Welcome

Seeing Through God’s Eyes
in Ministry to
Children with Differing Abilities
Family Prayer
God made us a family.
We need one another.
We love one another.
We forgive one another.
We work together.
We pray together.
We worship together.
Together we learn God’s Word.
Together we grow in Christ.
Together we love all people.
Together we serve God.
Together we hope for Heaven.
These are our hopes.
Help us to obtain them, Father,
Through Jesus your Son, Our Lord.
Amen.
The Family

• We minister to the family, not just the child with the disability.
• Parents
  waited 9 months with anticipation of a child
  mixed emotions- guilt, fear, anxiety
  lack of support from extended family
  advocate in schools
  lack of support from our Catholic Church
  society’s reaction
  build their confidence that they do have a place in our parish family
SIBLINGS

• Need our love and support, too
• Welcome to be part of your program
• Siblings may feel left behind, receive less attention
• Empower as helpers
• Recognize their talents and use them
• Talk about their role to
  bring Christ’s love to their brother or sister
  be a witness to others through their interaction with their sibling
Child with Disability

• Recognize they are created in God’s Image
• Look to see the beauty as an individual
• Look into their eyes and you will see that beauty
• For some, their eyes may be their only means to communicate
• They have abilities and talents, find them
• Most need that physical touch- handshake, high five, hugs
• Ask family to complete an Individualized Faith Formation Plan
Individualized Faith Formation Plan

• Information about the child - best at, needs help with, enjoys most, least enjoys, emotional well being, behaviors, techniques to assist in regaining emotional stability,

• Communication, medical concerns, bathroom skills

• Placement options

• In downloadable documents

• Meet and greet

• Explore the environment - church, classroom, meeting space
God’s Family

God has made us a family
And together we will grow in love.

https://youtu.be/w60RzkBWDdM
God’s Family

• Gathering Time

• Share Our Faith Time

• Prayer Service

• Take Home Bags
God’s Family Session
February 11, 2023

GATHERING TIME
Welcome
Get volunteers to bring items up for the prayer service procession Heart, Candles, Lectionary, plate with pita bread

MEAL TIME
Repeat lines to grace from card, poster
Buffet style served by team
Food: Yogurt bar (granola, kiwi, raisins, berries), oatmeal packages, fruit cups, milk
Birthdays heart pastries, cards, gift basket

PRAYER TIME and SENDING FORTH TIME

Denise: Procession: Candle, Lectionary, Prayer Request Basket, Basket with bread, Figurines
Sharon: Opening Prayer: A Family Prayer
AJ: Opening Song: Tv with computer, Song of the Body of Christ
Acclamation: Alle, Alle, Alleluia with actions
AJ: Gospel felt,
Sharon: Reflection Bread broken and shared
AJ: Yes, Lord I Believe Song
Joanne: Prayer Petitions read slips, sung Lord, Hear Our Prayer
Sharon: Closing prayer: Christ’s Presence
AJ: Closing Song: God Has Made Us a Family

SHARING OUR FAITH TIME
Favorite family celebrations that include meals- foods Bread, drink
Invite Jesus to be with us, put up Jesus banner, His love- Heart Pillow
Last Supper figurines, picture of bread, chalice
Make special family dish (glass plates, permanent markers, last supper picture)
The ___ Family
Do this in Memory of Me, We come to break the bread, Bread of LA special family meals break and share the special bread
Denise take pictures

Take home materials: pita bread, dinner prayers in zip lock bags, Eucharist flash cards, commitment sheet, Liturgy and Life, In Memory of Him, Mardi Gras flyer
St. Valentine Bags- paddles, Jesus loves me tea lights,
Prayer boxes- O’Brien, Stry, Mann Present prayer boxes- Jesus picture green and purple
Bring 2 cardboard egg cartons next time
Courtney cup out Last Supper pieces for the families
First Reconciliation Books: Dimitri, Alise, Norah
God’s Family Gathering Time

• Each family has a bin with name tags, colored pencils, crayons, pens placed on tables
• **Gather Together** song by Jon Burland with motions
• Round tables with placemats to go with theme
• Greeting cards to sign: birthday, get well, thinking of you, etc.
• Prayer request slips - team member collects in basket for prayer service
• Crafts or coloring sheets
• Breakfast- cereal, yogurt bar, fruit, coffee (2 senior ladies set up)
• Birthday- muffins, basket of $1 gifts
Sharing Our Faith Time

• Theme for the year Sacraments, Prayer, Liturgical Year, Social Justice
• Large circle, long rectangle tables
• Four team members each present different parts
• Music- on line YouTube (father and teenage daughter)
• Interactive learning- acting out stories, gestures, echoing key points, symbols- red squishy heart pillow, Jesus banner, baptism- feel water, Palm Sunday- coats on floor, weave palms, role play Jesus
• Think 5 senses- see, hear, touch, taste, smell when creating lesson
• Confirmation- spirit banner, sweet oil, fan, wind, folder, song Yes Lord, I believe
Prayer Service

• Procession God’s Family cloth with handprints, white with liturgical season cloths, candle, children’s lectionary, prayer petition basket, symbol from lesson
• Family Prayer
• First reading (the next Sunday or according to topic) from Children’s Lectionary
• Alleluia with signs
• Your Word O Lord, recited with actions
• Gospel reading (read by a man)
• Reflection- Youtube- visual, words, symbol from take home packet and interactive discussion
• Our Father recited
• Prayers of the Faithful Sung- Lord, Hear our Prayer (5 golden ring tune)
• Commissioning
• Closing Song – God has made us a Family
Prayer Box (Plastic see through shoe box)

- 5 x 7 picture of Hook’s Jesus in plastic frame
- Felt for the liturgical seasons with directions
- Battery operated candle
- Rosary, full, decade, ring
- Prayer books (Our Father, Stations of the Cross from Loyola Press)
- Crafts
- Prayer shawl or pocket prayer shawl
Take Home Bags

• Activities to extend the learning at home-prayers, manipulatives
  Colorful Rosary- poster with stickers, Stations of the Cross
  Book, pocket prayer shawl

• Seasonal liturgical activities
  Christmas conversation cards, Lent chains, Advent calendars

• Pictures for frames
  Holy family, Mary, Joseph, Saints with prayers on the back side
SACRAMENTS
Sharing God’s Love
Drew is one of four children with autism. As an Eagle Scout project, he created this former crying room into a place in the church for children with sensory needs to feel comfortable.

OUR SENSEORY ROOM

- Wheels with a variety of manipulatives
- Magnetic paint
- Ribbons and strings to twirl
- Rocking chairs
- Adjustable volume
- Church pews and kneelers
Over 400 pairs of socks collected for the Response to Love Outreach Ministry