

## Important Announcement for Middle School Families

In teaching our youth about our Catholic Faith, we have been called to a ministry that embodies the mission of Christ in caring for our youth and caring for one another. We have not only been called to teach our youth about our Catholic faith, but to do so in a space that is safe and allows our youth to form a relationship with God.

The Archdiocese of Seattle is taking this opportunity to educate our youth and give them the tools they need to protect themselves from those who may harm them. Keeping our minors and vulnerable adult's safe starts with you.

**On February 22, Holy Redeemer will deliver one sexual abuse prevention course to your youth.** Please understand that your child is being given a lesson about sexual abuse prevention, not sex education. While these topics do have similar names, they are completely different subject matter. Sexual abuse prevention courses teach and give our youth the tools they need to protect themselves from those who may try to harm them. Sex Education is curriculum designed to examine issues relating to human sexuality, including relations, responsibility, sexual anatomy, sexual activity, reproduction, etc.

To help you understand what your youth will be offered, we ask you to visit: <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/faithformation.aspx>. This will provide you with "Parent/ Guardian Resources," to inform you about the curriculum being used while also making available the actual lessons.

**As the guardian, you have the right to opt your child/youth out of this lesson.** You may do this by filling out the form on the back side of this form. You will need to return this form with the Faith Formation Office.

**TO: Parents**

**FROM: Holy Redeemer Catholic Church**

**SUBJECT: Opportunity to “opt your child out” of the *Touching Safety* program**

**DATE: February 1, 2017**

Holy Redeemer will present a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Touching Safety* program, to our students on February 22, 2017. The creators of the *Protecting God’s Children*™ program developed the *Touching Safety* program. This program is provided to us by the Archdiocese of Seattle, and is a part of our ongoing effort to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

The scheduled lesson is being offered to all students at Holy Redeemer. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your student participates. We encourage you to read the attached “overview” and “lesson plan” so you’ll be aware of the nature of the *Touching Safety* program. If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact Mark MacKenzie at 360-885-7780. If you determine that you DO NOT want your child to participate, please complete the “opt-out” form at the bottom of this page, and return it to your child’s teacher no later than February 22, 2017.

For more information on the *Touching Safety* program, visit the VIRTUS *Online*™ website at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org).

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**Opt-out form for use with the *Touching Safety* program:**

Holy Redeemer does not have my permission to present the *Touching Safety* program, to my child whose name is \_\_\_\_\_.

Parent’s name (printed): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_