

February 17, 2021



Dear MQP Youth Families,

In teaching our youth about our Catholic Faith, we have been called to a ministry; a ministry that embodies the mission of Christ in caring for our youth and caring for one another. We have not only been called to teach our youth about our Catholic faith but to do so in a space that is a safe, and a space that allows our youth to form a relationship with God.

As a result the Archdiocese of Seattle would like to take this opportunity to educate our youth and give them the tools they need to protect themselves from harm. In creating a safe space for our youth, we can teach and show them the ways of Christ in a safe environment conducive to learning; keeping our minors and vulnerable adults safe starts with you.

On **Thursday, March 4th**, Mary, Queen of Peace in collaboration with other Catholic parishes on the Eastside will offer one sexual abuse prevention course for your middle school and high school aged youth, with the course taking place at **Holy Family Kirkland Parish, 7pm – 7:45pm via zoom. The meeting ID is 950 9331 0221. Passcode: 059003.**

This lesson has been integrated into the religious task and essential concepts taught within Faith Formation as to seem as natural as possible while being most effective for our youth in the context of abuse prevention. Please understand that your child is being given a lesson about sexual abuse prevention, not sex education. While these topics do have similar names, they are completely different subject matter. Sexual abuse prevention courses teach and give our youth the tools they need to protect themselves from those who may try to harm them. Sex Education is curriculum designed to examine issues relating to human sexuality, including relations, responsibility, sexual anatomy, sexual activity, reproduction, etc.

To help you understand what your youth will be offered, we ask you to visit: <http://www.seattlearchdiocese.org/SEP/faithformation.aspx>. This will provide you with “Parent/ Guardian Resources,” to inform you about the curriculum being used while also making available the actual lessons. As the guardian, you have the right to opt your child/youth out of this lesson. Please email youth@mqp.org to either let us know that you will be attending or that you wish to “opt-out” of this session.

Thank you for partnering with us in working to keep our youth safe. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Blessings,

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