

ANNUNCIATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
OFFICE OF FAITH FORMATION

**TO: Parents of Children in Religious Education Grades 1 and 4**  
**FROM: Elise Rossbach, DRE**  
**SUBJECT: Teaching Our Children to Protect Themselves**  
**DATE: March 8, 2019**

The job of ensuring children's safety is a challenging undertaking. The prevention of child sexual abuse requires more than adult awareness, education, and training about the nature and scope of the problem. We must also give our children the tools they need to overcome the advances of someone who intends to do them harm. The *Teaching Touching Safety* program is a program designed to assist parents and teachers in this important task. The Touching Safety program helps give children the tools they need to protect themselves from those who might harm them.

On Sunday, March 17th, students in our 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade religious education classes will be attending *Teaching Touching Safety*. This program is from the creators of the *Protecting God's Children™*, the program which is required of all parish volunteers and employees who regularly work with children and is part of our ongoing efforts to help create and maintain a safe environment for children and to protect all children from sexual abuse.

As a parent, you have the right to choose whether your child participates. We encourage you to read the attached "overview" so you'll be aware of the nature of the *Touching Safety* program. If you have questions about the program or would like a copy of the actual lesson, please contact me at 973-694-5700. 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 me no later than Friday, March 15th. My email address is [youthministry@abvm-wayne.org](mailto:youthministry@abvm-wayne.org).

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**OPT-OUT FORM FOR TOUCHING SAFETY**

Annunciation Church 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: \_\_\_\_\_