



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

AND SERVING ALL CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

Children and adults with disabilities and their families need faith communities to **provide the accommodations necessary to have full and meaningful participation in the Mass and in the life of the Church.**

Some parishes may be unable to provide every accommodation, but many adaptations have little or no cost. Some funds/resources are available, and solutions are found when people are **intentional about seeking other options.**

Families appreciate when people **ask them what they need.**

Sacramental adaptive resources are available and additional modifications and/or approaches can be created.

Families can **communicate what will work best** for their loved one during the preparation and celebration of a sacrament.

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WHAT ARE THE
REQUIREMENTS
FOR A
CHILD OR ADULT
WITH A DISABILITY
TO RECEIVE
A SACRAMENT?

In 2017, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) released the Revised Edition for the “Guidelines for the Celebration of Sacraments for Persons with Disabilities”
“To the degree possible, those with disabilities should be included along with others during the preparation and celebration of the sacrament. At times, pastoral need may necessitate an accommodated setting and a simpler manner.”

BAPTISM

“Baptism is to be made available to all who freely ask for it, [and] are properly disposed... **Disability, of itself, is never a reason for deferring Baptism.** Persons who lack the use of reason are to be baptized provided at least one parent or guardian consents to it.”



CONFIRMATION

“All baptized Catholics ...who because of intellectual or developmental disabilities may never attain the use of reason **can receive** the Sacrament of Confirmation and **should be encouraged either directly or, if necessary, through their parents, to receive it.**”



Belonging



MINISTRY
WITH PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES

diocesefwsb.org/belonging

EUCCHARIST

“A person needs only to ‘**distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food**’ even if this recognition is evidenced through manner, gesture, or reverential silence rather than verbally... Cases of doubt should be resolved in favor of the right of the Catholic to receive the sacrament.”



RECONCILIATION

“As long as the individual is capable of having a sense of contrition for having committed sin, **even if he or she cannot describe the sin precisely in words, the person may receive sacramental absolution.**”





WHERE CAN I GO FOR HELP?

Mental Health Diagnoses Support

Mary Glowaski
Assistant to the Bishop
in Pastoral Care
mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org
260-399-1458

Support for a difficult Prenatal Diagnosis

Lisa Everett
Director of Miriam's Blessing
leverett@diocesefwsb.org
574-968-2439

If you belong to a parish,
call your parish office and
ask for the pastor or staff
person who can help.

If you do not have a
parish affiliation, or if you
are a pastor, staff, or part
of a parish community
and would like additional
support, contact someone
from the diocese.

For General Questions

Allison Sturm
Ministry with Persons
with Disabilities
asturm@diocesefwsb.org
260-399-1452

Sacramental Prep

Jonathan Kaltenbach
Director, Office of Catechesis
jkaltenbach@diocesefwsb.org
574-968-2431

Support for Hispanic Children and Adults

Esther Terry
Director of Hispanic Ministry
eterry@diocesefwsb.org
574-968-2424

Accommodations needed to fully participate at Mass

Brian MacMichael
Director of the Office of Worship
bmacmichael@diocesefwsb.org
260-399-1426

Special Education Programs in the Catholic Schools

Joe Brettnacher
Superintendent
jbrettnacher@diocesefwsb.org
260-399-1410

Parish Youth Group Participation

John Pratt
Director of Youth Ministry
jpratt@diocesefwsb.org
260-399-1412



WHERE DO I GO FOR OTHER SUPPORT AND TO GET INVOLVED?



HOW DO I FIND A PARISH THAT CAN MEET THE SPECIAL NEEDS OF MY FAMILY?

Please visit diocesefwsb.org/belonging and click on "Parishes Providing Accommodations" to find a current listing. If your parish offers an accommodation that is not listed, please let us know so that we can add it. If you do not see an accommodation you need, please check with your parish first. You may also contact someone at the diocese for additional assistance.

Go to diocesefwsb.org/belonging and click on "Connect to Others for Support" to find people who live with a disability, have a loved one with a disability or work in this field. They will listen and offer help. You can also click on "How to Form a Belonging Group at Your Parish" or talk to someone in Belonging about what you want to do.

You can also visit:



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