



DIOCESE OF
FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

LEAD SERVING CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

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

Children and adults with disabilities and their families need faith communities that provide the accommodations necessary to have full and meaningful participation in the Mass and in the life of the Church. While all parishes may not be able to provide every accommodation, many adaptations have little or no cost, some resources are available, and people will often find creative solutions. Families are grateful when people ask what they need and are intentional about seeking possible strategies and options.

In 2017, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) released the Revised Edition of the "Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities". The following is taken from these guidelines.

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.**"



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.**"



Belonging  *ng*

MINISTRY
WITH PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES

diocesefwsb.org/disabilities

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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

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

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.

Sacramental Prep for Children

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

Sacramental Prep for Adults

John Sikorski
Director of Adult Faith Formation
jsikorski@diocesefwsb.org
574-968-2422

Parish Youth Group Participation

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

Support for Hispanic Children and Adults

Lourdes Silva
Assistant Director of Hispanic Ministry
lsilva@diocesefwsb.org
260-969-9154

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

For General Questions

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

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

Please visit diocesefwsb.org/disabilities and click "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/disabilities and click on "Connect to Others for Support" to find people, many who live with a disability, have a loved one with a disability or work in this field, who will listen and offer help. Check out diocesefwsb.org/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:

 @buildinginclusiveparishes | facebook.com/groups/BIPFWSB