

"And A Child Shall Lead Us"

A Spiritual Journey *For Mothers of Children with Developmental Disabilities* *Through Faith To Action*

Some Topics for Discussion (but not limited to):

- ♥ You are not alone!
- ♥ Sharing of experiences/and use of strategies to develop resilience in mothers & children
- ♥ Possibilities for faith to strengthen your day
- ♥ Practical, active and creative responses
- ♥ Strategies to support participation of your son/daughter with special needs in you parish, including preparation to celebrate First Eucharist

Refreshments Provided

PLACE: **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Parish Life Center**
15 North Washington Avenue
Bergenfield, NJ

TIME: 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM

- **October 9: *Mother for My Son as Adolescent into Adulthood*** by Maria Teresa Canha
- **December 11:** Advent Mass **7:15 chapel upstairs in Parish Life Center**
- **March 19: *With My Spouse on this Journey of Parenthood*** by Cherie Castellano, MA, CSW, LPC, AAETS (Cherie is creator of *And A Child Shall Lead Us* group for moms)
- **April 9:** Two Events (separate)
 - **SIBLINGS:** 3 representatives from new chapter of Sibling Leadership Network, called Jersey Adult Brothers and Sisters. Though they are called "adult brother and sisters" they are happy to talk with all age siblings.
 - **MOMs:** the Stations of the Cross, with reflections from a mother's perspective
- **May 14th:** May Crowning Liturgy
- **June a Saturday tbd:** stay tuned for more on retreat day for moms a Saturday in June

For more information contact: St. John's Religious Education Office at 201-384-3601 or Anne Masters, Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities at the email/phone below.

The group is supported by the parish of St. John the Evangelist Church, Bergenfield and Pastoral Ministry with Persons with Disabilities for the Archdiocese of Newark. They were designed and created by Cherie Castellano MA, CSW, LPC, AAETS, a psychologist and mother of a child with an autism spectrum disorder and Sr. Rie Crowley, SJ, MA of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament.

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