

Special Needs – Bulletin announcements

Parishes may pick and combine different bullet points as fits the needs of the particular faith community and the publication format being used.

- Every human person - no matter how vulnerable or helpless, no matter how young or how old, no matter how healthy, handicapped or sick, no matter how useful or productive for society - is a being of inestimable worth created in the image and likeness of God. *St. Pope John Paul II*
- "We are a single flock under the care of a single shepherd. There can be no separate Church for person with disabilities. Persons with disabilities, especially children, are particularly beloved of the Lord and are integral members of the Christian community." *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Directory on Catechesis (49).*
- As pastors of the Church in America...we call upon people of good will to reexamine their attitudes toward their brothers and sisters with disabilities and promote their well-being, acting with a sense of justice and the compassion that the Lord so clearly desires. Further, realizing the unique gifts individuals with disabilities have to offer the Church, we wish to address the need for their integration into the Christian community and their fuller participation in its life. *Pastoral Statement of the US Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities (1).*
- It is essential that all forms of the liturgy be completely accessible to persons with disabilities. To exclude members of the parish from these celebrations of the life of the Church, even by passive omission, is to deny the reality of that community. Realistic provision must be made for persons with disabilities to participate fully in the Eucharist and other liturgical celebrations. *Pastoral Statement of the US Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities (23).*
- About 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) according to estimates from CDC's Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring (ADDM) Network.
- About 1 in 6 children in the United States has a developmental disability, ranging from mild disabilities such as speech and language impairments to serious developmental disabilities, such as intellectual disabilities, cerebral palsy, and autism.
- A person with Autism has a medical condition that may impair his or her ability to communicate with others. A person with Autism may have behaviors that appear to be unpredictable or inappropriate. On the surface, it may appear that this person is misbehaving when in reality it is his or her own way of dealing with the world.
- [parish name] welcomes all of God's children in our faith community. Please contact [insert] for information about our parish's programs for families with children with Special Needs.