

December 2008

Dear Parents,

Pax Christi Catholic Community takes seriously the responsibility it has to join you in your primary role, along with significant efforts in schools, scouts, sports, etc., to keep children safe and to equip them with the tools to help them learn and grow. All staff and volunteers must pass a parish-paid background check, complete Virtus training on preventing abuse and exploitation, and follow a volunteer code of conduct.

My purpose in writing is to share the details of our parish efforts to promote safe environment practices for your children in support of your role as parents and in compliance with the Protection of Children and Youth Initiative of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

**Sessions and activities are scheduled to take place on Sunday, January 25, 2009 from 6:30-7:45pm and Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 3:30, 5:00 and 6:30pm.** Classroom, Good Shepherd and Jr. and Sr. high should attend at their regularly scheduled day/time. The Safety Fair will also be open for Good Shepherd and Sunday School on Saturday, January 24 from 9-10:15 am and Sunday January 25 during the 9:30 and 11:00 am masses. House Church and Home Study participants are expected to attend any of the above listed sessions. **At least one parent s must attend the Safety Fair with their child 4<sup>th</sup> grade and younger.** Parents are welcome at all other sessions.

- **For children ages 3 through fourth-grade** a Safety Fair has been organized to provide a fun and educational series of activities for age appropriate learning about safe environment.
- **Children in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade** will have a separate session from the “Out of Harms Way” curriculum. The topic will focus on *Self Respect and Personal Power*.
  - Please report to your child’s usual room, check in with their catechist and then proceed to Nazareth Hall (age 3-4<sup>th</sup> grade) or the Lighthouse (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders). If you are involved in House Church or Home Study, please check in at the Nazareth Hall entrance near door #5.
  - Staff and catechists will be present to assist you and answer questions. The Nursery will be available for children younger than 3 on Sunday and Wednesday afternoon and evening times.

[Please note that jr. and sr. high sessions are on Sunday or Wednesday but only at the 6:30pm.]

- **Youth in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade** will focus on *Boundary Building: The Right to Say No* also from the “Out of Harm’s Way” curriculum.
- **High school youth in grades 9-12** will use small group discussion and the video “*Breaking the Silence*” which deals with child sex abuse.

Your help in taking this as seriously as it deserves will benefit the whole community. If you know you will miss your usual time, please come to one of the other scheduled times. Full participation is our expectation. We hope you will assist in this goal.

I will be available on Sunday, January 11 at 6:30pm and Wednesday, January 14 at 3:30 and 5:00pm in the Mother Teresa Room near door #3 for you to preview the materials and/or to answers questions about our plans to help provide a safe environment of all children and youth.

Thank you for participating in faith formation ministries. When staff, catechists, your children and youth, you and your whole household join in this effort, we all grow in our faith and the love of Christ is made known in the world around us.

Blessed Christmas to you and yours,

Michael P. Griffin  
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