

Prayer for Individuals Affected by Autism Spectrum Disorders

Lord, you said, "I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.

We pray for the gift of abundant life for all who are living
with autism spectrum disorders.

We pray for the children and adults on the spectrum who struggle to understand how the social world operates, and therefore have difficulties fitting in. Please allow them to experience dignity and the joy in life that their natural anxieties at times prohibit them from.

We pray for their parents and other family members, whose challenge is to never lose hope as they work hard with love to guide and discipline. Keep us mindful of the strength with which you grant to anyone who asks for it and help us to share our faith in you with individuals in all developmental stages.

We pray for catechists and teachers, especially when they don't understand that the persistent talking out or unusual behaviors that a person on the spectrum may demonstrate are not meant to undermine their authority. Help them to see the gifts of these individuals through your eyes and those of the people who love them most.

We pray for members of our faith communities, that they replace their stares and looks of disapproval with understanding and compassion for people on the spectrum, who daily face great challenges, yet are trying to live the abundant life you have called them to. Give them the grace to include your most vulnerable people in the full life of the Church.

We ask this in your name, Christ Jesus. Amen.