

## **Parish Accommodations & Accessibility Checklist**

Our mission is to create a culture of BELONGING for all.

1. Complete the checklist for your Family of Parishes
2. Evaluate what is missing
3. Do you need help? Contact Office for Persons with Disabilities, [Lisa Averion](#) for help.

**People at my parish are encouraged to ask for what they need to have meaningful participation at Mass and in parish life...**

- ☐ Bulletin announcements
- ☐ Parish Website
- ☐ Parish Registration Process: on-line, hard copy, in person, and over the phone
- ☐ Parish Survey

**My parish has a process in place to respond to an individual or family that makes a request for accommodation:**

- ☐ Dedicated staff members or volunteers will make an initial contact to gather information
- ☐ The individual or family meets with the pastor, staff, parishioners, etc. to consider options and work towards a solution
- ☐ Diocesan staff can be contacted for guidance, resources, and implementation

**My parish offers and promotes the following accommodations at Mass:**

- ☐ Sensory Friendly Mass (Low lighting, no music or quieter selection of instruments (piano, strings), shorter homily, no incense, gluten free options, freedom to move around and stigma free)—optional worship for persons living with autism, Down Syndrome, dementia, Alzheimer's and all community members are invited to attend
- ☐ LOOP System (Assisted Listening System)
- ☐ ASL- (American Sign Language)
- ☐ Braille Materials provided to all blind community members in need
- ☐ Large-print missals/large print worship aids
- ☐ low-gluten hosts or communion from the chalice
- ☐ Cut-out pews that allow wheelchair seating with others
- ☐ Trained greeters, ushers, staff, and volunteers to assist those in need
- ☐ Children and adults with disabilities are trained and serve in ministerial roles and can be assisted by family/staff if desired

**My parish is intentional about providing sacramental prep for children and adults with disabilities and promotes this through:**

- ☐ Pastor support
- ☐ Parish/School staff support
- ☐ School newsletters-promoting sacramental prep availability at the parish
- ☐ Parish Faith Formation Webpage -resources and supports available
- ☐ Bulletin announcements

**My parish is accessible for individuals using wheelchairs and other mobility devices by following the ADA guidelines:**

- ☐ Level access to entrances of every parish building and/or
  - Ramp 36” wide and incline of one inch for every foot of ramp
  - Entrances 32” wide with an automatic door opener for church, restrooms, parish office, parish hall/activity center, and Adoration Chapel
- ☐ 60-inch diameter of clear floor space to allow a wheelchair user to make a 360°turn in restroom (including stall), cut-out pew, confessional, and gathering spaces
- ☐ Designated accessible parking spaces located by all parish buildings
- ☐ Cut-out curbs/ramps near accessible parking spaces
- ☐ Clear signage is posted to identify the accommodation provided

**My parish publicizes the support services available for individuals experiencing mental health issues:**

- ☐ Parishioners are informed through bulletin announcements and the parish website that they can contact the parish office regarding mental health issues for themselves or a loved one and be assisted with resources provided by the [Archdiocese Office for Persons with Disabilities-Mental Wellness Ministry](#).



\*This checklist has been adapted from The Ministry with Persons with Disabilities-Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with permission.