

MADISON FIELD GUIDE – Spring 2021



PART I: OVERVIEW

What IS 40 Days For Life?

- *The coming together of persons of all faiths (or even no faith) for a 40-day peaceful vigil of prayer and fasting to end abortion.*
- *It is a nationwide campaign.*
- *It will occur simultaneously in over 500 locations.*
- *In Wisconsin, there are chapters in Appleton, Green Bay, Kenosha, Madison, Manitowoc, Milwaukee, Sheboygan and Waukesha.*
- *It is peaceful, loving, prayerful and lawful.*

What ISN'T 40 Days for Life?

It is not a protest. It is not a political demonstration. It is not violent. It is not confrontational. It is not threatening.

WHERE does it take Place?

In Madison, the vigil will take place outside of Planned Parenthood on Madison's east side, located a few blocks north of

East Washington Avenue just off Highway 51 (Stoughton Road) across from MATC.

The address is:

Planned Parenthood – (North Stoughton Road Location) 3706 Orin Road, Madison, WI 53704

WHEN does it take place?

From 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays (not Sundays) beginning Wednesday, February 17, 2021 (Ash Wednesday) through 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, 2021 with a closing event on Sunday, March 28, 2021 (Palm Sunday).

I'm not as informed as I'd like to be – what does Planned Parenthood do anyway?

*According to their website Planned Parenthood health centers offer sexual and reproductive health care, education, and information, including gynecological care, STI/STD testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, and abortion services. **At this particular Madison location - where our campaign will take place - their website confirmed that they are an abortion only facility.***

If I were someone just driving by, what would I be likely to see?

You would see two or more individuals alone or in a group in silent prayer or song, peacefully sitting, standing, kneeling, or walking along the public sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood. There would be no shouting, or protesting. It would be peaceful.

You would see people carrying 40 Days for Life signs or abortion pill reversal signs. Other signs need to be approved by the campaign co-leaders.

PART II: THE BASICS

> Activities <

Must everyone present put in a “full shift”?

No. The word “shift” simply refers to a specific portion of time on any given day during the 40-day period. The duration can be variable – such as one hour, two hours, etc. We are planning to have at least two individuals commit to each specific time period throughout the 40 days so that every minute is covered. Most people sign up for a shift lasting 1, 2, or 4 hours. You may sign up for your vigil hours by visiting <http://vigilforlife.org/calendar/>.

Also, note that having at least two persons there at all times during the 40-day event is only a bare minimum. Others are encouraged to sign up for or drop by for any length of time they wish. We will simply refer to the time any person is present as their “shift”, even if only for a few minutes.

Must everyone sign up ahead of time, or can someone just “drop by”?

You may just “drop by”. But if you know ahead of time, it would be helpful to have you sign up.

What Activities may I do during my Shift?

Pray, Sing, Read Scripture or other works with which you are comfortable. You may invite but not necessarily expect others to join with you. You may listen to tapes or CDs with earphones.

May I eat or drink during my shift?

Since this vigil is based on fasting and prayer, it is preferable not to eat while doing a shift. However, if you feel you must, you may bring food and may eat during your scheduled time.

May I smoke during my shift?

Please try not to smoke during your shift.

May I bring a cooler with soda/snacks?

If you feel you will need them to maintain your energy through your shift, bring beverages or snacks. You will have to carry these items in a bag or leave them in your car. These items may not be set down on the ground in front of Planned Parenthood.

May I bring a lawn chair?

If you need to sit for a short time, you may bring a chair to rest for a moment. Fold up your chair and keep it by your side when you resume standing.

Am I supposed to carry or hold anything?

You can bring a 40 Days for Life and/or abortion pill reversal sign. These will be available to you at no charge. Homemade signs with life-affirming messages must be approved by the Campaign Co-Leaders. You may hold candles and other prayer materials at any time.

Where can I get these signs, Statements of Peace and other materials to offer when sidewalk counseling?

St. Dennis Catholic Church (505 Dempsey Road Madison, WI 53714) has graciously provided us with St. Dennis Storage Spot, a place just inside the church entryway where we can store signs and other materials. Pick up the materials during daytime hours. You do not need to return them. They are yours. Statements of Peace should be completed and turned in at the next campaign event or mailed to:

*Vigil for Life
c/o Gwen Finnegan
P.O. Box 499
Baraboo, WI 53913*

May I bring my children along with me for a shift?

Yes! Please feel free to bring children. There will be no graphic signs at 40 Days for Life, so this will not be a concern. Please do watch your children while praying though, making sure they do not run out onto the street or step on Planned Parenthood property. To step on Planned Parenthood's property is trespassing. We must be careful not to trespass at any time, during business hours or beyond.

Do I have access to the Women's Care Center across the street (3711 Orin Road)?

Out of respect for Women's Care Center clients, we will not be accessing the building or property.

How old must a child be to be present without a parent?

There is no set age, since children mature differently. It will be left to the discretion of the child's parent as to whether a child is old enough to be at the abortion center without parental supervision.

> Places <

Where can I park?

There is parking along Orin Road and adjacent side streets near Planned Parenthood. Do not park in the Planned Parenthood parking lot! That is private property! Do not park in the Women's Care Center! We need to respect their rules for the privacy of women in crisis. If you park on Orin Road between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., make sure to move your car every two hours, since there is two hour parking.

Where can I stand/walk/sit/kneel?

You can stand, walk, or kneel on either the sidewalk or the grassy area between the sidewalk and the street.

Where should I NOT stand/walk/sit/kneel?

Please avoid stepping on the grass between the sidewalk and the Planned Parenthood building. This is their property, and stepping on their property could create problems.

Is there some sort of “Home Base” for people involved in this 40 Days for Life event?

Yes, this would be by the driveway entrance to the Planned Parenthood parking lot by the facility's entrance.

Where are the nearest restrooms or stores for food or drink or other supplies?

Directly along Stoughton Road there is a Kwik Trip gas station to the south. To get there, walk to the corner of Orin Road by the Planned Parenthood sign. Cross the street to your left and walk down the sidewalk one block to reach the Kwik Trip.

Also, a few more blocks south, there is a Walgreen's at the junction of Stoughton Road and East Washington Avenue. Down East Washington is a Wendy's Restaurant (they support adoption).

> Logistics <

Should I check in when I arrive?

If you are arriving to your vigil hour, greet the prayer warriors who are out there to receive any instructions. If you are already at the vigil site and your replacements show up, introduce yourself and try to help acclimate the replacements. This is a great time to meet new people!

What If I need to arrive late, leave early, or have to cancel at the last minute?

If you know several days or several hours ahead of time, please contact Gwen. We ask that you try to find your own replacement if you need to cancel a vigil hour. If you are unable to do so, please let us know. If you are running late while driving to the vigil site, please give Gwen a call at 608-393-8545.

There will be people on call to come to the vigil at the last minute if someone cancels, though it could take up to 15-30 minutes for that person to arrive.

What if no one shows up for the next shift but I have to leave?

Under no circumstances should the vigil site be without someone present; there must be at least one person there always! Call Gwen if your replacement does not show up. There will be people ready to come to the abortion center within a few minutes if someone doesn't show up. As a courtesy to others, try to never be late yourself.

What if it rains?

Wear whatever rain gear you feel is appropriate. You would want to bring your own umbrella if it is raining. If the weather gets too dangerous (e.g. lightning), then keep vigil in your vehicle, parked as close to Planned Parenthood as possible.

> Leadership & Rules <

At the site, whoever is an experienced prayer warrior can function as "in charge" if any problematic or procedural issues arise.

What is a Sidewalk Counselor?

A sidewalk counselor is someone who actively talks to women entering an abortion center and who provides women with information about abortion. We will have several sidewalk counselors during this campaign that have taken the Vigil for Life sidewalk counseling training. They will be working to offer support

to abortion-minded men and women. While you may certainly greet them and talk to them, they will be trying to focus on sidewalk counseling. Pamphlets at the St. Dennis Storage Spot can be used for sidewalk counseling.

What Rules must I follow?

We ask you to sign our “Statement of Peace” which sets forth the “rules” of the Vigil. You may sign the Statement of Peace electronically at www.40daysforlife.com/madison/sop or via a link on the right side of the home page at www.vigilforlife.org under “Online Statement of Peace”. Paper copies can be obtained at campaign events or at the St. Dennis Storage Spot. Then, they can be completed and mailed to Vigil for Life (see page 5 for the address).

What if I need to use a restroom?

You may use the public restrooms at the Kwik Trip gas station. To get there, walk to the corner of Orin Road by the Planned Parenthood sign. Cross the street to your left and walk down the sidewalk one block to reach the Kwik Trip.

Who is “In Charge”?

Gwen Finnegan is the Madison Campaign Director. Gwen can be reached at (608) 393-8545.

> Interacting <

How am I expected to interact with others joining in the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil?

Be polite and respectful.

If several individuals are participating on my shift, are we supposed to be unified or to “do our own thing” individually?

Try to find prayers acceptable to both/all of you. If this is not possible, it is okay to pray individually. Just maintain a spirit of prayer.

How am I expected to interact with persons on my shift who are not of the same church or religion as me?

Be respectful. Of course, no one is expected to do anything he/she believes is contrary to his/her religious beliefs. Try to find prayers everyone can agree upon. There is certainly nothing wrong, however, with silent prayer or individuals praying on their own.

How should I interact with strangers who may approach me? Or hecklers? Or persons who may be clients or employees of Planned Parenthood?

Be charitable. Listen to them. Talk to them in a spirit of charity. Invite them to pray with you. If things get out of hand, simply back off. Also, call the police (9-1-1) if a heckler gets rough.

Am I expected to hand out any information? Or to provide information to people who may ask?

You will not be expected to hand out any information if you don't feel comfortable doing so however we will have resources available for people who are considering abortion and need help. We will have resources for people that have had an abortion and are in need of healing. These resources will be available at the St. Dennis Storage Spot (see pages 4-5).

What happens if any local news media show up?

The media will probably not show up, maybe just for the beginning of the Vigil. If they do, however, refer them to Gwen Finnegan. If you feel comfortable answering questions, you may speak honestly from the heart. If the media asks questions regarding the Vigil for Life organization or if you are

uncomfortable speaking with the media, refer them to Gwen Finnegan at 608-393-8545.

> Troubleshooting <

Will there be any “Supplies” of any kind available?

You must bring what you need to the vigil site. However, we have explained that materials, including approved signs, are available at the St. Dennis Storage Spot (see pages 4-5).

Are you sure this is all legal? Could I somehow get arrested for trespassing or disorderly conduct?

Yes, this is legal. We have been in contact with the Madison Police. If you have more questions, please contact Gwen Finnegan at 608-393-8545. Our police contact is Capt. Brian Austin. For right now, contact the police by calling the non-emergency number, 608-255-2345. For an emergency or if you witness a coerced abortion, dial “911.” The police are aware we will be out praying. Remember to stay on the sidewalk or terrace (grass between sidewalk and road).

> Summary <

Can you sum all this up in the fewest words?

Sign-up/drop by, pray, fast, spread the word, hope, and trust God.

*Thank you for participating in Madison’s 40 Days for Life!
It is such a beautiful gift we are giving back to our Lord for the precious gift of our LIFE!*