

St. Francis de Sales Church

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Dear Parent,

“Let the children come to me”...is what Jesus said to the disciples when they tried to keep the children from Jesus because He was tired. At another time Jesus tells us, “Unless you become as little children, you cannot get to heaven.” Children are close to the heart of Christ.

*One of the mandates of the charter passed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is that preventive measures be put into place to ensure the safety of our youth. With this mandate in mind, we will implement a **Children and Adolescents Protection Program** in our **PREP** program. The purpose of the program is to help children improve self-reliance, raise self-esteem and master personal safety skills – all while reassuring them that most people are kind, safe and committed to their well-being. Students learn to identify specific signs and behaviors often used by predators.*

The material has been prepared in the light of our faith and according to the morals and teachings of our faith.

We recognize that you may have concerns as to whether or not this material is appropriate for your child and in keeping with your beliefs. With this in mind, we invite you to contact us so we can set up a time that you can come to the church to view the materials.

*On **September 10, 2017**, during regular **PREP** class, we will be implementing the **Children and Adolescents Protection Program**. Please understand that all students will be participating in this phase of **Protecting God’s Children**. If your child should be absent on this date, a make-up session will be available.*

We ask that you continue to place your trust in us as we begin this program working with you and your child in partnership.

Sincerely,

Fr. Edward J. Essig

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Pastor

Mrs. Alison Snyder

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Coordinator of Religious Education