

MEMO

TO: Pastors
FROM: Bob Wurzelbacher
Director, Office for Respect Life Ministries
RE: Sensory Friendly Mass
DATE: May 2019



Greetings this Easter Season. I want to share with you an exciting endeavor that our office will begin piloting in the Dayton Deanery. On Sunday, June 23 at 3:00pm the Office for Respect Life Ministries will be hosting a Sensory-Friendly Mass at St. Helen Parish in Dayton. Our goals for this Mass are: 1) to raise awareness of the needs of families affected by autism, sensory issues, and other special needs; 2) to encourage parishes in the Dayton Area to integrate sensory friendly strategies into their own liturgies; 3) and to reach out to those families who have been away from the church due to the stigmas that are associated with special needs members.

We would like to invite and encourage the parishes in the Dayton Deanery to become involved in creating awareness about various special needs issues and to pilot regularly scheduled Sensory-Friendly Liturgies. We are not asking parishes to add to their current Mass schedule, simply to modify one of the Masses that are already taking place so that families with special needs can fully participate, without stigma, in a comfortable environment.

The attached information details a simple plan- including an awareness campaign- to assist with outreach to special needs families. We have included a variety of resources in this packet to assist you in this ministry and ask that you prayerfully consider joining us in this cause.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Bob Wurzelbacher'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

Bob Wurzelbacher
Office for Respect Life Ministries