

Respect Life Office  
**DEPARTMENT FOR PASTORAL CARE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES  
AND THE DEAF APOSTOLATE**

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Church Bulletin Announcement for the Month of April 2012

**April is Autism Awareness Month**

Let us take this month of April, Autism Awareness Month, to challenge ourselves to learn more about the ways in which we can accommodate the needs of those in our community who experience autism so that they may participate more fully, and to seek out and celebrate the richness of the gifts they have to offer.

If you have a family member who experiences autism or know of parishioners with autism who may need certain accommodations or support to participate in parish life, please call or email \_\_\_\_\_ . (Name and contact information of your Parish Contact for Persons with Disabilities.)

Autism is a serious, life-long, neurological developmental disability that ranges from mild to severe along a wide spectrum of possibilities. For more information about autism spectrum disorders, go to [www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/asd.cfm](http://www.nichd.nih.gov/health/topics/asd.cfm) . For more information on inclusion for people with disabilities in the life of the Church go to [www.ncpd.org](http://www.ncpd.org) or our Archdiocesan website- [www.archphila.org](http://www.archphila.org) (Click- Respect Life Office/Pastoral Care for Persons with Disabilities).

**April is Autism Awareness Month.  
April 2, 2012 is World Autism Awareness Day.  
Select petition for use each Sunday during April.  
PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

For our parish families, that our communities will model the welcoming and inclusive ministry of Jesus, seeking always to see the image of God in every person.

That growth in understanding of autism will lead to relationships of support and increase a sense of belonging for those who live with autism and their families.

That families and all who live with autism find their faith to be a source of strength, community, and hope.

For research efforts that unlock new pathways of communication and creative strategies to enable all who live with autism to enjoy full and enriching lives.

For teachers, catechists and all who take the time to make learning accessible to all, that their efforts may be valued, and that their commitment may inspire us to walk more firmly in the steps of Christ.

For an openness to the gifts of those who live with autism and an affirmation of their contribution to the lives of others.