

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG  
**SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, February 14, 2021**

**SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY IMPLEMENTATION FACT SHEET AND GUIDE<sup>1</sup>**

*EQUIPPING THE FAMILY, SAFETY THROUGH CONNECTION*

Safe Haven Sunday is celebrating its third year of raising awareness throughout dioceses and parishes in the United States regarding the negative impacts of pornography on individuals, marriages, families, and society.

Safe Haven Sunday is a weekend set aside by dioceses and parishes to address directly the harms of pornography in an appropriate way. Within the context of the Mass, dioceses and parishes are able to provide teaching and resources that will support individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a safe haven.

It is inspired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 2015 formal statement, *Create in Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography*. In that statement, the bishops explain that "[t]he use of pornography by anyone in the home deprives the home of its role as a safe haven and has negative effects throughout a family's life and across generations."

As set by Bishop Parkes upon the recommendation of the Presbyteral Council, our third Safe Haven Sunday is February 14, 2021, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday. Safe Haven Sunday is our effort to address in a pastorally appropriate way the pervasive problem and the many harms of pornography. Through it, we provide teaching and resources that support individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a safe haven. Following up the first year's theme of *Equipping the Family, Safeguarding Children*, which was about protecting children from exposure to pornography, and last year's theme of *Equipping the Family, Having Critical Conversations*, which was about helping families after children are exposed, this year's theme is *Equipping the Family, Safety Through Connection*, which is about safety through communications within the family.

**IMPLEMENTATION DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Safe Haven Sunday is designed to be led primarily by the parish priest. As in the past, all of the resources parishes will need to publicize and implement Safe Haven Sunday will be on the diocesan Website at [www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn](http://www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn). Just click on the *Safe Haven Sunday Resources* button there. These resources are in both English and Spanish.

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<sup>1</sup> Dated January 20, 2021.

These resources include bulletin announcements, inserts, and blurbs; sample letters and messages; intercessions; and homily helps. Priests can preach on the subject or simply highlight the availability of the materials and resources. These resources include instructions to parishioners on how they can download for free this year's book, *Connected: How Strong Family Relationships Lead to Internet-Safe Kids*, and how they can receive for free the Safe Digital Family Challenge, a seven-day series of e-mailed videos encouraging communication with kids.

Participation in Safe Haven Sunday costs a parish nothing. ***Due to COVID-19, this year's book is available to parishioners for free digital download. Parishes do not have to purchase copies to make the book available to their parishioners.*** Unfortunately, this free digital download book is available only in English.

Parishes may purchase attractive but inexpensive prayer cards to provide to parishioners. The order form is among the resources available on the Safe Haven Sunday website. ***The deadline to order prayer cards is February 1, 2021.***

There are also other excellent free resources available on our Website, [www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn](http://www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn) .

Questions? Contact Fr. Tim Corcoran, [frtim@stmarytampa.org](mailto:frtim@stmarytampa.org) , or Brian Lemoi, [bal@dosp.org](mailto:bal@dosp.org) .