

# Loran Cole Prayer Vigils

We are deeply troubled by the recent signing of a death warrant for the execution of Loran Cole, a survivor of the Arthur G. Dozier School for Boys. While at Dozier in 1984, teenage Cole was beaten, molested, raped, and tormented day in and day out, ultimately having both of his legs broken after trying to escape to safety. He witnessed daily beatings and sexual assaults of other children. It is especially noteworthy to recognize the violence that was inflicted on a teenage Cole at the hands of the state – facts that his jury never heard. Mr. Cole, who has now been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease, never received mental health treatment for his traumatic and abusive childhood until his arrival on death row in his late 20s. Mr. Cole has spent the last three decades atoning for his crimes. He is a changed man. He has a relationship with his son and his son's mother. He has matured within the stability of prison life. Commuting his sentence to life without the possibility of parole still effectively punishes Mr. Cole and keeps society safe.

Loran Cole is scheduled to be executed on August 29 at 6 pm. Soon, the faithful across the state of Florida will gather in solidarity to pray for peace and healing for the victim's family and everyone harmed by Mr. Cole's actions. They will also pray for forgiveness and God's mercy for Mr. Cole, along with the immediate end to the death penalty. Below find information on the organized prayer vigils for Loran Cole. *\*\*We will continue to update this list as additional information becomes available.\*\**

## Archdiocese of Miami

**Contact:** Angela Curatalo at [acuratalo@theadom.org](mailto:acuratalo@theadom.org)

### **Broward:**

#### **St. David Catholic Church**

3900 S. University Drive

Davie

August 29: 7:00 pm - Fr. Ryan Saunders

### **Miami:**

#### **St. Louis Catholic Church**

7270 SW 120th Street

Pinecrest

August 24: 6:30 pm - Deacon Jim Dugard

## Diocese of Palm Beach:

**Contact:** Deanna Herbst at [dherbst@ccdpb.org](mailto:dherbst@ccdpb.org)

### **Cathedral of St. Ignatius Loyola**

9999 N Military Trail, Palm Beach Gardens

August 29: 5:30 pm - St. Ignatius Chapel indoor service

### **Corner of Military Trail and Holly Road:**

August 29: 6 pm - Silent outdoor prayer vigil for Mr. Cole, his wife his son, and the victims.

**Diocese of Venice:**

**Contact:** Jeanne Berdeaux at [berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org) or Karen Schwarz at [schwarz@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:schwarz@dioceseofvenice.org)

**San Pedro Church**  
14380 Tamiami Trail  
North Port  
August 28: 5:30 PM

**Sacred Heart Mary Chapel**  
211 W Charlotte Ave.  
Punta Gorda  
August 28: 5:30 PM

**Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee:**

**Contact:** Aida Bone at [bonea@ptdiocese.org](mailto:bonea@ptdiocese.org) or Luisa Derreza at [derrezal@ptdiocese.org](mailto:derrezal@ptdiocese.org).

**Good Shepherd Catholic Church**  
4665 Thomasville Road, Tallahassee, 32309  
August 29: 8:00 am **EST** Mass and 8:45 am **EST** prayer service

**Our Lady of Victory**  
550 Adams Drive  
Crestview 32536  
August 28 at 6:00 pm **CT**  
Mass, Adoration, and Confession

**Diocese of St. Augustine:**

**Contact:** Maureen Shilkunas at [mshilkunas@dosaf1.com](mailto:mshilkunas@dosaf1.com)

**Holy Faith Catholic Church**  
747 NW 43<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Gainesville, 32607  
August 29: 5-6:30 pm: Prayer vigil in the church

**St Francis of Assisi**  
Catholic Mission Church  
86000 Saint Francis Way  
Yulee, 32097  
August 29: 9 am Mass followed by an hour of Adoration and Prayer Vigil.

### **Diocese of Orlando:**

**Contact:** Leidy Rivas at [livas@cflcc.org](mailto:livas@cflcc.org), or Paulina Palacio at [CultureOfLife@cflcc.org](mailto:CultureOfLife@cflcc.org).

Busses will pick up passengers at Daytona Beach, Ormond Beach, and Palm Coast (pickup locations and times listed below) and transport them to the [Federal State Prison](#) in Raiford, FL. There, they hold a prayer vigil outdoors in a field across from the prison on the day of the execution.

#### **Daytona Beach Bus to Prison Vigil**

**Thursday, August 29, 1:30 pm**

Contact: Our Lady of Lourdes, 386-255-0433

- 1:30 pm, Bus to FSP leaves [Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 201 University Blvd., Daytona Beach, FL 32118](#)
- 2:00 pm, Bus pick up at [Destination Daytona, 1637 US Hwy 1, Ormond Beach, FL](#)
- 2:30 pm, Bus pick up at [Winn Dixie, SR 100 and Old Kings Rd, Palm Coast, FL](#)

### **Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty**

**Contact:** Maria DeLiberato at [info@fadp.org](mailto:info@fadp.org)

#### **Florida State Prison**

Thursday, August 29, 5:00 pm

Join Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (FADP) and allies from across the state at 5:00 pm on August 29 for a vigil and peaceful protest ahead of the scheduled execution of Loran Cole. Gather in the designated area across the Highway from the Death Chamber at Florida State Prison. The execution is scheduled for 6:00 pm. Signs are encouraged. [23916 NW 83rd Ave, Raiford, FL 32026](#)

#### **Virtual Vigil**

Thursday, August 29, 5:00 pm

##### **Registration Link**

Join Death Penalty Action and Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty for a live, informative, and prayerful online vigil beginning at 5 pm ET. We'll check in with live on-the-ground vigils at the prison, and we'll continue until the execution is either stayed or completed. Register here to be a part of the live audience, or watch on the Death Penalty Action Facebook Page. [bit.ly/LoranColeVV](https://bit.ly/LoranColeVV)

#### **Fort Lauderdale**

**Contact:** Steve Jens-Rochow, [stevejensrochow@gmail.com](mailto:stevejensrochow@gmail.com)

Thursday, August 29, 4:30 pm

[Federal Courthouse at the Northwest corner of NE 3rd Ave and East Broward Blvd. in downtown Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.](#) Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty will have a vigil protesting the execution of Loran Cole at 4:30 pm on Thursday, August 29, 2024. Signs will be provided.

## **Tallahassee Citizens Against the Death Penalty**

There will be a candlelight Vigil in front of the Governor's mansion on Thursday, August 29 at the time of the execution – 6 p.m. Fencing and metal barricades have been placed around the outside perimeter of the mansion. The Vigil will take place outside the perimeter in the small parking area that faces the mansion.

### **Tallahassee Vigil**

Thursday, August 29, 6:00 pm

Governor's Mansion

**[700 N. Adams St., Tallahassee, FL 32303](#)**

**[TCADP Facebook Group](#)**

If the execution takes place, we will hold a Service of Remembrance for Loran Cole and victim, John Edwards at 12 noon at the Capitol Rotunda. Please join us to remember Mr. Cole and Mr. Edwards and to show your support to end the death penalty in Florida

### **Service of Remembrance**

Friday, August 30, 12:00 pm

Capitol Rotunda

**[400 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32399](#)**

**[TCADP Facebook Group](#)**