

Decree on Child Protection

Good Shepherd Church and the entire Catholic Church view children as one of the most precious gifts of our society. One way the Catholic Church strives to protect children is through the Decree on Child Protection.

The main purpose of this Decree is to protect children. All paid staff members and regular volunteers who regularly work with children are required by the Decree to:

- (1.) Attend a workshop and watch a videotape to familiarize themselves with the policies of the Decree
- (2.) Submit to a fingerprinting background check (an additional FBI background check is required if you have lived in the state of Ohio for less than 5 years)

According to the Decree on Child Protection, a “regular volunteer” is defined as any adult (eighteen years or older) serving as a catechist, scout leader, coach, adult helper, babysitter, etc. who functions in a regular, significant relationship with children. This involves either 3 hours a month or more than 1 time per month.

To attend a workshop on the Decree, contact the Education Department of the parish, and they will provide you with more details regarding this.

To be fingerprinted, simply go to one of the locations listed here on our parish website under the “locations” link. The fingerprinting process takes approximately 5 minutes. A valid identification, such as a driver’s license, is needed. Our parish will pay for the cost of the background check, but donations will be accepted to offset these expenses.

Only those people who have fulfilled these requirements of the Decree on Child Protection are permitted to work with children. No exceptions will be made to this. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of the Decree on Child Protection, please contact the parish office at 489-8815.