

## **Saint Catherine of Siena Religious Education**

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Dear Parents,

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Hartford is presenting a program that can help protect the safety and well being of your children. This program, called **Child Lures Prevention** is an in depth safety program which has been incorporated into our religious education curriculum for children in Grades K – 8 for the past 10 years. All Child Lures session will take place in the HJMS cafeteria during class time. Parents of K-2 should also attend this session along with their class.

The Child Lures Program aims to prevent sexual exploitation, abduction, internet crime, drugs and school violence, all which continue to be a problem in America today. Many of these crimes are preventable. By giving children the tools that enable them to recognize and avoid potentially dangerous situations and people, we give them a better chance of growing up into happy, healthy and productive adults.

This year, I will present the program for K, 1, 2 on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>. All materials used will be age appropriate for 5, 6 and 7 year-olds. For any prevention program to be truly successful and effective, we must enlist the support and cooperation of the parents. The importance of parental involvement in prevention education cannot be overstated. Therefore, I am also asking you to be present with your child/children when this program is presented to this age group.

Grades 3 & 4 session will be on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, Grades 5 & 6 on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> and Grades 7 & 8 on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcomed but not obligated to attend these sessions.

In keeping with the Church's commitment to provide a safe environment for our children, all Catholic churches in the Archdiocese of Hartford, and Bridgeport, among many others across the country, have implemented this program in our Catholic elementary schools and religious education programs. It has been endorsed by the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Secondary School Principals. I was trained as a facilitator for Child Lures by its creator, Ken Wooden, and will be presenting the program to you and your children.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Kathi Bonner  
Director of Religious Education