

OPEN HEARTS

We recognize everyone has talents and gifts and we encourage people with disabilities to share their abilities with our parish family.

We are opening hearts by welcoming and encouraging parishioners with disabilities to be a part of our liturgical, spiritual, ministerial, educational and social life of our parish.

Masses

Daily Mass is held Monday through Friday at 7am and 11:30am. Saturday morning at 9am provides a quieter, less populated Mass for people who need a smaller setting.

Weekend liturgies are held on Saturday at 5pm and Sundays at 8:30, 11am and 8:05pm.

Inclusive Masses will be held on Monday, December 27th at 7pm for Christmas and for Easter on Tuesday, April 19th at 7pm. These masses are shorter, less crowded,, have dimmer lighting, softer music and allow for people to **pace**. Masses will be interpreted in sign language.

Low gluten hosts are available at each Mass. Please let the priest know before Mass your need.

If you would like communion brought to you, please notify an usher.

A ramp was created to provide accessibility to the lower altar for this lector who utilizes a wheelchair.



NEIGHBORING PARISH ACTIVITIES

The Buffalo Catholic Deaf Apostolate has moved to 14 Holy Helpers, 1345 Indian Church Road, Gardenville (West Seneca). The 10:30 am Sunday Mass is interpreted in sign language. Plans are to begin a social after the Second Tuesday of the month Mass that Father Conrad Stachowiak, retired Director celebrates. If your parish is having a special Mass please call Sr. Conchetta LoPresti, OSF at 716 601-8887 voice or text to arrange for an interpreter

God's Family: Learning, Loving & Living Our Catholic Faith Together Faith Formation for people with disabilities of all ages and their families held the third Saturday of the month from Noon to 2:30pm at the accessible St. Philip the Apostle Parish Hall at 950 Losson Road in Cheektowaga. Activities include: socializing, crafts, lunch, learning about our Catholic faith, praying and singing. Call Elaine at 553-2618.

St. John Vianney Mass for adults with developmental disabilities, their adult family members and residential staff. This is an interactive weekly celebration of liturgy at St. John Vianney Parish at 2950 Southwestern Blvd. in Orchard Park at 7pm. **Currently, this mass is temporarily suspended due to COVID. It will resume pending state approval.** On the 2nd Saturday, a social is held after Mass. Contact Joanne at 825-1702.

Victorious Missionaries is a national organization consisting of physically, mentally, and emotionally disabled persons and the caregivers. The group gives spiritual and social enlightenment to its members. The local chapter meets one Saturday a month from 11am to 1pm at Fourteen Holy Helpers Parish Hall at 1345 Indian Church Road in West Seneca. For more information, call Carol Buchla at 639-7542.

Saint Bernadette Parish Open Doors Ministry

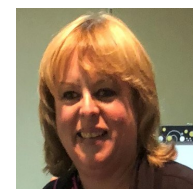
“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed.”

Pope Francis



Confirmation 2021 with Bishop Mike Fisher

The mission of our ministry is to welcome all members into our parish community and to the spirit of inclusiveness exemplified throughout Jesus' life and teaching.



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Open Doors Chairperson
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Sharon Urbaniak
Faith Formation Director
648-1720 ext. 3
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Saint Bernadette Parish
5930 South Abbott Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127
649-3090

OPEN DOORS

We open our doors through our accessibility to all parish buildings.

Accessible entrances and parking

is available in the front of the church in the large parking lot and in front of the parish office. Parking in the back of the church is available at both doors. There are automatic touch buttons to open the doors in the front of the church.

The Parish Ministry Center is accessible through the front doors, by a ramp in the back and a lift from the church.

The Msgr. Nugent Room has an outside ramp in the back. From the front and back hallways, there is a ramp down to the room.

All buildings are accessible and connect to one another. All bathrooms are accessible.

Inside the Church We have cut pews to accommodate people with mobility disabilities who use a walker or wheelchair. The cuts are located in the middle of the center aisle and in the front on both side aisles.

Our Sensory Room accommodates people needing a smaller, more confined environment. The room is in the front entrance of the church and includes: **Rocking chairs** as the back and forth motion assists in calming.

Manipulative objects on the walls to assist in engaging hands while focusing on listening. The **speaker** transmitting the Mass can be adjusted to control the volume. This room was designed and created by Drew Newberry, a young parishioner with autism as an Eagle Scout project and is featured on the National Catholic Partnership on Disability website, www.ncpd.org.

OPEN MINDS

We open minds through sharing information in our bulletin, offering parish activities and meeting monthly to set goals for the year.

Sacraments are a special gift from God and available to everyone. Preparation will be customized to meet the learning needs of each individual. Contact Sharon at 648-1720 ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

Weekly

Faith Formation Groups for children with special needs meets on Mondays from 3:45 to 5pm. These are smaller classes with more sensory oriented activities. Contact Sharon at 648-1720 ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

Mass The 9am Saturday Mass is an option for people who need a shorter, less stimulating celebration of Eucharist. This does meet your weekly obligation if this mass best meets your needs.

Monthly

Catholic Special Needs Family of WNY supports parents of children with special needs. Join our mailing list at stewart626@me.com to connect for monthly zoom chats, praying of the rosary and resources.

God's Family is an intergenerational program for people of all ages with disabilities and their families. Gatherings are held monthly on the second Saturday from 9 to 11 am beginning with attendance at Mass. Contact Sharon at 648-1720 ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

Hamburg Hopekeepers is an adult Christian support group for those dealing with chronic illness and/or pain. The group will meet on Saturday 9/18, 10/9, 11/13 and 12/11 from 12 to 2pm in the Community Room. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Laura Seil Ruszczyk at lsruszczyk@gmail.com or 435-1768.

Open Doors Ministry meets the first Thursday of each month in the Parish Ministry Center Msgr. Carey room. Enter at door #1. People with disabilities, parents and concerned parishioners are welcome to join this committee. Call Paula at 649-1051.

Quarterly

New parishioners are welcomed quarterly after the 11am Sunday Mass. October 24th will be the next session. Contact our parish office at 649-3090 if planning to attend.

OPEN MINDS

Special Events are held throughout the year and will be advertised on our website www.saintbopny.org. All age people with disabilities and their family and friends are welcome to our events. Contact Paula at coszmo3631@gmail.com or 649-1051 to be placed on our contact list.

Thursday, September 30th

**Catholic Special Needs Families
Parent Zoom Chat at 7pm
Register at stewart626@me.com**

Saturday, October 16th

**Pray the Rosary at 3pm
Adoration Chapel
Register at stewart626@me.com**

Saturday, November 13th

**God's Family Gathering
9-11am in the Church for Mass
Parish Ministry Center Activities**

Monday, December 27th

**Confessions 6pm
Inclusive Christmas Mass
7pm in the Church
Reception in Parish Ministry Center**

Saturday, January 8th

**God's Family Gathering
9-11am in the Church for Mass
Parish Ministry Center Activities**

Saturday, February 26th

**Mardi Gras
1-2:30pm in the
Parish Ministry Center**

Saturday, March 12th

**God's Family Gathering
9-11am in the church for Mass
Parish Ministry Center Activities**

Tuesday, April 19th

**Inclusive Easter Mass
7pm in the Church
Reception in Parish Ministry Center**