

# DAY OF Prayer & Fasting

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

December 1, 2021, will be a critical day in the life of our nation and our state. On that Wednesday, the lawyers of our Attorney General, Lynn Fitch, will begin oral arguments before the United States Supreme Court, defending Mississippi's 15 week anti-abortion bill – *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.

If this bill is upheld as constitutional by our U.S. Supreme Court, there will be fewer abortions at the abortion facility at Fondren, on the north side of Jackson. We, at the Christian Action Commission of our Mississippi Baptist Convention, are pro-life. Abortion is the murder of an unborn child. We want all abortions to stop, but until then we want fewer abortions, not more.

I am no lawyer, nor the son of a lawyer, but I have understood that *Roe v. Wade* is one of the most faulty legal decisions ever by the Supreme Court. The amount of medical research and information on prenatal care and the true health and welfare of the mother is so much more advanced today than at the time of *Roe v. Wade*.

The discussion on December 1 concerning Mississippi's 15 week law could open the door to a reconsideration of the legal, forensic accuracy of how *Roe v. Wade* was decided. Mississippi's law could lead to *Roe v. Wade* being overturned after nearly 50 years and millions of abortions in our nation and thousands in our state. The possible overturning of *Roe v. Wade* does not mean the end of abortion in the U.S., but it would return the issue to be decided in each local state. That would mean fewer abortions in our nation, and hopefully no abortions in many states – but especially in Mississippi.

This momentous occasion deserves the attention, prayers, and concern of God-fearing, Bible-believing Christians everywhere, but especially here in Mississippi. Therefore, Shawn Parker and our Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Rick Blythe as leader of the MBCB's Prayer Ministry, and I, Kenny Digby of the Christian Action Commission, are calling on you as Mississippi Baptists, on our churches, and on our associations to declare Sunday, November 28, a Day of Fasting and Prayer for our lawyers, for the nine men and women sitting on the bench (of whom six are supposed to be conservative – far different from 1973), and for a correct decision.

JOIN us on Sunday, November 28, for a much-needed Day of Fasting and Prayer.

Committed to Christian action,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kenny Digby".

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**FASTING GUIDE**

November 28, 2021

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*When a nation values life, it brings glory to the Creator of life and instills honor in its culture.*

December 1, 2021, the Supreme Court will hear arguments in the Mississippi abortion case challenging *Roe v. Wade*. The full case name is *Thomas E. Dobbs, State Health Officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, et al. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, et al.*

On November 28th we are asking the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention to have a focused time of prayer during the morning worship service and throughout the day praying for the nine Supreme Court Justices and the legal team representing Mississippi. Also, ask the members of your congregation to continue to pray during the days leading up to the hearing and beyond to put an end to our nation's abortion-on-demand policies. Below are some guidelines and suggestions you can use in the worship service.

1. Pray for the nine Supreme Court Justices:

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.  
Associate Justice Clarence Thomas  
Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer  
Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.  
Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Associate Justice Elena Kagan  
Associate Justice Neil M. Gorsuch  
Associate Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh  
Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett

2. Pray for the legal team defending the Mississippi Case.

3. Prearrange for a child to come forward and read Psalm 139:13-16. Make sure you have good amplification so the congregation can hear.

4. The Pastor or other church leaders may invite all the children present to come forward and stand on the platform with the pastor as he reads Matthew 18:1-6. (Another idea is to let a faithful family come forward and the father of the family read the passage).

5. The Pastor may choose to read Proverbs 24:11-12. When unborn babies are murdered in abortion clinics—it is inexcusable to stand by and not seek to rescue them. It is also useless to plead ignorance.

6. Ask God to...

Convict the Justices to protect and serve every member of our society including the most marginalized, voiceless, and vulnerable.

Raise up leaders to end our nation's culture of death and recognize the equal value of all people.

Give our nation the compassion it needs to assist women struggling with unplanned and problem pregnancies.

Help us put an end to our nation's abortion-on-demand policies.



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**BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE OF FASTING**

Daniel 9 is one of the most fascinating chapters in the Bible. Much could be said about this chapter but for our purposes I call your attention to verse 3, "And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes." Daniel sought the Lord in prayer and in conjunction with prayer he included fasting.

## **WHAT FASTING IS**

- It is abstaining from food or another essential need in order to seek God. It expresses a deep need for God, more essential than bread is for the body.
- Fasting is a commitment to God to place loyalty to Christ first above all else. Therefore, fasting might include giving up television, sports, social media, etc. for a time in order to seek God.

## **WHAT FASTING IS NOT**

- It is not a sign of greater spirituality (Luke 18:9-18)
- It is not a magic formula guaranteeing an answer (2 Samuel 12:15-17)
- It does not make one more acceptable to God (Isaiah 58:3-6)

## **WHEN TO FAST**

- In times of battle and confrontation (Judges 20:19-28)
- In times of repentance from backsliding (1 Samuel 7:2-7)
- In times of personal sorrow or loss (2 Samuel 1:12)
- When we need help (2 Chronicles 20:2-4)
- When we need wisdom (Acts 13:2-3)
- When we need special anointing or dedication (Matthew 4:2)

## **HOW WE FAST**

- With faith and obedience (Isaiah 58:3ff)
- With humility (Ezra 8:21)
- With urgency (Daniel 9:3)
- With Scripture (Jeremiah 36:6)
- With others (Esther 4:16)
- With a focus on pleasing God alone (Matthew 6:16-18)
- With a heart that rests in God (Joel 2:12-14)