

**PARISH BULLETIN ANOUNCEMENT & UNIVERAL PRAYER
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Parish Bulletin Announcement:

A Parish that Welcomes Children with Disabilities

Catholics believe that all people are made in the image and likeness of God, and that all the Baptized share in the life and mission of the Church. This includes people from every range of ability. As a parish we are mindful and respectful of families who have children with disabilities. At times due to the behavioral aspects of some disabling conditions, parents seem to sense from some parishioners that their child may not be welcome during the celebration of Mass. Can we work together to change this perception? As a parish community, let us strive to be patient, respectful and helpful to individuals with disabilities and seek ways to assist families so that they can worship together as a family and we may have the blessing of their presence with us as we become one Eucharistic community of faith.

More if needed:

One of every 68 children is born with autism and 5 in every 100 have some type of disability. It is safe to say that our parish community has several families raising children with disabilities. Together, let us seek ways to be welcoming and supportive of all our families. For more information on inclusion of people with disabilities in the life of the Church go to the National Catholic Partnership on Disability at www.ncpd.org or our Archdiocesan website, Office for Persons with Disabilities at www.opdarchphilly.org.

Possible Intentions for the Universal Prayer:

For teachers, catechists and all who work with people with disabilities, that their labor may be valued, and that their commitment to those who are vulnerable may inspire all to walk more closely in the steps of Christ.

For our parish families, that they will model the welcoming and inclusive ministry of Jesus, seeking always to see the image of God in every person.

For all who minister in the Church, that their service to the People of God includes outreach and support to individuals with autism and their families, as well as all people with disabilities.

For the families of individuals with disabilities, that they may find the welcome and support of parish communities willing to listen to them, cry with them, and rejoice with them when they walk through the doors of their churches.

For loved ones whose autism or other disability renders them vulnerable, may they be protected by the Holy Spirit from harm and danger.

That all those who live with disabilities may come to know God through the warm welcome extended by their parish, that they may come to love Jesus through nurturing relationships with fellow members of the body of Christ, and that they may encounter the living Spirit of God in the warm embrace of their faith communities.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia
OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & DEAF APOSTOLATE / www.OPDarchphilly.org
OFFICE FOR DIVINE WORSHIP / www.ODWphiladelphia.org