



*Celebration of the "Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life" Marks the Anniversary of Roe v. Wade*

Catholics across the Diocese of Gaylord are invited to join in the observance of the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children" on January 22, 2021. This date marks the 48th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton decisions which legalized abortion. Since that time, more than 60 million legalized abortions have taken place. Each January, Catholics come together to pray for an end to abortion and for a greater respect for all human life.

On January 22, all are welcome to participate in the "Mass For Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life," which will be celebrated by Bishop Walter A. Hurley, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Gaylord, at St. Mary Cathedral in Gaylord at 12:15 p.m. The livestream will be available at [www.dioceseofgaylord.org](http://www.dioceseofgaylord.org).

"This past year has caused us to reflect on what we hold most dear and what we value most — both as a society, and more profoundly, as individual followers of Christ. The upcoming anniversary of Roe v. Wade prompts us to reflect on one of our most fundamental beliefs as Catholics: The value and dignity of life in all stages from conception to natural death, a precious gift," states Bishop Hurley.

"With this anniversary, we remember and pray for the [millions of] children whose lives have been tragically ended as a result of abortion. This painful reality stirs something deep within us, reminding us of the fragility of human life and our common call to protect one another, especially the weak and vulnerable.

"Let's join together in praying that our hearts never become hardened to such tragedy and that we remain courageous and firm in our resolve to protect life and call for an end to abortion. Especially in this intensely divisive time in our nation's history, it's imperative that our resolve be coupled with charity, humility and compassion. The loss of life through abortion leaves an indelible mark, causing enduring pain and grief for mothers and families. It is critical that we both fervently call for an end to abortion and show the merciful love of Christ to those who are suffering from the sorrow and regret of an abortion. May we look to our Blessed Mother, who knows the pain of losing a child, and ask for her intercession as we implore an end to abortion and healing for those suffering because of it."