



St. Patrick Catholic Church

1357 NE 42nd Terrace • Kansas City, Missouri 64116 • 816-453-5510 • 816-453-4458 FAX

December 20, 2016

Dear St. Patrick School Family,

Today I must share difficult news with you. [REDACTED], a St. Patrick's parishioner, has been asked and has agreed not to return to the parish, and not to visit any other property owned or operated by the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph, its parishes or schools. This decision was made following careful consideration by our parish, school and diocesan leaders, including the Office of Child and Youth Protection.

In the course of [REDACTED] involvement at St. Patrick's, concerns were raised about his interactions with children. The parish staff has been working with him to establish clear and appropriate boundaries, including a written agreement for safe boundaries. Sadly, this has proved to be ineffective.

Because the safety of children is a top priority for our parish and Diocese, inappropriate interaction with minors cannot and will not be tolerated. To be clear, although safe boundaries were violated, there have been no reports or allegations of criminal behavior by [REDACTED].

In sharing this information, I encourage parents and guardians to take this opportunity to have age appropriate visits with your children about safety. Some resources to assist you with such conversations are available at:

<https://www.faithandsafety.org/cell-phones-and-kids>

<https://kcsj catholic.org/the-office-of-child-and-youth-protection/resources-2/>

I ask that you hold [REDACTED] in your prayers and avoid gossip or speculation. Please join me in calling on the healing power of God's love. We will continue to do everything we can to ensure a safe and secure environment for all of the children in our care.

In Christ,

Fr. Robert H. Stewart
Pastor

Diocesan reporting policy: if anyone suspects child abuse, report it to the Missouri Child Abuse hotline at 1.800.392.3738. If the child is in immediate danger, call 911. Finally, if the suspected abuser works or volunteers for the Church, please contact Ombudsman Jenifer Valenti at 816.812.2500.