

Information for Riders on St. John's Busses to Rally and March for Life in Washington, DC on January 18, 2019

SAFETY IS FIRST PRIORITY! We will be joining a large group at the Rally and March. It is essential that our group stay together. Please keep track of everyone in your party, **particularly children at all times**. If a person(s) has to leave the group, **PLEASE** inform your bus captain and tell him where you are going and when and where you will rejoin the group. If at all possible, you should also have a cell phone so you can be contacted if necessary. Another safety item: Children should not go on this trip by themselves. Next to their name on the check off sheet should be the name of the adult responsible for that child.

MAKE SURE YOU AND EVERYONE IN YOUR PARTY ARE DRESSED WARMLY & BE PREPARED The typical forecast is for cold winter temperatures. The group will be spending a number of hours outdoors and everyone, particularly children and the elderly, should dress for that weather. Please bring lunch, water & snacks for everyone in your party.

PAYMENTS FOR RIDERS: Payment amounts are: \$25/adult, \$10/child (up to age 12). Please make the payments to St. Johns at the church office. The payment helps to defray the cost of \$1,400 per bus to the parish. **In addition**, there will be a "free will tip" for the driver, which will be collected on the trip back. If you feel the service was good (it has been uniformly excellent in the past), please contribute to the tip to the extent that your circumstances permit.

MORNING SCHEDULE: Friday's schedule starts with 8:30 am mass. After mass, a continental breakfast will be served by the Knights of Columbus' Council and its Ladies Auxiliary in Mercy Hall for those riding on the buses. The buses are scheduled to arrive for boarding at 10:15 am in the **upper parking area between the church and parish office**. The busses **will depart at 10:30 am!** Please do not be late.

ALL PEOPLE RIDING SHOULD HAVE A CELL PHONE: Please bring your phones (charged) with you. Please give your cell number to your Bus Captain. If possible bring a spare battery.

BOARDING AND SIGN IN: Before getting on the bus, make a note of the bus color, name and number so you can spot it later at the pick-up point. After you get on the bus, your captain will circulate a check off sheet. Each party/person is asked to sign in on the sheet, providing the information requested. These sheets will be used at bus pick up to ensure that **everyone** is accounted for.

BUS FACILITIES AND REQUIREMENTS: Each bus has toilet facilities as well as a regular bus luggage capacity. If you want, you can bring a lunch to eat, but please use screw-type bottles. No open cans or containers with straws. Also, please take all trash with you when we arrive home. You can leave your articles on the bus (your items will be safe). Please do not speak to the driver directly. All communications with them should go through the bus captain.

BANNER: St. John's has a parish pro-life banner. After our group disembarks, we will need to put the banner together before the group proceeds to the Rally site. The purpose of the banner is to proclaim a strong pro-life message while at the same time helping to keep the St. John's group together. We will need a few people to carry the banner. We ask that everyone who can help take over when someone gets tired. Thank you for your cooperation.

PRO-LIFE SIGNS: In some prior years, people have brought pro-life signs. This is permissible. However, signs are not really necessary since we have the parish banner. Also, the Park Service has complained about litter left by marchers in the past. If you bring a banner or anything else for that matter, please take it back with you after the march.

MAP: Each rider will receive a copy of a map showing the March route and tentative pick-up point. You can view a photo of the map for the march on St. John's Facebook page.

RALLY AND MARCH: The Rally will start at noon on the National Mall. Our buses will let us off as close as possible to the Rally site after which we will walk as a group to the Rally. The March will start close to 12th and Constitution Avenue at 1 pm. Our group will march up Constitution Avenue as close as possible to the Supreme Court. At the end of the March our group will proceed to the bus pick up spot. We will proceed in a southerly direction toward Independence Avenue and turn right and walk down Independence to the pick up point.

BUS PICK UP: It normally takes about 1.5 hours for the March and to get to the pickup point. The **tentative bus pick up spot for our group will be on the east side of the Capital at the American Indian Museum at 9th and Independence Avenue.** However, we may have last minute change because of traffic and street closings. Some people may want to wait inside the Museum; make sure your Captain knows where to find you and be on the lookout for the busses. ***Please be considerate to your fellow parishioners and be ON TIME for pickup!***

RETURN TO ST. JOHN'S: It is **estimated** that we will be back in Warrenton between 5:30 and 6:00pm, depending upon bus loading promptness, weather and evening traffic.

GENERAL CAUTIONS: Please be aware of and adhere to the following instruction issued by the March for Life organizers:

- **DO NOT** engage with demonstrators who are involved in unruly behavior, even if they appear to be on the pro-life side, and don't yell at or start arguments with pro-choice demonstrators.
- The ***March for Life*** Education and Defense Fund does not sponsor any petitions at the Rally or along the March. Be wary of anyone who approaches you asking for signatures.
- The only people authorized to collection donations on behalf of the ***March for Life*** Education and Defense Fund are Knight of Columbus volunteers.
- Portable toilet and First Aid stations will be located at various points on the Mall surrounding the Rally. An adult must accompany any children in these areas.

Bus Driver and Captain Contact Info:

Bus No 1: Captain Ed Cook, Cell # 540-219-3508

Bus No 2: Captain Pete Conlan, Cell # 978-985-1747.