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**Mass for Life to be celebrated on the 44th anniversary of Supreme Court decision
*End abortion through the power of prayer***

On the 44th anniversary of the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision to legalize abortion, a diocesan-wide Mass for Life will be celebrated at the Cathedral of St. John Evangelist in downtown Cleveland. Sunday, Jan. 22 is the actual 44th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision allowing for the tragic loss of the unborn.

Catholic school students and their families from across the eight counties of the Cleveland diocese are expected to join pro-life supporters and the cathedral congregants in prayer at the **10:30 a.m. Mass** in the mother church of the diocese, located at East 9th and Superior avenue in downtown Cleveland. Recitation of the rosary for life will follow the Mass.

More than 21,000 abortions were performed in Ohio in 2014, the latest figures available.

Participants also will offer prayers for the threat to religious liberty as the federal government's health and human services regulations have mandated that religious institutions offer abortion-inducing drugs as part of their health care benefits. This requirement under penalty of law threatens the very foundation of our democracy.

The participants believe that if politicians and other leaders are not willing to halt the tragedy of abortion in the United States, then the power of prayer is needed to accomplish that end.

About the Diocese of Cleveland:

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland was founded on April 23, 1847. Under the leadership of the Apostolic Administrator, The Most Reverend Daniel Thomas, it is the twenty-third largest diocese in the United States. The diocese encompasses the counties of Cuyahoga, Summit, Lorain, Lake, Geauga, Medina, Wayne and Ashland. There are more than 692,000 Catholics in the Diocese, and Catholic Charities-Diocese of Cleveland is one of the largest diocesan systems of social services in the world. There are 185 parishes, 114 Catholic schools, one pastoral center and one mission office within the diocese. The cathedral of St. John the Evangelist is located in downtown Cleveland.