



COURAGEOUSLY
Living the Gospel

Quick Guide to Implementing Safe Haven Sunday
SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY
Sunday, August 21, 2022

What is it?

Safe Haven Sunday is a weekend set aside by our diocese to address the harms of pornography. Within the context of the Mass, parishes can 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."

Have this been held before in the Diocese of St. Petersburg?

You may recall that we offered our first **Safe Haven Sunday** in Lent of 2019. Others occurred in 2020 and 2021. At the request of some pastors, the Presbyteral Council decided to move the annual event to the 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time and restart the program in 2022.

Why?

Simply put, pornography is a pervasive problem in our society that affects our parishioners – individuals and families. **Safe Haven Sunday** seeks to address this in a pastorally appropriate way and provide teaching and resources that support individuals, marriages, and families in making all homes a safe haven.

Where do I find publicity and other resources?

All of the resources that are needed to publicize and implement **Safe Haven Sunday** can be found on the diocesan website at www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn. Just click on the **Safe Haven Sunday** Resources button.

What resources should I share with my parishioners?

This year, we have two resources that can be offered to your parishioners.

A Bookmark

[Click here to view](#) or visit www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn/safe-haven-sunday

This is an excellent resource we hope you will print at your parish or through your local vendor. Included on the bookmark is a code to access a seven-day, text-to-opt-in program. Your parishioners will receive seven days of emails to help them with the latest parental controls. YouTube, Google SafeSearch, iOS, and others are included. It may help them create a safer digital environment for themselves and their children.

An eBook

A free eBook, *Allied: Fighting Porn with Accountability, Faith, and Friends*, is available at the [Covenant Eyes website](#) and can be downloaded here: www.covenanteyes.com/e-books. The writers at Covenant Eyes have over 20 years of experience in equipping accountability relationships to help people understand what accountability is, what the Bible says about it, and how it is crucial for anyone who either wants to find freedom from porn or help others quit.

What needs to be done?

- Publicize **Safe Haven Sunday** – sample announcements are on the [resource page](#). (www.dosp.org/freedom-from-porn/safe-haven-sunday)
- Print the [bookmarks](#) or include the text-to-opt-in information in your August 20-21 bulletin.
- Include the description and instructions for how to download the new eBook, “Allied” in the August 20-21 bulletin.

Do I need to preach on pornography?

We leave this to your prayerful discernment but we encourage you to seriously consider it. The 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time has been chosen because the readings offer themes that are applicable to the sin of pornography. “Enter through the narrow gate,” might remind us that in a culture seemingly saturated with sex, we are called to purity which is most certainly a narrow gate. You will, undoubtedly find others and have the pastoral sensitivity to find ways to address this topic.

For more information, contact Father Kevin Yarnell, pastor, Sacred Hear Parish, Pinellas Park.