

September 15, 2023  
Gr. Mtr. Nicetas the Goth

Dear Vladyka, fathers, brothers, & sisters in Christ,

¶ There is relatively little to report with regard to background checks in the Diocese. As I said last year, this is good. Interesting news to report on background checks is usually a problem. But since I regularly receive questions about Diocesan practices regarding background checks, a few reminders may be in order here.

¶ People in any of the following roles in any of our parishes are *required* to have background checks:

- Major or minor clergy (including readers)
- Adult altar servers (over 18)
- Choir directors
- Sunday school teachers
- Anyone working in any official capacity with children or youth of the parish.

¶ Background checks for parish council members, and for anyone who works in the parish in a role not listed above, are encouraged but not required.

¶ If you need background checks on anyone in your parish, contact me and I will give you a form for

them to fill out, which will collect the necessary information and secure their legal authorization to run the background check.

¶ Background checks are automatically renewed. To spare the Diocese the expense of unnecessary repeated background checks, please contact me if anyone leaves a role requiring a background check, or if anyone in such a role moves away from your parish. If you are unsure who is “on the books” for background checks at your parish, you can contact me to sort it out.

¶ Thanks to all of you who’ve put in the effort to make sure that background checks are up-to-date for your parishes. I strive to do this work faithfully, but our databases can only be as good as your cooperation allows.

In Christ,

Presbyter Joel Neyer Brady  
Diocesan Background Check Administrator  
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