

The Stone

“Rock solid” and “etched in stone” are phrases used to represent a sense of permanence. Not unlike our commitment to protect life and oppose those who would threaten it. This stone serves as a permanent reminder of our commitment to life even as much as it causes us to reflect on those who have been deprived of theirs.

The Stone is made of Barry Granite, chosen for its unique ability to more clearly define its message with time. The longer in time that this monument continuously stands in the weather, the clearer will be the image and the message cut in its face and all the greater appreciated. We pray that like this stone, the longer in time we continuously show our love of life, the more clearly it will be seen by our brothers and sisters and the more greatly appreciated.

The shape of the stone was chosen to resemble that of the egg, the symbol of life in its many forms. Even as the egg is the token of Easter where we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death, this egg reminds us of the lives that have been taken by abortion and acknowledges a time when we can again be joined with them

The image on the stone is that of an infant in swaddling clothes, framed by the cross of Jesus Christ. This image reminds us that unborn infants who die as a result of abortion share the same fate as Jesus who's life was also abruptly ended by others with selfish motives. But too it reminds us that they also share His fate in rising again to live forever in the peace and love of God our Father.

The inscription on the stone, *Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you*, are words from the priest Jeremias, a Prophet that lived long before the time of Christ. The name Jeremias means “God establishes”, and this inscription from Jeremias was chosen to remind us that human life is established by God, at a time defined by God, and not subject to the terms and conditions of man. Furthermore this inscription makes a simple statement that not only holds true today but has consistently done so for over 2,500 years since this man first recorded it.

And finally, this stone recognizes the friends and parishoners of St. Mary's Church. In so doing, it reminds us that the protection of life is not the responsibility of one organization, or even one faith. It belongs to any and every one of us who might come to St. Mary's and cast a glance upon the stone.