

- ✚ **Welcome to the *Catechesis for Adaptive Needs (CAN)* program**
- ✚ If you are a family with a special needs child, ***we are here to journey with and help you!***
- ✚ As the Community of Gesu, we have adapted and/or modified our religious education curriculum to better meet the needs of children with different abilities and adaptive needs. The presence of your child/ren in this program is a sign and symbol of God's love for all!
- ✚ Classes will be held monthly on Saturday mornings from 10:00-11:00 in the Loyola Room of the Dayschool, from October through April (calendar is on our parish website).
- ✚ If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Mary at mvoncarlowitz@churchofthegesu.org
- ✚ Gesu offers ***ALL*** people the opportunity to receive the **Sacraments of Initiation (*Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist*)** and will journey with your families toward the reception of these sacraments!

Did you know?

To help special needs individuals with Sacrament preparation:

We are also here to assist with Sacramental Preparation. The Diocese of Cleveland has been supporting Sacramental Preparation for individuals with special needs through educational classes for Parish Catechetical Leaders.



All children who have been baptized are entitled to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.



A religious education curriculum can be adapted and/or modified to meet the needs of children with disabilities. Their presence in the program is a sign and symbol of God's love for all.



The timing and frequency of instruction

can be adapted to the child's particular needs and abilities.



The catechist for children with disabilities does not need a background in special education. Resources and guidance are now available to help catechists meet the needs of these children.



Although all children are encouraged to learn and pray the basic prayers (Our Father, Hail Mary, Sign of the Cross), memorization of these prayers is not a requirement to receive the sacraments.



The Sacrament of Reconciliation may be received (and is often recommended to be received) at a later date, rather than just prior to receiving First Eucharist.



The OEEC will provide ongoing support and resources to parishes that minister to children with special needs.

Adapted from “Recognizing the Gift: A Parish Resource Guide for Welcoming Children with Disabilities” Archdiocese of New York, 2014.