

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 Masses are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 11:30am and Tuesday, Thursday at 7am.

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

Inclusive Masses

7pm Wednesday, April 12th Easter
This Mass is shorter, less crowded, has dimmer lighting, softer music and allows room for pacing. Mass is interpreted in sign language.

Low gluten hosts are available at each Mass. Please let the priest know before Mass. If you would like Holy 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 Fourteen Holy Helpers, 1345 Indian Church Road, Gardenville (West Seneca). The 10:30 am Sunday Mass is interpreted in sign language.

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 716-553-2618.

St. John Vianney Mass

for adults with developmental disabilities, their adult family members and residential staff. Participants must be 18 years and older. This is an interactive weekly celebration of liturgy at St. John Vianney Parish at 2950 Southwestern Blvd. in Orchard Park at 7pm on Saturdays. Contact Joanne at 716-825-1702.

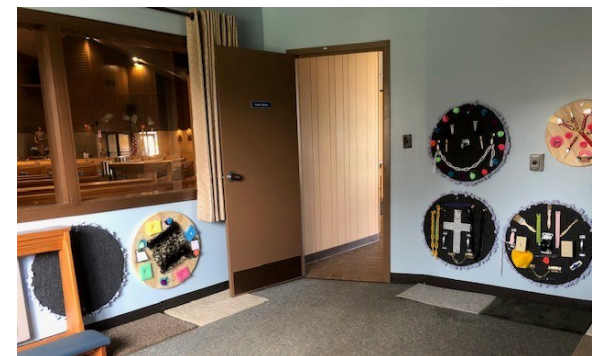
Victorious Missionaries

is a national organization consisting of physically, mentally, and emotionally disabled persons and their 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. Call Carol Buchla at 716-639-7542.

Saint Bernadette Parish Open Doors Ministry

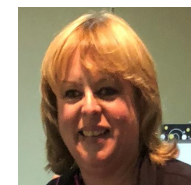
“Let the Church always be a place of mercy and hope, where everyone is welcomed.”

Pope Francis



Church Sensory Room

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



Paula Potteiger
Open Doors Chairperson
716-649-1051
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Sharon Urbaniak
Faith Formation Director
716-648-1720 ext. 3
sharonu@saintbopny.org



Saint Bernadette Parish
5930 South Abbott Road
Orchard Park, NY 14127
716-649-3090
www.saintbopny.org

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 monthly meetings 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 716-648-1720 ext. 3 or sharonu@saintbopny.org.

Monthly

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 9:30am to 11am. Contact Sharon at 716-648-1720 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 meets on the second Saturday from 11:30 to 1pm in the Parish Ministry Center. New members are always welcome.

For more information, contact Laura Seil Rusczyk at lsruszczyk@gmail.com or 716-435-1768.

Open Doors Ministry meets the first Friday of each month on Zoom at 2pm. People with disabilities, parents and concerned parishioners are welcome to join this committee. Call Paula Potteiger at 716-649-1051.

Quarterly

New parishioners are welcomed quarterly after the 11am Sunday Mass. Contact our parish office at 716-649-3090 if you would like to attend.

OPEN MINDS

Special Events are held throughout the year and advertised on our website www.saintbopny.org. All age people with disabilities and their family and friends are welcome.

Contact Paula at 716-649-1051 or coszmo3631@gmail.com.

April 1, 2023
God's Family Gathering
9:30-11am Parish Ministry Center

Wednesday, April 12, 2023
7pm Inclusive Easter Mass
With Reception in Parish Ministry Center

Sunday, May 14, 2023
11am Mass Crowning of Mary

Saturday, August 26, 2023
11am-2pm Picnic Parish Ministry Center