibility rests with the parish or school group leader. Chaperones are responsible for the youth in their care at all times. Please make sure the youth in your care have your cell phone number.
4. It is your responsibility to make sure that all the youth in your care are in their rooms at the mandatory times and are quiet and respectful of other participants at night.

Behavior Expectations

In order to ensure safety and a relaxed environment for learning and worship with a large group, we ask you to read the following. If you have no disagreements with these requests, please sign Section C (adults) or D (youth and parent) on the Registration Form.

- Participants must **wear** name tag with medical release and registration form **at all times**.
- **For minors:** the use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and weapons is prohibited for the duration of the trip. Those who fail to comply with this rule will be sent home at the participant's expense.
- **For adults:** the use of alcohol, drugs and weapons is prohibited for the duration of the trip. Those who fail to comply with this rule will be sent home at the participant's expense.
- Tobacco users over 18 may use tobacco products in designated smoking areas.
- Keep with your group and adult chaperone at all times.
- Respect will be given to all participants at all times.
- Use the trip to expand the people you know—avoid creating the appearance of closed groups—be welcoming!
- Care will be taken to respect the drivers and the buses.
- Good judgment and a loving heart should guide your behavior. Any disrespectful or disruptive behavior will be dealt with quickly and certainly. Participants who use inappropriate language, illegal substances or destructive behavior will be removed and may be asked to leave early at their expense.
- Youth/Young adults are expected to attend and remain with their assigned chaperone during tours and activities.
- Youth/Young Adults are expected to attend all programmed events following the given schedule.
- Socializing should take place in public areas. **NO** visiting is allowed in sleeping areas occupied by the opposite gender without the presence of two chaperones.
- At all times, display appropriate behavior toward the opposite gender.
- Disagreements that impose on individual or group comfort levels will be brought to the group leader's attention for resolution.
- Political attire: hats, t-shirts, etc. are not allowed. This also includes political signs of any kind.
- Do not enter into conversation with groups that may be demonstrating conflictive behavior.

March for Life Packing List

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING

Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, deodorant, etc.)
Warm clothing (winter coat, hat, boots, gloves)
Clothes appropriate for Mass
Rain poncho
Money for meals and metro transportation (enough for four meals, probably \$50-\$60 and about \$25 for metro)

WHAT YOU MAY CHOOSE TO BRING

A small blanket for the bus
Backpack
Phone
Electronic devices and games, etc. (with earphones, please)
Books/journal
Snacks
Extra money for souvenirs (pro-life t-shirts, buttons, etc. will be available in D.C. and the museums have gift shops)

WHAT YOU MAY NOT BRING

Drugs/alcohol
Weapons
Inappropriate games or videos
More than one suitcase
Coolers

- Suitcases will be stored under the bus. You may keep a small blanket, small bag or backpack with personal items/snacks, etc. on the bus. Limit yourself to one piece of luggage.
- If you wish to see our accommodations visit the hotel link at:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/dcatcgi-hilton-garden-inn-tysons-corner/>
- Download Metro App: Washington DC Metro Route Map