

Safe Environment Program

As we continue to grow as a parish and with many of the ministries looking for volunteers, I thought this would be a good time to explain a little bit more about what the Safe Environment Program is and what's needed of all volunteers. If you volunteer in any capacity of the parish, you must meet the safe environment criteria outlined by the Diocese. This involves completing several clearances like background checks and online training classes pertaining to abuse.

Jennifer Bunnell
jenniferb@john23.org
724-941-9406, ext. 106

What is Safe Environment?

Being able to provide a safe and secure environment for minors and vulnerable adults in our community. It's also teaching those within the parish who give of their time and talents a clear understanding of their roles and boundaries when it comes to engaging with children, youth, and vulnerable adults.

Why is it important?

As Christian adults, we have a moral and legal responsibility and are entrusted by God with the spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being of minors and vulnerable adults. As they participate in activities within or sponsored by our Diocese, it is our responsibility and commitment to provide an environment which is safe and nurturing.

Who else requires clearances like these?

Clearances and background checks are required in many other fields besides parish life – education, athletics, healthcare, and law enforcement to name a few. This requirement does not just come from our parish or the Diocese of Pittsburgh but rather from the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) and the Vatican itself.

Who needs clearances?

Anyone 18 or older who is volunteering in any capacity of the parish

Next week, I will be explaining the different types of clearances needed for all volunteers.

If you have any questions or need help obtaining your clearances, please contact Jennifer Bunnell at jenniferb@john23.org or 724-941-9406 ext 106.