

# ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

May 4, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In an effort to assist in the monumental mission of protecting children from abuse, St. James Cathedral is partnering with you to present a safe environment lesson to your youth within their youth program. It is our cherished role as adults to fully protect children. In addition, we must also teach children about their safety rights and boundaries, so that they have tools to protect themselves.

This school year, your child will be presented with a program entitled Empowering God's Children, in which Lesson Leaders present a safety lesson to children that houses a grade-appropriate video component along with other activities. The material is designed to better equip your child to know their rights, recognize their boundaries, and to empower them to protect themselves when safe adults are not immediately available—and ultimately be safer from people who might want to harm them. Youth will participate within a lesson based of the following curriculum:  
<https://archseattle.org/for-parishes/safe-environment/safe-environment-parish-faith-formation-and-youth-ministry-educators/>

Children/Youth will be grouped as follows:

Grades K through 2 (May 23)  
Grades 3 & 4 & RCIA (May 23)  
Grades 5 & 6 (May 23)  
Middle School Confirmation (May 23)  
Faith Mentors (May 23)  
High School Confirmation (May 25)

As the primary educators of your children, parents and guardians are encouraged to review these materials ahead of time and discuss the information at home. If you have ever thought about how to empower children to protect themselves, fortify their boundaries or increase their safety through in-person and online situations, then reviewing the lessons on your own to both begin and reiterate the message at home is the best next step to take.

Thank you for your partnership with us to protect youth.

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Date(s) of in-program training: May 23, 2021

Makeup training dates: n/a

For questions, or to obtain access to the specific lesson and related activities, please communicate with:

Jennifer Wong, Interim Director Children's Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation, 206-661-5094 or [jwong@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:jwong@stjames-cathedral.org)

For questions regarding the Virtus Safe Environment Program: Please contact the St. James Cathedral Safe Environment Coordinator, Micki-Jo Palmer at 206-654-4650 or [mpalmer@stjames-cathedral.org](mailto:mpalmer@stjames-cathedral.org).

Please note: You also have the ability to "opt" the youth out of the formal in-program safety lesson if you only plan to provide safe environment education at home. Please complete, detach and submit the form below if you do not want your child to receive safe environment information via their youth program about ways to protect themselves. Your coordinator will reach out to you regarding relevant protocol, i.e., child separation from others during lesson, alternative activities, etc.

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TO OPT-OUT THE CHILD FROM THE SAFETY LESSON, RETURN THIS TO:

Jennifer Wong, St. James Cathedral, BY (Date) May 21, 2021.

I, (printed name of parent or guardian) \_\_\_\_\_, have reviewed the safety lessons and DO NOT give my permission for this location to present the Empowering God's Children Safety Lesson to my child (printed name of child)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_