

Accessibility Ministry at St John's

FAMILY SPACE (UPDATED "CRY ROOM" IN THE BACK OF THE CHURCH)

The **FAMILY SPACE** is a calming space for parishioners of all ages. Items have been added to support individuals with a variety of sensory needs. The goal is to help individuals meet sensory needs in a calm environment so all can better attend to Father's message and the miracle that is our Catholic Mass!

Sensory-seeking materials can help get the wiggles out and include quiet fidgets, rocking chairs, sensory floor and wall tiles, wiggle seat, chair bands, silicone rosaries, and tracing tiles.

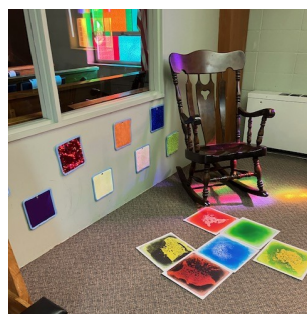
Sensory-avoiding items help block out distractions, such as noise-softening headphones, CD player with Christian music, calming space tent, and light filters over the fluorescent lights.

Organizational tools have been added to help children understand what is next in the mass, as well



as visual timers to see how much time is left in Mass. Emergency supplies of diapers, wipes, and pacifiers are also still available

Please help us keep this area clean and organized with the materials provided.



DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A WHEELCHAIR?

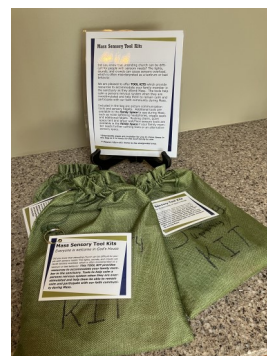


Actually, we have three wheelchairs available to help make the Mass more accessible to all our parishioners. Wheelchairs are located in the Flex Room (Parish Library), by the Family Space in the back of the church, and on the lower level at the bottom of the stairway.

A wheelchair accessible restroom is located in the Flex Room

SENSORY SUPPLY KITS IN THE GATHERING SPACE (NEAR THE FLEX ROOM)

Did you know that attending church can be difficult for people with sensory needs? The lights, sounds, and crowds can cause sensory overload, which is often misinterpreted as a tantrum or bad behavior.



We are pleased to offer **TOOL KITS** which provide resources to accommodate your family member in the sanctuary as they attend Mass. The tools help calm a person's nervous system when they are overstimulated and help them to remain calm and participate with our faith community during Mass.

Included in the bag are picture communication tools and sensory fidgets. Additional tools are available in the **Family Space** to use during Mass, such as noise softening headphones, wiggle seats and additional fidgets. Rocking chairs, quiet space tent and larger wall/floor sensory tools are available in the **Family Space** if your family member needs further calming tools or an alternative sensory space.

We ask that you use the wipes provided to keep materials clean and please return the kits to the gathering space after Mass. Thank you!

MASS BAGS FOR DISCIPLES IN TRAINING

We have brought back the Mass Bags that provide books and items to support parents when they bring young children to Mass. We love having young ones



with us and want to provide parents resources to help them bring their children to church. After Mass, please return the Mass Bags to basket located in the basket near the Flex Room. (Parish Library)

ARE YOU OR SOMEONE IN YOUR FAMILY GLUTEN-FREE?

We can assist you in receiving the Holy Eucharist in one or both forms. You will need to speak with Father Remi before Mass begins. Contact the office if you would like information about the process.

