

Dear Family:

This past Wednesday evening, Archbishop Carlson informed the priests of the Archdiocese that a list of clergy in the Archdiocese with substantiated allegations of child sexual abuse would be published this weekend. I am sorry that I am not able to be with you this weekend due to previously planned travel.

First, I want to say I am sorry. I am sorry that such grave sins have been committed by members of the clergy. I am sorry for the pain this has caused both the victims of abuse and many Catholics whose trust in our shepherds and our Church has been shaken. I am sorry that the necessary process of ensuring transparency may have opened wounds for those in need of healing. I share many of the feelings you have of sadness, pain, and anger.

Second, I would like to assure you that both the Archdiocese of St. Louis and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have taken tremendous steps to prevent abuse as well as to ensure an independent, thorough, investigative process is followed when suspected abuse is reported. You may remember the 2002 USCCB implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, also referred to as the Dallas Charter. This protocol for reconciliation, healing, accountability, and prevention of future acts of abuse has been revised in 2005, 2011, and as recently as 2018.

Should you have any questions, wish to discuss this matter, or need further information, please contact the rectory or visit the resources below. I will be away for the next week, but am happy to speak with you after my return to address any concerns you may have. Archbishop Carlson will be releasing a video to address this topic. I have asked the parish staff to post it to our website as soon as possible.

Please know of my constant prayers for you and the people of our parish. I ask that you join me in praying for the victims of clergy sexual abuse, all in need of healing, and that God's justice and mercy will lead us through this time as a Church family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Christopher J. Dunlap". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr. Chris Dunlap, Pastor, Christ Prince of Peace Parish

To report any suspicion of abuse by any Church personnel please contact local law enforcement, or call the Missouri Department of Social Services Child Abuse Neglect Hotline Number: 1-800-392-3738. In addition, anyone who has knowledge of sexual abuse or misconduct by a member of the clergy, an employee or volunteer of the Archdiocese of Saint Louis is urged to call the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 314-792-7704.

For more information on the Archdiocese of St. Louis Promise to Protect (including resources and protocols):
<http://www.archstl.org/promise>

For information on resources here at Christ, Prince of Peace:
<http://www.christprinceofpeace.com/promise>