

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

To: Parents of all Religious Education Students—Grades 6, 7 & 8

From: St. Monica Parish Religious Education

Subject: Touching Safety Program

Date: September 17, 2020

St. Monica Parish Religious Education Program will be presenting a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Touching Safety* program, to our 6 grade students. This optional class will be offered on Sunday, January 31, 2021. On that Sunday, the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taught in their individual classrooms as usual. However, at 2:20 p.m., the Touching Safety Program will be taught for 50 minutes. The boys and girls will be taught separately. Students who opt-out will remain in their regular classroom and receive religious instruction for the entire class period. Parents may choose to attend Touching Safety with their students if they prefer.

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: Those opting out of the Touching Safety program will remain in the classroom and receive regular class instruction.

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 verbal requests or those written on a plain sheet of paper will be honored. Official opt-out forms will always be available to you at CCD. Thank you for your cooperation!

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

**Touching Safety Permission Form**  
for children grades 6, 7 & 8.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_