



Peace and Justice Committee



The Diocese of West Missouri

Turning Thoughts and Prayers into a Week of Action for Gun Safety and Against Gun Violence

Monday, June 3

Learn About the Scourge of Gun Violence and the toll it has taken on our communities. Learn about the issue at one of these sites:

- Everytown for Gun Safety (Everytown.org)
- Gun Violence Archive (GunViolenceArchive.org)
- Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions (publichealth.jhu.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/research-and-practice/center-for-gun-violence-solutions)
- Giffords Law Center (giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/)
- Brady United Against Gun Violence (BradyUnited.org)

Tuesday, June 4

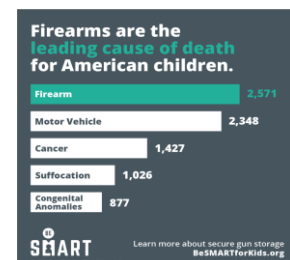
Recognize that firearms are the leading cause of death of children in our country. Prioritize Gun Safety in your home if you are a gun owner. For more information on Safe Storage and keeping kids safe from unintentional shootings or suicide, visit BeSmartforKids.org or schedule a presentation or table at your church by Be SMART volunteers.



Wednesday, June 5

Support Community Violence Interruption Initiatives with your Time, Talent or Treasure to help break the cycle of violence. In our community, these organizations are doing the hard work day by day to address the causes of violence and break the cycles of violence and deserve our support

- Aim4Peace (<https://www.kcmo.gov/city-hall/departments/health/aim4peace-violence-prevention-program>)
- Lyrik's Institution (<https://www.lyriksinstitute.com/>)
- Ad Hoc Group Against Crime (<https://adhocgroupkc.org/>)
- KC Common Good (<https://kccommongood.org/>)
- Community Partnership of the Ozarks (<https://cpozarks.org/programs/violence-prevention/>)



Thursday, June 6

Contact your representatives (local and federal) and ask them to make sensible gun laws a priority. Use this [link](#) to ask Congress to pass an assault weapons ban.

Friday, June 7 – National Gun Violence Awareness Day

Join/Donate to a gun violence prevention organization such as:

- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (momsdemandaction.org/)
- Sandy Hook Promise (<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>)
- Giffords (Giffords.org)
- Brady (BradyUnited.org)
- Grandparents for Gun Safety (<https://grandparentsforgunsafety.org/>)
- Lives on the Line (<https://wearelivesontheline.org/>)

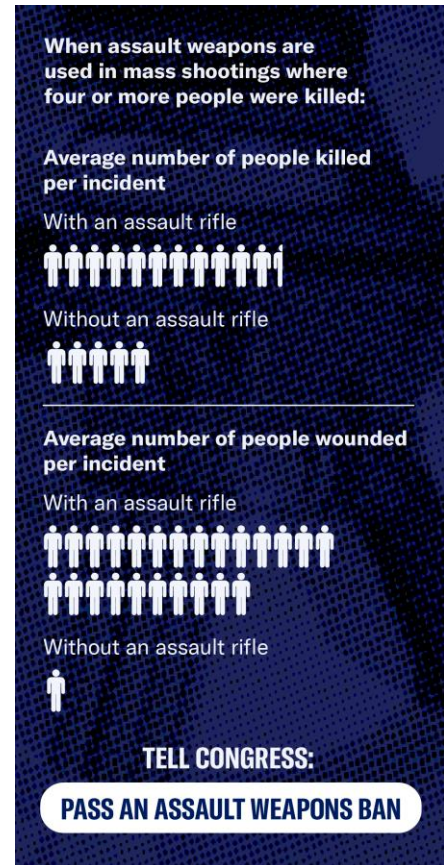
Support Gun Sense Candidates who will work in all levels of government for laws and ordinances to make our communities safer.

- To find Gun Sense Candidates, search here: <https://gunsensevoter.org/>

Saturday, June 8 – LGBTQ+ Pride

Attend a Pride Mass, walk with The Diocese of West Missouri in a Pride Parade in KC or Springfield, or help with the Episcopal booth at a Pride Festival

- LGBTQ+ people are more than twice as likely as their cisgender peers to be a victim of gun violence. Mass Shootings, bullying and hate crimes disproportionately affect this population.
- Learn More about the connection between gun violence and the LGBTQ+ community at <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/blog/news/facts-and-statistics-about-the-impact-of-gun-violence-on-lgbtq-people/>



Sunday, June 9 - Wear Orange to Church

Pray for the hundreds of people killed by guns every month in this country, for their loved ones, for the children traumatized by living with this level of violence, and for a collective change of heart.

For Victims of Gun Violence

Leader: We call to mind the many victims of gun violence, those who have lost their lives, those who have lost their livelihood, and those who have lost life's passion. We pray especially for those who have been killed [here in City or State] and we hold their stories and their memories dear. May their loss not be in vain, and may we shape a new story of hope from the broken pieces of grief. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For Friends & Family of Gun Violence Victims

Leader: We stand with those who have been left behind, the families, friends, and loves ones of those taken by gun violence. We pray that in this time of heartbreak, grief, and loss that they might find comfort and hope to face the days ahead, and that their tears may be turned into songs of joy. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For Communities Torn by Gun Violence

Leader: We remember the story of homes, communities, neighborhoods, cities and town shattered by gun violence. We call the time the sacred ground around our nation that has been watered with the blood of loss and the tears of grief. [We especially remember specific cities and towns may be named here.] Grant that we may work tirelessly towards a vision where all may sit under their own vine and fig tree in safety and security. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For First Responders

Leader: We stand with first responders, those who live with the horror of gun violence in service to the common good. We stand with them and their families as they heal from bearing witness to the aftermath of lives ended in violence. Grant that we, with them, may create a world where all are protected, all are honored and all are seen, valued and beloved. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For Suicide & Unintentional Shootings

Leader: We remember those who ended their lives at their own hands with a gun, those who lost their lives by unintentional shootings, and those children whose promise of life was cut short. We pray that we may be strength to those in despair, hope in those in desolation, and comfort to those in misery. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For Those Who Feel Helpless in the Face of Gun Violence

Leader: We stand in solidarity with those who feel helpless, dejected, or powerless in the face of the gun violence epidemic. We know that gun violence touches all cultures, classes, genders, races, tribes, and nations. We pray that we may not be overwhelmed by gun violence but that we may overwhelm the world with the violence of love. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For the Perpetrators of Gun Violence

Leader: We remember perpetrators of gun violence. We pray for their families, their friends, and those who love them. We pray for those who see no other way than violence. We pray for those who suffer from mental illness, social isolation, loneliness, and debilitating fear. Grant that we may reach out in love and transform ferocity into friendship and fear into faith. And so we pray,

All: God of sacred stories, heal us and make us whole.

For Ourselves & For Others

Leader: We pray for ourselves and others in our lives who have been touched by gun violence. During the silent pause, we invite you to offer their names either silently or aloud. Silence is kept for a time. Together we pray.

All: God of the Weary, God of the Hopeful, mend that which is wounded, bind up that which is broken, soothe that which is shattered. Enliven us with courage, passion, and strength to renew and recreate our world in the likeness of lasting peace; through the One who comes with healing and hope. Amen.

Let us pray: Inspire us, o God, with the gift of shalom, the gift of wholeness and the promise of your presence. Give us wisdom to seek nonviolence as an answer to the violence of our lives and world. Give us courage to seek wholeness in a fractured and divided world, to find reconciliation rather than revenge, to abandon the instruments of violence and death and entrust our lives, our homes and our families to you. May your presence fill us and others with the thirst for unity, wholeness, and the desire to see all people valued as created in your image. May we and others receive your Shalom that we might be faithful instruments of your love. Amen.

(Adapted from Episcopal Peace Fellowship, "Gift of Shalom")