

DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
Called to Protect of Young Children
Called to Protect for Youth
Safe Environment Program
St. Mary's Catholic Parish

Please inform us of your intention regarding the program for your child(ren) below:

Student Name _____

Yes, my child/teen will participate in a safe environment (child self-protection) program for children/youth on Sunday, November 5 (grades K-6) and/or Wednesday, November 8, 2017 (grades 7-12)

No, my child/teen **will not** participate in a safe environment (child self-protection) program for children/youth. I will keep my child/teen at home on Sunday, November 5 and/or Wednesday, November 8, 2017

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Student Name _____

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I understand that if I keep my children home on the day the Called to Protect class is offered, my children will not be able to volunteer in any capacity at St. Mary's until the class is offered again in the Fall of 2018.

Parent Name _____

Please Print

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Please return this form to the Religious Education Office in the Pastoral Center. Thank you!

St. Mary's Church

605 North Weaver Street
GAINESVILLE, TEXAS 76240

May 3, 2017

Dear Parents:

Our Catholic tradition has always affirmed the dignity of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God. Every person with whom we come in contact deserves to be seen by us with the eyes of God. We know that ministry with children and youth, in particular, is a sacred trust. We at St. Mary Catholic Church are committed to preserve, at all times and in all places, this sacred trust which is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ.

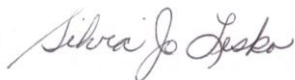
In 2002, the United States Bishops approved *The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People* in an effort to protect children and youth from sexual abuse at all levels of church life and to restore trust in a Church scarred by the scandal of clergy sexual abuse. Article 12 of the *Charter* directs all dioceses to create programs and processes to teach children and youth about sexual abuse and its prevention. In the Diocese of Fort Worth, this program will be integrated into the religious education classes each year in all parishes. This year, St. Mary's will offer the classes on Sunday, November 5 to all children enrolled in FSR grades K-6, and on Wednesday, November 8 for all youth enrolled in Youth Ministry, grades 7-12.

Please complete the attached form and return it to the Religious Education Office, especially if you do not wish your child to participate in this class on the self-protection program. If you have checked the "no" box on the form, your child will have an excused absence from the Called to Protect Lesson that week; but a parent must come to FSR to pick up the monthly packet. If you do not return the form, and bring your child to class on November 5 and/or November 8, it is assumed that you have given permission for your child to attend the class.

Parents are invited to preview the lessons that will be presented to the children and youth. Please contact the Religious Education Office to set up a time to preview the materials in the RE Office. You are also welcome to observe the lesson in your child's classroom on November 5 and/or November 8.

We thank you for your support and interest as we partner to give our children the safest possible environment to grow in faith, in our parishes, in our homes and in our communities.

Sincerely in Christ,



Silvia Jo Lesko, M.T.S.
Director of Religious Education