

TO: Parents of RE Students, Grades 1-8
FROM: Susan McCoy, Coordinator of Religious Education
PARISH or SCHOOL: St. Patrick, Amboy
SUBJECT: Opportunity to “opt your child out” of the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program
DATE: 2020-2021 Religious Education Year

The St. Patrick Religious Education Program is required to offer a sexual abuse prevention program, the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program, to our students. The creators of the *Protecting God’s Children*® program developed the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program. This program is provided to us by the Diocese of Rockford 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 to be offered to all RE students of St. Patrick, Amboy. Due to COVID-19, we are asking parents to train their child(ren) at home by watching a short, age-appropriate video and doing one activity. As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your child participates. We encourage you to read the program Overview so you’ll be aware of the nature of the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program. If you have questions about the program or the lesson, please contact Susan McCoy at susanmccoy60@gmail.com or 815-857-2315. **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 the Parish Office no later than November 18, 2020.**

For more information on the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program, visit the VIRTUS Online™ website at www.virtus.org.

Opt-Out form for use with the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program:

I do not wish to present the *Teaching Safety – Empowering God’s Children* program to my child at home, whose name is _____ . Grade _____

Parent’s name (printed): _____

Parent’s Signature: _____

Date: _____