

# Better Than Ok – Finding Joy as a Special Needs Parent

with Kelly Mantoan



## Free Event for Special Needs Parents

**Date of Event:** Thursday, March 9th

**Location:** Sacred Heart Church, 1627 Grand Ave., West Des Moines, in the Parish Hall

**Free Family Dinner:** 5:00 PM

**Presentation:** 6:00 PM

**Child Care:** provided free during presentation

**Registration:** required for meal and/or child care (*RSVPs due by March 1st*)

OR call/email **Sherri** 515-237-5058, [ssimmer@dmdiocese.org](mailto:ssimmer@dmdiocese.org)



### **Finding Joy in Your Unique Vocation:**

Based on the themes of her book, Kelly Mantoan will discuss the stages of grief many special needs parents go through and how parents can look past the sorrow of their child's diagnosis to find the joy in everyday life. That joy can strengthen in caring and advocating for their child. While our lives as special needs parents may look different, even challenging, parents and children can successfully live out God's plans for their lives.

## **Kelly Mantoan**



### **About our Presenter**

Kelly Mantoan is a Catholic author of "Better Than Ok—Finding Joy as a Special Needs Parent," wife, mother and founder of Accepting the Gift, [www.acceptingthegift.org](http://www.acceptingthegift.org) an apostolate for Catholic special needs parents.

"Every day is joyful. Every day is a gift. Every day I can thank God from the bottom of my heart." she said. Kelly wasn't always able to say these words. As a mother of five children, two with profound disabilities, all her energy and attention was focused on her children's diagnoses. Drained and struggling, Kelly wondered if she had what it took to be the kind of parent they needed. She craved support as a Catholic parent with special needs children, but most secular support groups couldn't help her see and understand God's plan.