

"Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:14

Understanding Special Needs

At times due to the behavioral aspects of some disabling conditions, parents and caregivers seem to sense from some parishioners that their child or loved one may not be welcome during the celebration of Mass. We can 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.



Inclusion Prayer

Jesus, help us to understand and recognize that each of us has gifts and challenges. May we see You in each person and may each person see You in us as we work together to bring about Your kingdom. Help us to open our hearts to relationship as we open our doors to be a welcoming and inclusive faith community. Amen.

For more Resources:

- www.opdarchphilly.org - Sensory Mass
- www.usccb.org/persons-with-disabilities
- www.ncpd.org - National Catholic Partnership on Disability
- www.olguadalupe.org - Serving Persons with Disabilities Ministry

Welcoming Persons with Sensory Needs



*All
are
welcome.
All
belong.*



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
5194 Cold Spring Creamery Road
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WWW.OLGUADALUPE.ORG

We are One Family

Imagine not being able to attend Mass as a family, worshipping God together, because the lights, sounds, crowds or other stimuli could trigger a behavioral outburst in a family member, or the person finds the stimuli extremely uncomfortable. Splitting up for Mass is often the only viable option for families with special -needs children or adult disabled members. Some families prefer to make this choice rather than risk aggressive behaviors or receive disapproving looks from other churchgoers.

Unconditional Love

As Catholics we 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.

Everyone desires and deserves our love and support. This includes people from every range of ability. As a parish, we are mindful and respectful of families who have children or adult members with disabilities, or mental illness. Our faith calls us to help each member of our parish community enter into the Mass as fully as he/she is able. Let us model the welcoming ministry of Jesus, seeking always to see the image of God in every person.



The Sensory Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe

What is a Sensory Mass? Simply put, it's a quieter Mass, with less stimuli. While every person is unique, some of us have sensory processing challenges, speech/language delays, a lack of social integration skills, and self-esteem issues. We may miss some social cues, have difficulty coping with sudden changes in routine, and may be sensitive to sound, light, texture, smell or touch.

Now, to better serve these individuals, OLG will provide additional accommodations at the 11 a.m. Mass on the second Sunday of each month.

Families and adults with disabilities can join us for Mass in the Saint Juan Diego Chapel or in the main Church.

The Chapel offers an alternative worship space where Mass is streamed, and lights and sounds can be lowered to lessen stimuli.

Sensory Mass: A Quieter Worship Place

Accommodations in the Saint Juan Diego Chapel:

- Private entrance via the Saint Francis Courtyard
- Private bathroom
- Lower volume on TV to watch Mass
- Calm/quiet area
- No incense
- Dimmed lights

Feel free to bring comforting toys, noise-cancelling headphones, sun glasses and more to make you or your family members more comfortable.

2023 Mass Schedule

- October 8th - 11am Mass
- November 12th - 11am Mass
- December 10th - 11am Mass

2024 Schedule is again on the second Sunday of each month at the 11 a.m. Mass

