

Attention Parents of  
Children in the RE Program

The St. Philip Religious Education  
program needs your help to keep your  
children safe!



Please read the safety Q&A sheet attached to this  
flyer, pray on it, and consider attending:  
~ **Informational Meeting: Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm**  
~ **Training Session: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 6pm**  
both to be held at Hayden Hall (cafeteria).

“And we have this confidence in him, that if we ask  
anything according to his will, he hears us. And if  
we know that he hears us in regard to whatever we  
ask, we know that what we have asked him for is  
ours.”



## **Additional Security Measures for Religious Education (RE)**

Parents,

Many of you have noticed that this year we have enhanced security measures in place. Some parents have expressed concern and some frustration. This notice is to further explain the need, their benefit and what you can do to help.

### **Why do we have enhanced security measures during RE this year? Did something happen?**

There is evil in the world and sometimes that manifests in acts of violence even against children. We have been fortunate in our parish and RE program whereby that has NOT happened here. Unfortunately, that evil has directly affected other churches and schools in our nation. To help better protect the parish and children in our RE program from potential threats, the Diocese mandated enhanced security measures for all its parishes and their RE programs. Those requirements were created with inputs from security experts including local police.

### **Why are all the exterior doors to the church and RE buildings locked from outside access except for the main church entrance?**

One of the noticeable enhanced security measures for our parish is that all exterior doors to the parish buildings are locked from the outside preventing ingress except for the main church entrance which is monitored by Ushers during RE. This enhancement principally restricts unauthorized access to the RE facilities through entrances that are not being actively monitored. The implementation of this particular security practice has caused inconvenience to some parents due to additional walking time and distance when dropping off and picking up their children from RE when limited to the main church entrance. Given the current constraints, we believe the increased protection offered to the children during RE is the greater priority.

### **Why are the doors to the RE classrooms locked when in session?**

Another enhanced security practice is that each RE classroom is locked for ingress from the hallway. This provides more control to the catechists and their assistants to prevent unauthorized access to their classroom and your children. The implementation of this security practice has caused inconvenience to some parents due to additional waiting time when dropping off their children after the RE session start time and when picking up their children before the RE session end time when limited to the main church entrance. This increased protection offered to the children during RE is more important.

**Could additional doors be made available as entrances for parents to use when dropping off or picking up their kids from RE? That would make it more convenient for some parents.**

Yes. If we had sufficient parent volunteers acting as Guardians to monitor exterior doors during RE sessions, we could offer additional entrance options (e.g. school office / middle entrance) to RE parents as a convenience for them while still retaining the increased security and protection for the RE children. In addition to monitoring exterior doors and opening them when needed, Guardians would be the first to confront intruders should the situation arise. Interested parent volunteers would receive the appropriate Diocesan sponsored training / background checks and participate in scheduling their volunteer service as a Guardian. The more parent volunteers we have as Guardians, the less frequently each parent volunteer would need to act as a Guardian for RE sessions.

**How can I volunteer to be a Guardian for the RE program?**

If you are interested in volunteering to be a Guardian, please contact our priests or the RE office at [stphilip.ccd@gmail.com](mailto:stphilip.ccd@gmail.com).

**I am unable to volunteer as a Guardian. Is there any way I can help with those enhanced security measures during RE?**

Yes. Since these enhanced security measures were put in place to increase the protection we provide your children during their RE session, we appreciate your continued adherence and support with those security measures along with your patience and prayers that our children and children at other parishes in the nation remain safe. Moreover, we ask you to please NOT prop open any exterior doors NOR let others in while you are exiting through those locked exterior doors particularly when they are not actively monitored by a Guardian. Also, if you notice anyone or anything that is suspicious or a security concern to you in the parish or RE facilities, please immediately notify an Usher, a Guardian, the acting DRE, or a parish priest. It takes us all working together to provide a safe and secure environment for our RE children.

**Our students, catechists, assistants, volunteers, and staff appreciate your gifts of prayer. We invite you to join us in prayer for Catholic education:**

**O God, we ask You to help our parish do its work in Your name. Bound by charity to one another, may we be penetrated by an apostolic spirit, which reaches out to all the staff, catechists and volunteers in our RE program, joined in this ministry of Catholic education. We ask You to help them give witness to Christ, the unique teacher, by their lives as well as by their teachings. May all the students and families of our parish follow Your example and be generous, pure, respectful, and sincere and find You the prophet of truth and love, the companion and friend of all, present and active in their lives. Amen.**