

SAFEGUARD THE CHILDREN

THINGS TO KNOW

- Safeguard the Children is a nationwide Catholic initiative implemented by the United States Catholic Bishops Conference in 2002. It requires all Catholic parishes and schools to fully implement Article 12 of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, adopted by the USCBB to ensure protection of all children, young people, and the elderly.
- All parishioner volunteers, school parents, clergy, and staff are required to be **VIRTUS certified**. There are 2 modules for this: new certification (for those taking VIRTUS for the first time) and renewal (for those with an expired VIRTUS certificate. Certificates expire every 4 years). Volunteers, staff, clergy, and all other volunteers are required to present their certificate within the **FIRST 60 DAYS** of their start to volunteer at OLG. If you are a volunteer in our parish or would like to volunteer but need to be VIRTUS certified--->[Click here to view upcoming VIRTUS classes near you.](#)
- Parish volunteers and parents in Family Faith Formation are required to turn in a copy of their VIRTUS certificate (or recertification) to the parish office.
- Parish volunteers that are involved in a ministry and staff are required to be fingerprinted with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. A copy of this record must also be turned in to the Parish Office. Fingerprinting is done once in your lifetime and it only applies to the activities done within the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and its jurisdiction. Fingerprinting done outside of the ADLA jurisdiction does not substitute the fulfillment of this requirement. [Click here to view upcoming ADLA fingerprinting sessions near you \(select view calendars\)](#)
- [Resources to available about Safeguard the Children](#)
- [Archdiocesan's webpage on reporting child abuse](#)

To report any suspicious sexual harassment or abusive behavior from clergy, staff, or adult volunteers, please contact:

Dr. Heather Banis- Victims Assistance Ministry Coordinator

(213) 637-7650 | hbais@la-archdiocese.org