

Safety First - Safety Always - Safety Everywhere

Our St. Paul Parish Safety Plan

The safety of all the people of Berlin and the safety of members of St. Paul Parish are our highest priorities. Given recent events and the times in which we live, several people have asked us if we have any type of **safety plan for our two Churches** and **we want you to know that we do.**

- The ushers of our parish have been instructed to call 911 immediately in the event of any disruption or emergency. They will also collect the contact information of anyone who gets sick or injured on our campuses.
- Both Sacred Heart and St. Paul Churches have security cameras, which can be accessed by the police should an emergency occur.
- St. Paul Church has an abundance of exits should the building need to be evacuated. While Sacred Heart Church has fewer exits, it is important to remember that there are exits in both the front and the back of the Church. To limit entrances, the door near the friary courtyard at St. Paul Church will no longer be accessible from the outside. However, you can always exit our church from every door.
- For a while now, the Berlin PD has been making random safety stops during Masses and all over town. They are very respectful, and most of you haven't even noticed; but they come in the back doors, look around and leave, sometimes a couple of times on a Sunday. We never know when they are coming. This is a great deterrent.

We would also like to call your attention to an Office of Homeland Security Program, which suggests that we remember three simple words anywhere or anytime an emergency occurs, and they are: **Run - Hide - Fight**. No matter where you are, in the supermarket, at a public gathering or sadly even in church, if there is imminent danger, the first thing you do is **Run**, get away, and keep going until you are safe. If you can't get away, then the next best thing to do is **Hide** and stay hidden until someone comes to assist you. Follow any instructions that the Police may give you. Finally, if your life is in imminent danger, and you can't run or hide, then all that is left to do is to **Fight**. Do whatever you can to protect yourself.

On the back of this page we will elaborate a little more on these three important words as they apply to our circumstances here in St. Paul Parish. This letter is not meant to frighten you, but rather to help you think and plan ahead. We care about you very much and we want all of our parishioners to know that the Berlin PD and the Staff of your parish have been in communication, and will continue to do everything we can to keep our parishioners and all of the people of Berlin safe and secure.

Fr. Robert Schlageter OFM Conv
Pastor

Chief John M. Klett
Berlin Police Department

Three Important Words In Any Emergency, Anywhere.

Run - Hide - Fight

In That Order

Run - If you can safely get away, move as fast as you can away from the danger.

- Always be aware of the exits around you and be sure to exit the building from the exit which is both safest and closest to you. It may not be the exit you normally use. St. Paul Church has 7 exits. Sacred Heart has exits at both the front and the back of the Church.
- Leave your belongings behind.
- Bring your cell phone with you if you can.
- It may not be opportune to leave in your car because of the traffic, so walk or run as far as you can away from the danger.

Hide - If you can't get away, then do your best to hide.

- Lay down on the pew or the floor. Try to slide under the pew if you can and remain motionless.
- Hide in the Church Hall or other parts of the building.

Fight - protect yourself.

- If you can't run or hide, and if you have no other option, then do whatever you can to protect yourself.