

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

St. Ambrose Catholic Church and School follow the Archdiocese of St. Louis Safe Environment Program (Protecting God's Children). The program is designed to help protect the youth, elderly, and vulnerable adults of our parish and school as they participate in activities within our community. This process also provides a layer of protection against the possibility of false accusations for those adults who are involved in our many ministries. If you have any questions, please call Linda Gambaro (314) 772-1437 or email lgambaro@stambroseonthehill.com.

The purpose of the Safe Environment Program is to create and maintain a Safe Environment for all God's Children. All employees, volunteers, religious, priests, and deacons working in the schools, parishes, and agencies of the Archdiocese of St. Louis are required to support Safe Environment Policy and to comply with all procedures developed to prevent child abuse.

Compliance with the Safe Environment Program requires adults who work or volunteer with or near children to attend a Protecting God's Children workshop, complete a Missouri background check through the Missouri Family Care Safety Registry initially and then every even numbered year the adult is actively working or volunteering, and agree to and sign the Code of Ethical Conduct for Clergy, Employees, and Volunteers working with Minors.

Additional background checks will be required for adults who have resided outside the state of Missouri in the past five years or who are current residents of Illinois or another state.

To register for a Protecting God's Children workshop please visit <http://archstl.org> and click on the Protecting God's Children link on the left side of the page. You will be redirected to the VirtusOnline® site to complete the online registration process. Additional information regarding background checks should be provided at the workshop and/or your parish, school, or agency.

Victims of sexual abuse, in addition to contacting civil authorities, are asked to come forward in order to receive pastoral assistance. Reports of abuse may be made to any Pastor or to:

Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting
Missouri Department of Social Services Children's Division Child
Abuse & Neglect Hotline Number: 1-800-392-3738

For additional information related to reporting incidents of suspected abuse, please refer to the Archdiocese's Policy, Procedures, and Guidelines on Child Abuse and Neglect Reports or contact:

Deacon Phil Hengen
Director, Office of Child and Youth Protection
Archdiocese of Saint Louis
314-792-770

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. I need to take a Protecting God's Children workshop. How do I find one?

A. To see schedules for workshops around the St. Louis area, click the following link.
https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/reg_list.cfm?theme=0

Q. I have attended a Protecting God's Children workshop. What is the next step?

A. If you have not already done so, please register at www.virtusonline.org and complete the Workers Registration form. If you have lived outside of Missouri within the last five years please read the IP rights and complete the IP release. Please return all forms to Linda Gambaro in the St. Ambrose School office. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Linda Gambaro at (314) 772-1437 or email lgambaro@stambroseonthehill.com.

Q. I am a teen who would like to volunteer. What do I need to do?

A. If you are under 18 years old or still in high school, and wish to volunteer at St. Ambrose Church and School, please complete the Code of Ethical Conduct for Youth form, and return it to Linda Gambaro in the school office.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN INFORMATION & FORMS

Code of Ethical Conduct Booklet

<http://archstl.org/files/field-file/Code%20of%20Ethical%20Conduct%202014%20Current.pdf>

Virtus Registration Instructions

<https://www.virtus.org/facilitators/VIRTUSregistration.pdf>

Worker Registration Form

http://archstl.org/files/field-file/reformatted2011WorkerRegistration_1.pdf

Code of Ethical Conduct for Youth

<http://archstl.org/files/field-file/2013codeforyouth.pdf>