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PARISH LOGO

PRESS RELEASE

Saint Joseph Catholic Church Begins Offering Sensory-Friendly Mass *To welcome persons with sensory sensitivities. All are welcome, all belong.*

Philadelphia, [Date], 2023: In an effort to embrace and welcome members of the Catholic Church with sensory needs, autism, developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's Disease, and dementia, Saint Joseph Catholic Church, in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, has begun to offer Sensory-Friendly Mass each Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. This offering is part of a broader effort across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to intentionally welcome persons with disabilities and their families across the region to encounter Christ in a way that is accessible.

These adaptive liturgies include modifications such as lower lights, softer music, more succinct and literal Homilies, and visual aids. The most significant difference is the absence of stigma. Sensory-Friendly Mass is intended to welcome persons with neurodiversity; and therefore, people are encouraged to come as they are, move around if needed, wear noise cancelling headphones, and bring any seating or soothing items necessary. Every person is welcome at the Supper of the Lord and persons with disabilities should feel welcome and wanted in their parish community. These liturgies offer an opportunity to foster a culture of belonging and meaningful participation at the parish of St. Joseph.

The first Sensory-Friendly Mass will take place at Saint Joseph Catholic Church (12345 Main Street, Somewhere, PA 99999) at 5:00 PM on Saturday [at 11:00 AM on Sunday] and will continued to be offered each [once a month] Saturday evening [Sunday morning]. Readers can find more information about Sensory-Friendly Mass at St. Joseph by following this link: www.somewhere.org. To find resources about Sensory-Friendly Mass and the efforts of the Office for Persons with Disabilities of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, please visit www.OPDarchphilly.org.