

Awaken Adaptive Special Needs Policy

Our Lady of Light Family of Parishes

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Adaptive Division of the Awaken Program is to provide any child with needs the opportunity to have a relationship with the Triune God through religious education instruction and the sacraments.

Goals

1. To create an accepting, inclusive, and accommodating environment within the program for the child and family living with a disability.
2. To provide religious education and services to help any child with special needs have a basic understanding of their Catholic faith and know Jesus Christ.
3. To educate staff, volunteers, peers, and other families about the wants and needs of children and families with disabilities and how to best support them.
4. To equip volunteer catechists or Special Needs Buddies with the necessary supplies, tools, or items required to communicate the daily message to each child with special needs.

Policies

1. Special Needs services can be requested by the family of the individual, the ministry leader(s), or volunteers serving the individual.
2. "Special Needs" encompasses a broad range of needs and may include the following: learning needs, intellectual disabilities, neurological disorders, developmental delays, communication disorders, physical disabilities, social skill deficits, sensory needs, medical conditions, or emotional disabilities. Due to the wide range of needs, the Awaken Program may be unable to provide full and accurate services to all who qualify. The church will do its best to meet any needs present.
3. The Awaken program is not equipped or able to provide therapy, professional counseling, behavior modification programs, or extensive medical intervention. Medical assistance will be provided in emergencies or for injuries only.