

SAINT RITA CHURCH
1006 Saint Rita Highway
Saint Martinville, LA 70582-6315
(337-394-4679)
Pastor: Richard Fabre

June 18, 2018

Dear Parent(s), Parishioners(s), and Student(s):

Welcome to St. Rita's Religious Education Program. We are excited about this new year and hope that you and your child are ready to enter into a relationship with Christ and learn about our Catholic faith.

Information regarding our Religious Education Program, such as registration forms, Parent/Student Handbook, and important dates, can be located at St. Rita Church web address: www.strita-church.org.

As part of the Diocesan Policy in order to protect all of our children, all teachers must participate in a Safe-Environment Seminar. St. Rita Church provides education resources for children, clergy, and laity (employees and volunteers) in the prevention of and recognition of child abuse. If you are interested in participating in a Safe-Environment Seminar, please contact me at the number below.

Students in grades K-11 will participate in a safe-environment activity on the first day of class. Students are required to read a book entitled: "For Pete's Sake—Tell." This book is about a storybook animation character, Peter Mouse. His experience helps children become alert and assertive when personality is at stake. This book will be reviewed and discussed at the beginning of the first religion class period. All parents are welcome to join us as we view this book. As you recall, you have an option to allow or not allow your child to participate in this activity as indicated on the registration form. If you choose not to allow your child to participate in the safe-environment program, I must have a letter from you indicating how you shared safe environment strategies with your child. This letter must be signed and dated and given to me on the first day of class.

If you have suffered abuse, it is not your fault. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, there are several things you can do:

- Contact the appropriate law enforcement agency, which can help determine options for making a criminal complaint.
- Contact a local child protection agency, a private attorney, a support group, an abuse hotline, or a mental health professional,
- If your abuse occurred by anyone acting in church service, contact Mr. Joseph Pisano's (337-298-2987) diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, who is available to help victims/survivors obtain support for the needs of the individual, individual's family, or other person affected.

How to Report Abuse:

- If suspected abuse is by a parent or caretaker, call 855-4LA-KIDS (855-452-5437)
- If suspected abuse is by someone other than parent or caretaker, call your local law enforcement agency

Should you have any questions about the Religious Education Program or the procedures, please call me at 394-4030.

In Christ,

Ray Latiolais

Ray Latiolais
Director of Religious Education/Safe Environment
St. Rita Church