

INCLUSION/ACCESSIBILITY at ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH

(February, 2023)

A. St. Mary Campus

- 1) The church itself is accessible via an outside ramp located on the east side, adjacent to the parking lot. Once inside, the floor ascends in a ramp-like manner to the main level. There is a bathroom at the south end of the building that is accessible. In addition, the Ambo has an electrified feature by which the reading surface can be raised or lowered simply by pushing a button, so that it can actually be used by someone in a wheelchair (or by children, as is sometimes the case). There is an attractive wooden ramp at the east end front of the Nave that leads to or from the level of the ambo, altar, etc. There are areas in the Nave, near the ramp, that are left free of pews and reserved for persons in wheelchairs.
- 2) There is no sound enhancement in the church for persons with hearing limitations.
- 3) The Parish Center, which faces Lake St., has an outside ramp at the building's west end, which makes the main floor accessible. However, there are no accessible bathrooms, and many of the doorways into the various rooms, are too narrow to accommodate a wheelchair. (There is a beautiful chapel, reminding that the building was once a convent, but requires one to take a number of steps down to access it.)

B. St. Nicholas Campus

- 1) There is an outside ramp providing access to the church, located at the southeast corner of the church. The two restrooms at the Ridge end are wheelchair-accessible. There are spaces near the front of the Ridge section left free of seating and reserved for wheelchairs. The front-most part of the Ridge section seating is made up of chairs, which allows for more room for wheelchairs whenever this should be needed. On the west (font) area, ramps on each side provide access to the area around the baptismal font. The ambo and the altar are not accessible via wheelchair.
- 2) The sound system installed in recent years included the feature of a "Hearing Loop" which provides for direct feed of the sound system to most modern hearing aids. There are symbols posted at most of the entrances alerting people to this feature. (We probably need further info posted by the symbols, to inform people that the hearing loop is operative only in the Ridge section and the Guadalupe section.) It is worth noting also that – pre-Covid – there was sign-language provided on a regular basis for at least one mass each weekend.
- 3) The Social Hall includes an elevator which can be accessed via a door at ground level on the east side. This door can be opened automatically but is normally locked. The key is available in the rectory. The elevator provides access to all the floors including Oldershaw Hall (ground floor), the chapel (2nd floor) and the gymnasium (3rd floor).
- 4) The rectory, home to many offices, is not accessible, although making it so has long been a goal.
- 5) The school cafeteria (ground floor) is accessible via ramp and there is an accessible bathroom. The school is otherwise not accessible to persons with disabilities.

- 6) St. Nicholas worship and liturgical life attempts to include persons with disabilities: Altar servers (with notable regularity at the 4:30 mass) and communion ministers include persons with developmental disabilities. And the SPRED group (Special Religious Education), provides regular opportunities for fellowship and spiritual growth, to persons of all ages with developmental disabilities. There is also someone who is part of the group of persons reviewing and offering feedback on the weekly intercessions, with a particular focus on language and attentiveness to disabilities.