

**St. Monica Parish**  
4408 South Westnedge Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49008  
269-345-4389

To: Parents of all Religious Education Students—Grades 1- 5

From: St. Monica Parish Religious Education

Subject: Touching Safety Program

Date: September, 2020

St. Monica Parish Religious Education Program will be presenting a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Touching Safety* program, to our 1 – 5 grade students. These optional classes will be offered on both Sunday, November 15, 2020 and Sunday, March 7, 2021. On both Sundays, the children will attend their regular CCD classes from 1:15 – 2:30 p.m., as usual. The Touching Safety program will be during the first part of our class period. After Touching Safety portion of the evening, the students will have regular religious education instruction. Parents may then pick-up their students at the 2:30 p.m. dismissal time from their usual classrooms.

The creators of the *Protecting God's Children* program developed the *Touching Safety* program. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Kalamazoo, and is part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from potential sexual abuse.

The scheduled lessons are being offered to all students at St. Monica's Religious Education program. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. If you have further questions about the program's content, we encourage you to read the Touching Safety Guide, available by asking Anne Fackler for a copy. For additional information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the VIRTUS online website at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

Please take a few minutes now at CCD registration to complete the following permission form for our Touching Safety Program. Thank you.

Please note: If you choose to opt-out of the Touching Safety program, your child will be taken to a classroom with the other children opting-out. They will recite the Divine Mercy Chaplet and receive adult supervision until they return to their regular class. At 2:30 p.m., all Opt-out children may be picked up from their regular classrooms as usual. To ensure the safety and location of all children, if you choose to Opt-Out of the Touching Safety Program, we ask that you still attend CCD from 1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Change your Mind?--If at any time you wish to change your choice about your child attending or opting-out of the Touching Safety program, that is just fine. However, all changes must be done with an official opt-out form with Anne Fackler, personally. No requests verbal or in writing will be honored if done with your child's teacher. Thank you for your cooperation!

**St. Monica Parish**  
Religious Education Program  
Kalamazoo, MI

**Touching Safety Permission Form**  
for children grades 1-5.

**Please be sure to fill out this form completely.**

St. Monica's Religious Education Program **does not** have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program to my child whose name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_



St. Monica's Religious Education Program **does** have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program to my child whose name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent's Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_