

Sacred Heart Parish Safe Environment Policy

August 1, 2015

Children are God's greatest gift. Sacred Heart Parish is committed to creating safe environments to all children in our parish and schools. It is a necessary part of what we do.

Adults are responsible for protecting children, for creating safe environments for them to be in. Volunteers and employees of Sacred Heart Parish and School who have any involvement with children must attend a Safe Environment Training Session. Beginning January 1, 2016, in order to participate in parish and/or school activities, or be in your child's classroom you must attend a "**Protecting God's Children**" training class. The session is approximately two hours and will be provided on several dates before January 1st.

The VIRTUS™ program, "**Protecting God's Children**," is used to train employees and volunteers. The session covers the scope and nature of child sexual abuse. It gives five specific steps adults can take to protect children. Before the Protecting God's Children session, you will need to register with the VIRTUS Program. Registration instructions are on the back.

The classes will be located at the Parish Life Center on the following dates;

Tuesday, September 8, 2015 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24, 2015 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 3, 2015 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 15, 2015 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Monday, October 26, 2015 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 10, 2015 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 5, 2015 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Children **may not** be present at the sessions. Child care **will not** be provided.

Please contact Alejandro Barquero at abarquero1@yahoo.com or Lynette Villarreal at lvillarreal@shshattiesburg.com with any questions about the safe environment training sessions.