



Welcome home

The Light is On For You

The Light is On for Everyone

Celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with persons with Disabilities

Religious education programs

- On religious education and registration forms, ask parents or caregivers if any accommodations are needed for their child.
- Consider incorporating adaptive tools and materials into your existing programs. Visual aids used in these programs benefit all children.
- Children with different styles of learning are more comfortable with the reception of the Sacrament if they have met with the Confessor several times beforehand.

Bulletin announcements

- When announcing times for Lenten reconciliation services and confession times, add information to contact parish office if they or their child will need accommodations for the reception of the Sacrament.
- Contact the Department of Special Needs Ministries if an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter will be needed for the parish communal reconciliation service.

Confession space

- If the Church has traditional confessionals, why not designate a room for persons who may use a wheelchair, walker, or cane? Traditional confessionals are challenging for people who use mobility aids.
- Provide copies of adapted prayers, including the *Act of Contrition*, both in the confessional and pews. Copies are available through the Department of Special Needs Ministries.
- Make available several copies of any additional materials in large print.



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Outreach

- Consider offering Confession during hospital and nursing home visits.
- Encourage families with children living with severe disabilities to join the rest of the parish during Lenten services. He or she can participate with the parish community.
- Children or adults who communicate mainly with gestures are welcomed to use a communication device during Confession. Prior to the celebration of the Sacrament, confessors may need advice, from the family or caregiver and instruction on how the device works.
- Share your own experiences as a priest or parish staff working with a person with special needs on the parish website, social, and bulletins.

Material and tools are available at the Department of Special Needs Ministries. Contact us with any questions. For additional information, please refer to the USCCB *Guidelines for the Celebration of the Sacraments with Persons with Disabilities* (updated November 2017) <http://www.usccb.org/about/divine-worship/policies/upload/Guidelines-for-the-Celebration-of-the-Sacraments-with-Persons-with-Disabilities-Revised-Edition.pdf>



Archdiocese of Washington

Department of Special Needs Ministries

301-853-4560 or specialneedsministry@adw.org

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