

Protecting God's Children Policy

- All parents volunteering to work with the Youth Group, including as drivers for our trips, **MUST** hold current certification through the “Protecting God’s Children” program.
- The PGC certification is valid for five years, at which point you’ll need to re-certify.
- There are three components to the PGC program:
 - Course certification (initial – Protecting God’s Children, re-certification – Keeping the Promise Alive)
 - Authorizing a background check (which needs to be updated every 5 years).
 - Completing the volunteer application and returning it to the Parish Office, along with your course certificate.
- **We ask that at least one parent of each Youth Group member to hold current certification, as the fall trips cannot happen without the assistance of parent drivers.**
 - Each trip requires approximately 10-15 parent drivers, thus requiring a minimum of 30-45 trained parents, as the goal is not to have any parent drive for more than one fall trip.
- Parents who opt not to attend the course, or choose to let their certification lapse, will put their child’s position to attend trips in jeopardy, as we have to be fair to the kids whose parents have committed their time to complete the program and assist us.
 - On the morning of each trip, cars will be filled with YG members whose parents have met the training requirement. Should any seats remain, YG kids whose parents did not complete the training will have their names pulled at random to determine who goes on the trip, and who will go home.
- **A PGC course is scheduled at St. Agnes for September 29th at 6:30pm, in conjunction with our YG meeting that night.** Parents attending that course can drop their YG kids off to the meeting early, and we’ll extend the meeting for those kids until the course ends. Younger siblings cannot attend the YG meeting **nor** the course.
 - Advance registration on the Virtus website is required for the PGC course.
 - Many other local parishes will be offering sessions of the PGC course over the next few months.
 - Please see the “PGC Registration Information” page for more information on how to view a full list of course dates as well as how to register online.
- If you have taken the course previously, you should receive monthly articles by email from the Virtus system.
 - By reading the articles and answering the questions that follow them, you’ll stay in good standing with the Virtus program, which will make online re-certification a more likely possibility.
 - If you do not receive the monthly articles via email, but would like to, please contact Larry Boland at lawrence.boland@rcan.org or 973-497-4012 for assistance.
- Recertification can be completed by one of the following methods:
 - Attending the Keeping the Promise Alive re-certification course (approx.. 1-1.5 hours)
 - Registration must be done in advance - either online using your original Virtus login account information, or by contacting Larry Boland.
 - Check the Virtus website for the most up-to-date KPA course offerings.
 - Re-taking the Protecting God’s Children course.
 - Contacting Larry Boland to inquire about online re-certification.

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Protecting God's Children Policy (cont)

The St Agnes PGC procedure is as follows:

- Register on Virtus Online (www.virtus.org) to sign up for the Protecting God's Children workshop, and to complete the background check.
- **All** volunteers must complete a packet which includes a volunteer application and the Archdiocesan Code of Ethics. The packet can be downloaded at www.StAgnesYouthGroup.com/PGCPacket. Printed copies are available upon request.
 - The **original** PGC workshop attendance **certificate** needs to accompany the packet.
 - Completed packets should be sent to the parish office:
St Agnes Church
332 Madison Hill Road
Clark, NJ 07066
Attn: Janine Matthews – PGC

Once the completed paperwork is received and the background screening is completed, you will receive the following for your records:

- A letter of approval resulting from the background screening
- A copy of the certificate of completion for attending the Protecting God's Children workshop.

A re-screening and refresher course are required every five years.

If you need further assistance, contact Janine Matthews at 732-388-7852 ext 1.