

The Roman Catholic Community of

Our Lady of Victory

*Mission: Our Lady of the Snow
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Dear Parents:

Our Catholic tradition has always affirmed the dignity of the human person as created in the image and likeness of God. Every person with whom we come in contact deserves to be seen by us with the eyes of God. We know that ministry with children and youth, in particular, is a sacred trust. We at Our Lady of Victory parish are committed to preserve, at all times and in all places, this sacred trust which is rooted in our faith in Jesus Christ.

In 2002, the United States Bishops approved The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in an effort to protect children and youth from sexual abuse at all levels of church life and to restore trust in a Church scarred by the scandal of clergy sexual abuse. Article 12 of the charter directs all dioceses to create programs and processes to teach children and youth about sexual abuse and its prevention. In the Diocese of Albany, this training will take place in all parishes each year **in age-appropriate ways**.

This year the safe environment training will take place for **Gr. 7-10** on **Sunday: September 30** at **6:30-8:00 pm in the Parish Center**. Grace Fay, Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry at Our Lady of Grace Church, Ballston Lake/ St. Joseph's Church, Scotia and Chairperson for the Diocesan Mental Health Committee will present on "Mental Health Awareness". This session will provide relevant information and resources on Mental Health issues for teens and their parents.

On **November 4th** safe environment will take place for **Gr. K-6** during the regular session 10:30-11:45. In light of recent events, we have invited, Deputy Jim Phelps and another Rensselaer County DARE/SRO, to discuss lock down procedures in case of an emergency situation. **Parents are encouraged to attend this session with their children.**

You are always welcome to call 518-274-6269 or email Vici Armsby, Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation @ FaithFormation@olvols.org or Mary Eaton, Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry @ YouthMinistry@olvols.org if you have questions or concerns.

ATTENDANCE is mandatory for this session. Any child who does not make the session will have to make it up.

Please return to Vici or Mary the tear-off at the bottom of this letter ONLY if you choose to OPT your child/youth OUT of the safe environment training. If we do not hear from you by the Parent meeting on September 16th (7-10) or October 1st (k-6) we will assume you give permission for your child/youth to participate in the safe environment training. We look forward to working with you as we partner to give our children/youth the safest possible environment to grow in faith, both in our church and in our homes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Randall P. Patterson
Pastor

Vici Armsby
Pastoral Associate for Faith Formation

Mary Eaton
Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministry

Safe Environment Training for Children and Youth

_____ I request that my child(ren) /youth **NOT** participate in the Safe Environment session on the above mentioned date. I understand that there is no alternative activity for my child(ren) /youth at this time, I will keep them home for this session.

Child(ren)/Youth's Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Address: _____ Date _____