



ZOE

for Life!®

TO AWAKEN HEARTS TO TRUTH THAT LIFE IS SACRED,
GIVING GLORY TO GOD

JANUARY 23, 2026

Standing for Life: Prayer for Life 2026, National Mall, Washington, DC

Honorable James David Vance, Vice President of the United States of America - in verity, One Nation Under God! Your Excellency, our host, Bishop James Conley, Your Eminences, Your Excellencies, Your Graces, Esteemed Hierarchs, Reverend and Venerable Clergy, Monastics and Religious Brothers and Sisters alike, Children!

As Christ our Lord taught us, and truly it has come to pass and now is here, wherever two or three have gathered in His Name, He will be present (Matt.18:20). Assembled as such on this very day, here in the heart of our Nation, for the cause of life itself, let us heed the words of the Holy Fathers of the Church, who teach us, whenever we find ourselves confronted by personal and societal conflicts of heart and mind, emotion and intellect, to place our minds in our hearts in order to offer just and proper prayer, asking for strength to pursue justice, love and mercy, and to walk humbly (Micah 6:8), seeking God's assistance for fairness and truth, peace and healing.

Most beloved, let us, therefore, bow our heads, a lift up our hearts, collectively and individually, offering in earnest a Prayer for Life! Lord Jesus Christ, only begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages without a mother, and incarnate in the flesh of a Mother without a father in time, having dwelt in the womb of the Ever Virgin Mary, Your Most Holy and Pure Mother, we pray You, look down upon us, who have gathered in prayer for this unborn and for the preservation of the life of innocents.

As your Mother, bearing You in her womb, became the image of the Burning Bush of Old, which, beheld by Moses, burned, yet was never consumed, so also ignite inextinguishable fire in our hearts, that it may offer constant prayer, for those conceived in the warmth of their mother's womb, and for their mothers, that they may be enlightened with the wisdom and love needed to bear their children, give birth, and nurture them to know life and to worship You, the Author and Creator of Life.

Let them be born, so that they may breathe the air that we breathe. Let them gaze upon the beauty of creation and behold that which You have sealed with Your goodness. Let them hear the birds chirping.

Let them sense the wind - Ruah - that breath manifesting the presence of the All Holy and Life-giving Spirit, that



Bishop Irinej of Washington-New York and Eastern America of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

bears with it the scent of flowers and the fragrance this world, of life itself.

Let them live their lives, filled with inspiration and the joy of life, so that they may know that You are the only true God and in You is the Fountain of Life.

Again, we pray, Lord, for all mothers, who now bear these nascent lives, that they may truly understand that life is ordained for eternity. May they gain full awareness of the selfless, unrequited and foundational maternal love - storge - tender, nurturing love. For this gift of love, is that of a mother for her child: unconditional, unrepeatable, simply existing, which abides within every woman, be it in realization or potential.

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Let not any unborn child be severed from such love in its mother's life sustaining, nurturing body and tender heart. Let not the womb become a tomb! May Rachel never again weep without consolation, for her children are no more (Jer. 31:15). We also pray, as You are in the verity the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25), for those mothers, who will be reconciled in eternity with their little angels, who now pray for their mothers and their salvation.

Lord, bless us all in our sacred mission on behalf of life, and bless this generation in your Holy Name. We

pray You, richly pour forth Your Blessings on our President and all who are in the seats of civil authority. Remember our Vice President, who with conviction stands firmly with us this day, remember his cherished family and especially, his wife and our Second Lady, Usha, who now bears, to the immense joy of our Nation, their fourth child.

As we prepare to depart in peace, mindful of Your command to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect (Matt. 5:48), so also may we strive to be a perfect community of Your love.

Grant us to reaffirm a society, whose culture is based on human dignity - the awareness of Your image in humankind and the realization of Your likeness - and, thereby, the dignity of life itself. For such a culture is a true communion of people, who act thoughtfully and strategically, placing their minds in their hearts, ever praising Your Most Honorable and Majestic Name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us all say: Amen!

Bishop Irinej Dobrijevic
Serbian Orthodox Church
Diocese of Eastern America

News from New York

In 2025 ZOE for Life!® Southern Tier was blessed with opportunities to serve about 73 families with children under 2 (some, with more than one child under 2). We distributed about 40 packages of diapers last year (25 per pack) with an accompanying pack of wipes, dozens of baby outfits, and close to 60 winter coats.

As our source for diapers was depleted, we received help when we made an appeal for diaper donations from our area Orthodox Christian parishes. Generous monetary donations put us in a position to purchase a pallet of diapers and wipes in the larger sizes that our vulnerable families require. We're immensely grateful to our considerate donors for stepping up to the plate and allowing us to meet our families' in need.

Currently, we are in the process of planning a Mother's Day brunch for our registered moms. We'll pamper them with a lovely meal, flowers, and a gift bag with treats and personal items.

In late September, at our 3rd annual Baby Open House, we'll have a wellness fair where representatives from about a dozen area agencies will host tables to share information about their services. It's exciting to realize that our networking efforts have been successful so that we can partner with other organizations to help area families.

Our volunteers enjoy getting to learn about our families and hearing updates from them. They include a young, single dad who's raising his twin daughters by himself. Another baby is blessed with a loving aunt who is stepping in to parent in place of her autistic birth mother. Some of our moms are working on certifications for jobs, getting their GEDs, in college, or are recent immigrants who are struggling with English. Other babies are being raised by their grandmothers.

Our work is fueled by donations from loving people who care. A \$10 or \$12 package of diapers seems small, but it makes a huge



(L to R): **Kathie Koffs, Jim Naylor, and Daniel Beardsley** as they finished unloading and storing our huge shipment of diapers and wipes.

difference to a family. Summer clothing (2T and under) is also in need. See our DONATION button at zoeforlifestier.org, and our baby gift registry wish list on Amazon.

For additional information, contact
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or (607) 259-2646.

ZOE for Life! Southern Tier
54 Baxter St.
Binghamton, NY 13905

2025 Gifts

We are honored to share the names of those remembered and celebrated through tribute gifts in 2025. These offerings are a beautiful testimony to lives that matter and legacies that continue. **Gold bless you all!**

In Honor of:

Christ is Born!
Benjamin Grysiak
James Isaac III
Paula Kappos
Dr. Amelia Pantelis
Rohan's Grandchildren
Our Grandchildren
Unwed mother who kept and raised her babies

Father Jason Kappamadge
Father Nikodemos Kossis
Dr. Harry N. Kotsis
Thomas Koulioufas
James (Demetrios) and Anna Kukanas
Catherine Lepinotes
Katherine & Ed Bashar & James Maluff
Maximos
Hristos (Chris) J. Murton and Aphrodite (Frieda) N. Murton
Paul Pangrace
Archpriest Gregory Pelesh
Darlene and Jerome Petrykowski
Daniel Resanovic
Matushka Bonnie (Ioanna) Robinson

Rohan, Ivanchak, Tsikowzis Families
Chris Ronk (Chevnesky)
Phillip Serene
Steven Shannon
Amanda Irene Smilo
Helen and John Vianos
Mike Vuich
Mark Vuksanovich
Delores Zuder
Demetrios and Anna
Ernestine and Edward
John Janas and Electra Ladas
Matushka Ioanna (Bonnie Jean)
Spouse Sandra, Twin Girls - Sara/Alex
Stella

In Memory of:

Sebastia Banakis
Chris Boukis
Patt DiGiacobbe
John J. and Agnes P. Gecik
Lila, Naomi & Lubor Gilbert
Dr. Maggie Priscilla Hock and Hillary Barbara Hock

A Lot is Going on at ZOE House®

Recently we have been extraordinarily busy at ZOE House, there is so much we'd like to share with you.

First off, thanks to Sunday Schools and generous individuals, we have lots of birthday cake kits to share with our clients. Many went beyond the cake ingredients, and included age-appropriate children's games, which were especially appreciated when the weather is frigid and little ones must stay indoors. Others assembled gift bags for our moms, including items like lotions and colognes to help pamper them. We wish every one of you could see the looks on our mothers' faces when they receive these. It makes our hearts smile.

Cooler months are always busy for us, especially this year. Many families have shared that they appreciate clothing for their little ones (they are invited to return every month or so for larger sizes), but there is no place for them to find larger sized clothing to help their older children, particularly when preparing them to enter school. We were able to juggle our existing space to have a dedicated room specifically for children from three to five years old. If you can help us fill this space, it will be most appreciated.

Finally, if you have a few hours to spare and would like to volunteer to work with us, please let us know by calling 216-465-9030. We would love to meet you!

Many thanks to all who have helped us with material and financial donations. ZOE House served more than 600 families in 2025. We could not offer this support without your generosity and God's blessings.

Wishing you all a blessed Great Lent!



A dedicated space at ZOE House for clothing sizes 3T - 5T.

Join Our Bottles for Babies Campaign!

We want to send you a baby bottle. Place the bottle somewhere visible in your home and add your loose change to it each day. Over time, those small coins add up to make a big difference! Once the bottle is full, take the coins to your bank to be counted and converted to cash. Then, send the donated amount to ZOE for Life! Reuse the bottle and keep the impact going!

Contact Georgiann at cgbod@sbcglobal.net



ZOE
for Life®

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Learn how you can make a difference, knowing, as St. Paul has told us, that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13).



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

ZOE for Life!® is a Christian ministry which affirms the value of all life by providing nonjudgemental, confidential support and education during and after an unplanned pregnancy.

ZOEFORLIFE.org info@zoeforlife.org 440-893-9990 Switch to online giving Follow us on Facebook

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

2026 Prayer for Unborn Children

Snowstorms and high winds could not prevent us from gathering to lift up children in the womb, and the misguided in our midst to our merciful Lord! Despite threatening conditions, mindful that the weather would be hazardous, we met on Sunday, February 8th at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Parma, Ohio, for our **Annual Prayer for Unborn Children**. Fr. Chris Moore, his choir and parish, welcomed us with open arms. Their stunning iconography, which includes saints of the 20th century, the 'cloud of witnesses' spoken of in the scriptures, prayed with us to end scourge of abortion in our society.

We were particularly blessed by Fr. Alexander Garklavs and his stirring wisdom and tender admonitions to continue to stand for what we know is right in the sight of God. In this fallen world, we are His hands and His feet. The Holy Trinity family provided a delicious reception which followed Father's address. We could not have felt more welcomed by our sisters and brothers in Christ. Perhaps next year, parishes in your community can do the same.

Mark your calendars now, January 24, 2027.



Parishioners gather at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church for the annual prayer.



President of ZOE for Life!® Paula Kappos and Fr. Alexander Garklavs.



Frs. Andrew Harmon, Christopher Moore, and Alexander Garklavs lead the Annual Prayer for Unborn Children.