

As we have done in the last few years, the Culture of Life Ministry here at St Paul's takes an active role in the 40 Days For Life Campaign, helping to educate about the inhumanity of abortion, and to promote ways our parish can participate in helping to end this evil.



This fall, the 40 Days For Life Campaign runs from late September to early November. 40 Days for Life is the largest internationally coordinated pro-life mobilization in history, helping people in local communities end the injustice of abortion through: prayer and fasting, community outreach, and peaceful vigils at abortion facilities.

As a precursor to this year's campaign, here are some things to contemplate regarding the reality of abortion and the abortion process (excerpt from liveaction.org).

1. Your baby is alive.

One of the most frequent tactics used by the abortion industry is to deny the humanity of preborn children. Abortionists say the baby is just a clump of tissue or a blob of cells. They lie about fetal development, with some claiming the baby isn't actually alive yet.

Here's the truth: your baby *is* alive, and is not just part of your body, but a **separate, living human being** from the moment of conception, a fact backed up by science.

2. Abortion risks your physical health.

Despite the abortion industry promises that having an abortion is perfectly safe, and that the risks to your life and health are so minimal as to be practically nonexistent, here are the facts.

Abortion comes with enormous risks to women about which they're often not told about before undergoing the procedure. The most well-known - and controversial - of these risks is that of breast cancer, heavily disputed by pro-abortion advocates. Multiple studies have found that abortion does, in fact, increase the risk of breast cancer, up to a 20.62% increased risk. There are also increased risks for cervical, liver, and ovarian cancers. If you're considering having children in the future, it would be wise to consider that abortion is known to increase the chances of premature birth in future pregnancies. Women who have had abortions are also more likely to get endometriosis or Pelvic Inflammatory Disease.

On top of all of this, there are the risks from the procedure itself. Abortion can come with numerous physical complications, including uterine perforation, cervical laceration, hemorrhage, and death.

3. Abortion risks your mental health.

Unfortunately, abortion doesn't just carry risks to physical health; having an abortion comes with considerable risks to mental health as well.

A study published in the July 2013 edition of "Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences" analyzed all the scientific literature published since 1995 on the psychological and psychiatric health of women who had undergone abortions, versus those who had given birth or had a miscarriage. Thirty studies were found and analyzed, and 29 of those found negative psychological consequences after abortion. Women who have abortions are at a higher risk for numerous mental health disorders, including anxiety, depression, and suicidal behavior. They are also at higher risk for drug and alcohol abuse.



4. Each abortion is violent.

The abortion industry is pretty much silent about what happens during an abortion. And it's for good reason: abortion is often violent, and when people find out what truly happens during one, they're horrified.

Dr. Anthony Levatino is a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist with over 40 years of medical experience. He's also a former abortionist who committed more than 1,200 abortions. In a video series, Dr. Levatino explained what happens during different methods of abortion (omitted here, but details are available online). Abortion procedures include medical abortions, D&E abortions, aspiration abortions, induction abortions, and saline abortions. Each procedure is horrific, violent and most of them are invasive, meaning it's also very unpleasant for the mother.

5. Your baby can feel pain.

Medical advancements have made the humanity of the preborn more undeniable than ever before, even as the abortion industry desperately tries to keep it hidden from the women they prey on. But perhaps one detail is more shocking and horrifying than any other: preborn babies are capable of feeling pain.

It's conclusively and scientifically provable that babies feel pain by 20 weeks gestation. But babies also respond to touch much earlier - in the first trimester - and increasing evidence shows that babies might also be capable of feeling pain in the first trimester, even as early as 5.5 weeks. Backing this up is a new study from earlier in 2017, which found that babies have "adult-like" patterns of nerves in the first trimester. So, when babies are aborted, they very likely feel what is happening to them.

Abortion staffers have detailed witnessing babies in the first trimester shrink away from the abortion tools; they've recounted how the baby's heartbeat races on screen after the procedure begins; they've described seeing the baby's heart still beating during the actual abortion procedure.

If you have any questions about the ministry, or would like to join us, please contact Mark or Mary-Jane at 860-666-0162 or mfduplin@outlook.com.