



St. Thomas a'Becket Catholic Church

Faith Formation Office

555 S. Lilley Rd., Canton, MI 48188-1103
Phone: (734) 981-1333 Fax: (734) 981-1481
www.abecket.org

Dear Parents of our 3rd and 4th graders,

Our "Learning About L.I.F.E." sessions present a personal safety training program for our children. This personal safety program was initiated—"to educate and empower children and young people to actively participate in a safe environment for themselves and others. It is meant to supplement and be integrated into the religious education programs in our Archdiocese for the formation of children and young people by arming them with essential knowledge and skills grounded in the richness of our faith. This program must be fully implemented into our curriculum each year."

We will begin our "Learning about L.I.F.E." program with our third and fourth graders the week of January 30, 31, February 1, during our regular class times. **(ALL of the 3rd year students must attend with a parent; ONLY the 4th year students who did not attend last year as third graders with their parent must attend this year. The program materials are exactly the same for both grade levels.)** The acronym L.I.F.E. stands for Love, Infatuation, Friendship, and Exploitation. This series presents God's definition of what 'real love' looks like. It is a family-based program designed to open a valued line of communication between you and your child/ren at each stage of their relational development. Using comfortable, age-appropriate processes, the program guides discussion toward positive, loving relationships compared to relationships that are harmful. With your guidance, your children will consider ways people relate to each other, will develop skills to better recognize and understand their feelings, and will learn how to ask for help if ever they feel unsafe.

Each session is scheduled for children of a specific age group **with their parents**. It is obligatory that one or both parents (or, if necessary, another loving adult) attend this session with one child at a time (unless you have twins, or a 3rd and 4th grader, etc.). The session is meant to be an intimate time between you and this child, so please do not bring other children.

Please mark your calendar for the following date so you can accompany your child/ren to class:

The Week of January 30, 31, February 1 ~ during your child/ren's class time:

Monday, Jan. 30th; 6-7:15 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 1st; 6-7:15 pm

Tuesday, Jan. 31st; 4:45-6:00pm

Since the same session will be repeated at each class time, you may bring your child to any one of these sessions (ex. Your child's regular class time is Tuesday at 4:45 – you can only make a 6pm session – you may come with your child on either Mon or Wed.) Attendance will be taken and must be reported to the Archdiocese at the end of the school year.

As members of this faith community, we hope to partner with parents in helping our children develop positive, loving relationships, while giving them information they might need to help recognize abusive relationships in order to assist in their own self-protection. Together we can work toward minimizing the risk of all child abuse, especially child sexual abuse.

Please call if you have any questions or concerns regarding this program or its content. Information can also be found at: www.learningaboutlife.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Joan Kijek,
Director of Faith Formation

Fr. Pat Casey
Pastor

It is obligatory that one or both parents (or, if necessary, another loving adult) attend this session with your child. The session is also meant to fulfill the U.S. Bishops mandate that all children must receive abuse prevention education. It is meant to be an intimate time between you and this child, so if possible, please do not bring other children.