



Protecting God's Children (PGC)

- **Did you take Protecting God's Children prior to January 1, 2020?**
- **Are you planning to volunteer in our school or any of our parishes?**
- **All volunteers and employees are required by the Archdiocese of Detroit to recertify by November 1, 2023**

The Archdiocese of Detroit is updating their Safe Environments policies. These policies are in place to protect the most vulnerable among us, including children and vulnerable adults. Adherence to these policies is required in every parish and school. The AOD uses an online system called Virtus as the platform for all training, monitoring, and data collection.

Recertification is required for all existing volunteers and employees who completed Protecting God's Children (PGC) before January 1, 2020. Recertification must be completed by November 1, 2023.

- All 100,000+ AOD-registered Virtus users were sent an email (from Virtus) in late June and early July with links for recertification.
- If you did not receive an email about your recertification, log into your existing Virtus account. You should not create a new account if you have taken Protecting God's Children in the past. If you do not remember your username or password, Virtus offers a username and password recovery option at bit.ly/Virtus_Account_Recovery. If you have difficulties accessing your account, contact the Virtus Help Desk (helpdesk@virtus.org / 888-847-8870) or send an email to protectchildren@aod.org.
- Once you have logged into your Virtus account you should see the assigned training under the Home tab / Current Training.
- The self-paced modules (Protecting God's Children and Vulnerable Adults) are entirely online and take approximately 2.5 hours to complete.
- You can stop and start as you need to complete training at your convenience.

Existing Volunteers who have NEVER taken a PGC session before:

- A PGC session must be completed by November 1, 2023. · The self-paced modules (Protecting God's Children and Vulnerable Adults) are entirely online and take approximately 2.5 hours to complete. · Register online at bit.ly/Virtus_Registration
- You can stop and start as you need to complete training at your convenience.

New Employees and New Recurrent Volunteers

- All new employees and new recurrent adult volunteers must register on the Virtus platform (bit.ly/Virtus_Registration)
- You must be certified before commencing your role.
- You are required to register for a live session of Protecting God's Children training (either in person or by Zoom) and the online self-paced Vulnerable Adults training will be assigned to you.

New occasional adult volunteers (1-3 times per year volunteer), even those who do not serve in a direct role working with youth, must be trained.

- You must register on the Virtus platform and complete training before volunteering (bit.ly/Virtus_Registration)
- You may complete your certification either:
 1. entirely online at your convenience with the self-paced training modules for Protecting God's Children and Vulnerable Adults, or
 2. by attending an in-person or live Zoom session for Protecting God's Children and completing the self-paced Vulnerable Adults module online.

Background checks are now required to be run every year for all staff and volunteers. You will find the form for your background check on our website at www.eastthumbcatholic.org under the Get Involved tab and in the back of all churches.