

Welcome!

Our local team of volunteers and leaders welcome you to the **SPRING 2019 40 Days for Life** campaign in Downers Grove. You should also be receiving some occasional emails from the National **40 Days for Life** team. They created the format for **40 Days for Life** and support us in many ways.

The official campaign starts on **Ash Wednesday, March 6**, but we are holding an opening rally on **Sunday, March 3, at 3:00 pm**. The rally will be held at our vigil site, which is on the public right of way along 75th Street in Downers Grove outside the Access Health Center at 1700 75th Street--the local abortion center--west of Lemont Road/Main Street. Attending the opening rally is a good opportunity to meet some of our prayer volunteers, and--if you have questions--to talk to one of our leaders. (You can also email us at [40DaysDG@gmail.com](mailto:40DaysDG@gmail.com) at any time.)

Our regular campaign prayer vigil hours are from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm through **Sunday, April 14**. **You can already sign up to reserve vigil hours online** by going to our [website](#). After you register and choose "Downers Grove" as your location, you will be shown the vigil calendar for the entire campaign. (You can click on a day to see which hours are still available.)

Each date is colored to indicate how many hours have been filled, and with how many prayer volunteers. A date with no volunteers is **gray**; with some but less than 2 for every hour is **blue**. A "full" day is **green**, but you may still sign up for a time, even if an hour or day shows as "full".

Click on the date to choose a specific hour. Similar to the day, partially-filled hours (1 prayer volunteer) show as **blue**; filled hours (2 or more prayer volunteers) show as **green**. Click on "+" next to an hour to sign up for that hour. (*Please help us by filling hours with zero or one prayer volunteer first; however, if you must, you can sign up for an hour that shows as "full".*)

If you haven't been out praying at the vigil site previously and are afraid that you might be uncomfortable, you can sign up for an hour for which someone else is already scheduled (**blue**), or invite a friend to register and join you. (*"Where two or three are gathered..." Mt 18:20.*)

**When you come to the vigil to pray**, you should park along the side street--Devereux Road--not in the parking lot of the clinic or nearby businesses. Also, please don't park too close to 75th Street. Because we need to stay on the public right of way, our materials--a banner, some various-sized signs, a couple of chairs, and one or more bins--will be located along 75th Street beyond the public sidewalk.

At the vigil site, please **write your name in the notebook** you will find in the bin that has the instruction sheet on top; this helps us to review the total number of participants after the campaign is over. (Not everyone signs up for times on our website.) If our materials are not at the vigil site, it probably means we have unfilled hours that day, and our agreement with the village of Downers Grove says that we can't leave our materials unattended. Please stay and pray anyway!

Besides the notebook, that bin contains prayer materials and books that you are welcome to borrow while you are at the site. There are also some "hope packets", which contain information about fetal development as well as contact information for local pregnancy assistance centers. (While you are under no obligation or expectation of talking with clients of Access, it is always good to have some materials available if one of them should approach you.) There may be another bin with some blankets (if the weather is bad) and a smaller "Kids' Bin" with a few simple entertainments. (Bringing your children with you can be an important lesson in taking action against injustice.)

**Feel free to pray in any way you would like:** personal private prayer, Scripture readings, the rosary, out loud or silently, etc. There may be other people praying at the site at the same time, too. If the weather is bad, feel free to pray from your car.

When your time is up, **if no one has arrived to replace you**, please call one of the contact numbers listed on top of the bin; because we can't leave our materials unattended, we will contact some of our volunteers who live nearby and can show up on short notice. We appreciate your help with this.

We thank you for signing up for ***40 Days for Life***, and we hope that you will join us at the vigil, standing witness and praying for an end to abortion and a conversion of our culture to a culture of life!

Faithfully yours,

Bob, Caron, and Daria

P.S. Be aware that during previous campaigns there have been **pro-abortion protesters** at our vigil site occasionally. They accuse us of "spewing hate" while they follow our prayer volunteers around yelling profanity and insults, play profanity-filled satanic music at loud volumes near people praying quietly, and dance around our people to try to prevent handheld signs like "Pray to end abortion" or "Pregnant? Need Help?" from "harming" women coming for abortions.

When you sign up for **40 Days for Life**, you pledge to act peacefully. Our volunteers have shown remarkable restraint, and the best tactic is to ignore these misguided protesters. Please make sure to not touch them or their materials, as they have called the police for the slightest offense. Likewise, if you feel that their actions ever cross the line to assault or public nuisance, feel free to call 911 to report them. You may want to document any such behavior by discretely recording audio or video on your phone, if possible. Even the appearance of recording them may subdue their speech and antics.

Bob, Caron, and Daria

**40 Days for Life** coordinators

Downers Grove, IL

Local website: [www.40DaysForLife.com/DownersGrove](http://www.40DaysForLife.com/DownersGrove)

(for vigil address and map, and contact information)

National website: [www.40DaysForLife.com](http://www.40DaysForLife.com)

(for news and updates, daily devotions, blogs, etc.)

***If you no longer wish to receive our emails, please reply and let us know.***

We will **NEVER** share your contact information, and only use it for official **40 Days for Life** communications.