

VIRTUS Safe Environment Training

Sunday, September 16 12:30-3:00 PM

Who is required to take the VIRTUS Training?

Any adult who works with children or teens in our parish, including:

- Catechists (regular or substitutes)
- Ministers for Children's Liturgy of the Word
- Parents or other adults who might assist as substitute, "twice a month helper", chaperone, field trip driver or help with food/snacks, special events, photography, children's music ministry, altar servers, etc....even if for just one event!

Why do we suggest all parents take the VIRTUS Training?

- To assure that all the children in our parish are safe.
- VIRTUS Protecting God's Children is the safe environment training recommended by the Diocese of Memphis. It is required for all catechists, teachers, coaches, scout leaders, etc. in all the parishes of West Tennessee, and recommended for all parents and guardians. Parents are the primary ones responsible for ensuring their child's safety, and attending this training is extremely beneficial in understanding how to prevent abuse.
- Our parish religious education program is staffed primarily by volunteers. Throughout the year, we sometimes need parents to step in and help a catechist. In addition, we ask some parents to help as "atrium support staff". These parents sit at a table near the entrances to the atria and help with emergency bathroom trips, band-aid needs, and other unexpected events. In order to adequately staff our children's programs and maintain compliance with the Diocesan plan for our children's safety, we encourage all parents to attend the VIRTUS training.
- This year, the Diocese will be requiring all religious education programs to provide a program for children on "Touching Safety."

What if I cannot attend on September 16?

- The VIRTUS training is offered in parishes all over our Diocese. The program is the same at all locations. Check the diocesan website www.cdom.org. Click on the square "Protecting God's Children"; then click on "VIRTUS Training Classes in the Diocese of Memphis."