

Updated October 2024

Safety and Security at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Parish by Monsignor Joseph Gentili, S.T.D., M. Div.

The safety and security of our parishioners and guests on our parish campus are of an utmost priority to me as we gather to worship and other activities, not only on Sundays, but throughout the week. While not totally a new phenomenon in the practice of our faith throughout history, more recent incidents with regard to acts of violence at places of worship, have shaken all of us. It has raised an elevated level of concern and fear as it directly impacts us and our ability to gather to worship God without fear or threats of violence.

Following is an update on what has been going on behind the scenes at our parish. The Safety and Security Team was formed because of a recommendation from our Parish Pastoral Council. Here is some important information which I trust you will find helpful and ease some of your concerns.

1. The dedicated Safety and Security Team is comprised of parish volunteers who have backgrounds in law enforcement and safety/security in various other fields and has been in place for more than four years.
2. The team continues to review our already established standard operating procedures (SOP) and stay abreast of current guidelines.
3. The team works closely with the Buckingham Township Police Department and other law enforcement agencies. The team also continue to assess the needs of our parish and make adjustments, given the parish resources.
4. Our volunteer parish ushers continue to review, update, and prepare for the medical and other emergency situations that could arise. They are familiar with what needs to be in place to keep our Church safe.
5. Extensive work has been completed on our parish campus to enhance security. This includes hardware and software updates to help us in this endeavor, including the installation of alarm and security camera systems.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to a member of the Safety and Security Team. You may contact the parish office at 267-247-5374 or info@olguadalupe.org and the staff will connect you with a member of the team.

I am most grateful to all the members of the Security and Safety Team for their commitment and dedication to our parish and demonstrating the Our Lady of Guadalupe Difference. I will continue to update you as appropriate and needed.

The team consists of a number of parishioners who have consulted with us over the years to assure our parish safety. Following is the current Leadership Team.

Bob Weikel

Chairperson, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Safety and Security Team

Joseph Balaza

Security Consultant and former Facilities Manager, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Austin Bennett

Maintenance Supervisor, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Joe D'Agostino

Lead Usher, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Matt Gavinelli

Chairperson, Parish Pastoral Council, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Ray Lokay

Head Sacristan, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

Anthony Mantellino

*General Manager, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and
Retired Lieutenant, New York City Police Department (NYPD)*

William Moffet

Lieutenant, Buckingham Police Department

Additional Members of the Safety and Security Team

Tony Martin

Pete Hawley

Dennis Folweiler

Dennis Logan

Matt Kotarski