



Archdiocese of Atlanta &  
Christ the King School



**VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children (PGC)**  
Mandatory\* NEW Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training

### Why?

The Archdiocese does not tolerate abuse or neglect of anyone. It will comply with all obligations of civil and Canon Law; promoting healing where it is needed, provide education, training and guidance when it is appropriate, and endeavor to prevent any abuse of minors or vulnerable adults with firm justice and mercy towards all. The Archdiocese of Atlanta has implemented a nationally recognized program of preventing child sexual abuse as part of its commitment to and compliance with the [Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People](#) and the *Essential Norms for Diocesan/Eparchial Policies Dealing with Allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors by Priests or Deacons*. In 2003, these U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops documents became effective for all dioceses in the United States.

### What?

*VIRTUS - Protecting God's Children (PGC)* is a 3 hour live sexual abuse prevention awareness session which consists of many components. The education component helps prevent child sexual abuse by first making attendees aware of the issues surrounding child sexual abuse and the ways that sexual abuse harms its victims, their families, the parish, and the community. The awareness session also helps adults learn to recognize the warning signs of abuse and shows them the appropriate way to respond to suspicious behavior. Finally, the awareness session empowers each person with five steps to help prevent child sexual abuse. Attendees will gain a sense of empowerment and healing in knowing that children are being protected by the safety net created by our parish community.

### Who must attend?

All clergy and employees are required to attend a *VIRTUS Protecting God's Children (PGC)* session before they begin paid work for the Archdiocese of Atlanta or within 60 days of their scheduled start date.\* Furthermore, all volunteers who regularly interact/work with children and/or vulnerable individuals in our **parish/school/agency**, and those designated by their **parish/school/agency** administration *must* attend. The presentation is intended for mature audiences only - persons under 18 years of age will not be allowed to attend.

\*The 60 day grace period is ONLY applicable for employees and/or volunteers who DO NOT work with children and/or vulnerable adults.

### Who else is invited to attend?

All community members who are interested in protecting children and vulnerable individuals, and creating a safe environment for them may attend. This includes parents, grandparents, volunteers, and professionals in fields interacting with minors. The success of preventing child abuse is based on raising awareness in our entire community.



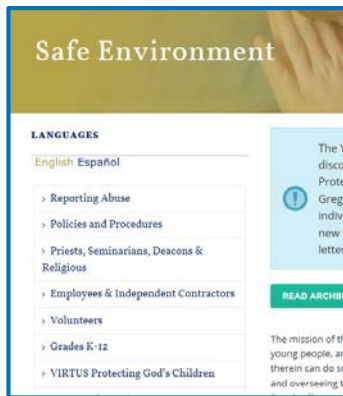
Archdiocese of Atlanta &  
<Parish / school name>



# VIRTUS - Protecting God’s Children (PGC) Mandatory\* NEW Archdiocesan Safe Environment Training

## When & Where?

Dates and locations are frequently being added to the schedule. For an up-to-date listing, go to <http://www.archatl.com/ministries-services/safe-environment/>, click on VIRTUS Protecting God’s Children link located on the left menu, and click on the link “[Find and Available Session Near You](#)” located in the main content of the page.



**WHERE CAN I FIND THE VIRTUS PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN TRAINING SESSION SCHEDULE FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ATLANTA?**

You can review a list with all the available sessions scheduled within the Archdiocese of Atlanta by clicking on the link below. You may attend any session convenient to you as long as it is not listed for a certain group or location exclusively.

[Find an Available Session Near You](#)

Or by simply visiting [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), click on the Registration link on the left panel, click on “View list of Sessions”, and finally selecting “Atlanta, GA (Archdiocese).” If you do not have internet access, contact your [parish/school/agency](#) for upcoming dates.

## What about continuing education?

Some individuals because of the nature and level of their work will be required to complete online continuing education through VIRTUS Online. A record of continuing education progress will be maintained for each of these individuals in the online database through VIRTUS. To access the

monthly bulletins, please log in to your account at [www.virtus.org](http://www.virtus.org), find the Training Bulletin section on the right panel once you have successfully logged in to your account, and “*Click here to see your complete report.*”

### **When do I need to renew my Safe Environment Clearance?**

Every 5 years, all clergy, employees and volunteers, are required to renew their Safe Environment clearance. This clearance includes the Safe Environment training component (refresher course), completing a new background screening, and an update of policies’ acknowledgement and other Safe Environment documentation. Your local Safe Environment coordinator will notify you when you are due for a renewal of your Safe Environment clearance.

*Please call the Safe Environment office at 404-920-7550 or contact your local Safe Environment coordinator <LOCAL SE COORDINATOR’s name, phone, and email> if you have any questions.*