

40 Days for Life Schenectady

Topic	Dos	Don'ts
Vigil	Use the online calendar to sign up. Pray for anyone that goes in or out of the building and anyone who is opposed to our presence, especially those who are angry. Pray as you are comfortable and respect those around you as they pray how they feel comfortable. Talk lovingly & peacefully with community members, workers, and patrons should you be comfortable and the opportunity arise. Tell people they are loved and prayed for. Kneel if you are able and feel called to; it is powerful. Should police arrive, respectfully interact and follow their authority. Protest wrongs within the proper channels after the fact. Always remember the statement of peace!	NEVER go in the PP building or parking lot and NEVER block access for those who seek to. NEVER touch people (patrons, workers, counter protestors, or community members). It can be considered assault or battery. Don't yell hurtful things to workers or patrons. Counter protestors are rare, but should they come, don't engage with them. Don't antagonize, incite, or use fighting words or body language. These are threats and not protected by the first amendment. Additionally, the first amendment DOES NOT protect criminal speech such as harassment, blackmail, perjury, defamation (libel or slander), lying to the police, etc. Don't say things you aren't sure of.
Prayer	This is an ecumenical ministry. Prayer from the heart, intercessory prayer, song, formalized prayers like the Rosary or Divine Mercy, Bible reading, quiet prayer, individual or partner prayer, different types of prayer going on at the same time.....all is welcome either separately or together either close or far apart. Be considerate of others' prayer life; we are fighting this spiritual battle together.	Don't stop others from praying as they are comfortable. This is an ecumenical ministry that is for all.
Tools	Appropriate layered clothing/coats/ hats/gloves/scarves/ umbrellas/thick or double-layered socks/ hand-warmers Blankets/chairs/kneelers Bible/Scripture passages/prayer or song books/rosaries Emergency contact cards/ pro-life pamphlets or literature to distribute/ baby feet pins or baby models 40 Days signs/Signs with phone numbers for help/Loving signs/Informational signs Water/Beverages/Snacks Safety gadgets/Toys or books for children Cell phone/camera/tripod	Don't mark up private or public property in any way. Don't use tools for peaceful vigil in a threatening way. Don't use signs that condemn, judge, or accuse women of murder. (While we know that abortion is murder, signs that make this accusation have proven to interrupt compassionate and loving dialogue) Don't put signs on PP property, either by standing them in the grass or putting them on the fence or building.

Location	Stand on or in front of the public right of way/sidewalk. There should be at least half the sidewalk for people to pass by. Realize there are video cameras on the PP building. Standing in one location or walking back and forth are both acceptable.	Don't stand on the grass, especially for an extended period of time. Don't stand in and don't block the PP parking lot for any reason. We cannot be on their property for any reason.
Vigil Partners	Bring a friend to pray with or sign up on the calendar in a spot where there is someone. If you don't have a prayer partner, please let Sarah know by emailing her at sch40days@gmail.com so she can try to help find one. If you arrive and there isn't a partner, please look for car angels or consider being a car angel.	For legal safety purposes, we don't recommend standing alone on the street. Always have a witness (and a phone or camera available if possible).
Groups	We welcome groups to stand vigil together. Church communities or other organizations/clubs are welcome to contact Sarah to set up a time to pray collectively. If you'd like a veteran vigil member or 40 Days team member to be with you either for support or to lead prayer with/for you, just let Sarah know at sch40days@gmail.com	Don't plan a group prayer time without notifying a team member (usually but not limited to Sarah who helps coordinate) if you'd like to be part of 40 Days. This is because all groups that participate must stand by the statement of peace.
Calendar Use	Please actively use the Schenectady 40 Days for Life online calendar. All time commitments made are greatly appreciated. We have some that sign up for a weekly commitment and others that sign up as the weeks pass when they are available. Please consider both. If you need help with the calendar, email Sarah at sch40days@gmail.com Signups are easily canceled by you or Sarah should something come up. If you are able to spontaneously stand vigil, let Sarah know after the fact so she can add you to the calendar for records purposes.	Don't ignore the calendar. People use it to make decisions on when to go. Some people like to fill in empty slots last minute. Other people like to find a time when they can see there will be people around. Using the calendar is the best way to allow this to happen. Email Sarah at sch40days@gmail.com if you need help!
Parking	Parking is available in Christ Church parking lot, on side streets, and across the street near the cemetery (as long as the signs are followed).	NEVER park in Planned Parenthood (PP) lot. They will call the police for trespassing. Don't park in the lots of area businesses AND be sure to follow the signs near the cemetery. Failure to do so will result in the hassle & expense of towing.
Contacts	Sarah or Connie at Sch40days@gmail.com Ask to be put on the email update list!	