

**DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG**  
**SAFE HAVEN SUNDAY**  
**Sunday, August 27, 2023**

**QUICK GUIDE**

**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."

**A brief history**

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 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time and restart the program in 2022. This then is our 5<sup>th</sup> sponsorship of this event.

**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.

**Publicity and other resources**

All of the resources parishes need to publicize and implement Safe Haven Sunday is 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.

## **Resources to share with your parishioners**

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

*STRIVE: 21-Day Porn Detox* by Matt Fradd  
*Restored Vows: A Porn Recovery Series for Couples.*

Business cards have been mailed to all parishes that have the QR code needed to access the content. An order form was enclosed for parishes to purchase additional cards as needed.

## **What needs to be done?**

- Order the cards referenced above as needed.
- Publicize Safe Haven Sunday – sample announcements are on the resource page
- Include the QR code for the resources in your August 26-27 bulletin

## **Do I need to preach on pornography?**

We leave this to your prayerful discernment but encourage you to seriously consider it. The 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time has been chosen because the readings offer themes that are applicable to the sin of pornography. In cycle A, a lesson of hope could be crafted from the last section of the Responsorial Psalm (Ps. 138) where we are reminded that God sees the lowly and that God's love and kindness are forever. Or the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading from Romans reminds us of the depth of God's wisdom and could be used to encourage listeners to more seriously consider God's wisdom in the area of human sexuality. You will undoubtedly find others.