

Saint Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church

The First Catholic Parish in the southeastern United States · Established 1789

TO: Parents

FROM: Saint Mary of the Annunciation

SUBJECT: Prevention Education Notice / Opt-Out Form

Date: August 2023

Saint Mary of the Annunciation will present a sexual abuse prevention program provided by the Diocese of Charleston entitled 'Empowering God's Children – Teaching Safety.' It will be presented to our students after Faith Formation class on **November 5, 2023**, with a make-up date of **November 12, 2023**. This program is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain safe environments for all children and youth in our care.

It is important to note that this is basic prevention education and is in no way to be considered sex education or education on private body parts. Neither of these components fall within our educational mandate to provide your child with the information needed to keep them safe from those who would do them harm.

As parents, you have the right to choose whether your student participates in the program. Students will be separated into different groups by age and will be presented with an age-appropriate lesson. We encourage you to read about this program at <https://www.virtusonline.org/virtus/touchingsafetyprogram.cfm>.

If you wish to opt your child out of the prevention education session, please complete the form at the bottom of this page and return it to your child's teacher no later than November 5, 2023.

Opt-out form for use with Empowering God's Children – Teaching Safety program:

St Mary of the Annunciation does not have my permission to present the Empowering God's Children – Teaching Safety program to my child/children:

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |

Parent's Name (printed) _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date: _____