



Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church

One Faith, One Family, One Spirit

Office of Religious Education
Mary Goudsward, Religious Education Coordinator, Principal of PREP

October 31, 2022

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://phillyocf.org/safe-environment/>

www.churchofsaintmary.org – Go to > Religious Education > Protecting God's Children

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, February 6th and Tuesday February 7th, 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.

God Bless,

Mary Goudsward
Religious Education Coordinator, Principal of PREP