



Church of Saint Mary

One Faith, One Family, One Spirit

Office of the Religious Education

Deacon David J. Kolesky, Clergy Representative

Kathleen Wasniewski, Coordinator, Religious

Education, Principal of PREP

Donna Forsyth, Administration Assistant

Blessed are the children of God!



March 7, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our parish, in compliance with the *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*, has ongoing training sessions available for staff and volunteers, in which parents and guardians are invited to participate. This year posted for your review, are the lesson plans and a brochure explaining about the program. We also have "***Protecting God's Children: A Guide for Parents, Guardians and Other Caring Adults***" available to you on the following website to assist you in working with your children.

<http://archphila.org/catechetical/resources/lessons.htm>

www.churchofsaintmary.org

- click Religious Education -
- click PREP select Protecting God's Children/Keeping God's Children safe"

As part of our responsibility under the charter we will offer the "*Keeping God's Children safe*" lessons to your children once during this academic year. Monday, April 11th, Tuesday April 12th, and Sunday April 10th, we will present an age appropriate lesson at the beginning of your child's class time. The lesson reinforces the three key rules: say no, run away, tell a safe adult. This will be the only lesson presented to your child this year.

Parents are the most effective teachers of their children because they teach 24/7 and are continuously reinforcing what is important. The lesson that the catechists will teach presupposes that you continue to discuss these safety issues with your children.

Thank you for your kind cooperation in helping us adhere to the bishops' mandate to present these lessons which empower our children to be less vulnerable to perpetrators anywhere in our society.

Please take time to view the documents on the above websites which will help you understand what will be taught in your child's classroom.

In Jesus' Love,

Mrs. Kathleen Wasniewski
Coordinator of Parish Religious Education Programs