August/September

Our Mission

Every person, regardless of their physical and mental abilities, has the right to a full life in the Church and deserves the support of parishes and church staff. The Diocese of Joliet is an inclusive diocese, and we believe in including everyone in the ministries and programs offered at our parishes.



DisABILITY Ministry



Contact Us

SAINT MARY IN MOKENA LAUNCHES NEW SPRED PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES



Welcome SPRED to Saint Mary

Special Religious DevelopmentFaith Formation and Fellowship for those with Disabilities

Join our group!

We are looking for friends:



ages 17-21 with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) who want to be part of a faith community.

Our First Meeting:

Monday September 8 St. Mary, Mokena Fatima Room 6:00 PM SPRED stands for Special Religious Development.
The goal is to make it possible for each parish to welcome persons with developmental disabilities into a SPRED group where they are prepared to participate in the liturgical life of their parish.

Learn More from the SPRED Center in Chicago Here!

Contact

Kathleen Sifuentes Kathleenmelei10@gmail.com 815-416-8226

August/September

YOUNG ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES PARTICIPATE IN THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH THIS SUMMER AT VBS





Young adults with disabilities at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Aurora worked hard during the parish's VBS week this summer! Together they prepared over 200 snacks each day to serve the campers and volunteers who participated in VBS, giving these young adults an opportunity to participate in the mission of the Church through their work, service and witness

to others!

August/September

SPRED AND REACH STUDENTS BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT WITH SOME INDOOR FUN!





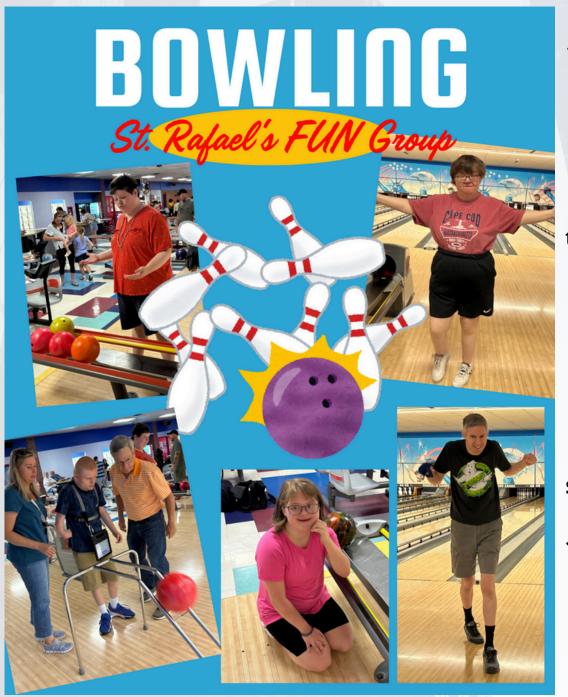
The SPRED Ministry at Visitation in **Elmhurst** hosted an accessible, all-abilities dance night with new friends, dancing, refreshments and a live performance by Simply **Elton Band!**

August/September

SPRED AND REACH STUDENTS BEAT THE SUMMER HEAT WITH SOME INDOOR FUN CONTINUED...



DisABILITY Ministry



Young adults from the FUN Group at St.
Rafael
Church in Naperville came together for a day of bowling and friendship!

The FUN
Group is a
group of
students with
disabilities
18+ who meet
2x a month
with their
faith
community!

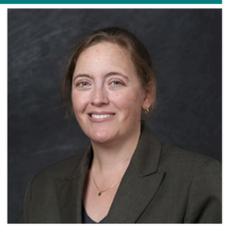
DisABILITY Ministry Newsletter August/September

JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING WORKSHOP Ministry
AT THE BLANCHETTE CENTER



Planning Through the Lens of Universality

Elizabeth Potts, Ph.D., Associate Director of Diocesan Relations with the National Catholic Partnership on Disability (NCPD) will join us to help us imagine how we can be inclusive of people with all abilities in our formation programs, ensuring all are present, invited and welcomed. This workshop will include time to work on your current outreaches, and make plans for the future. Perfect for formation teams at the parish level, including DREs, youth ministry leaders and catechists.



Thursday, September 18, 2025 Noon to 3:30pm Blanchette Catholic Center, Crest Hill, IL

Lunch included. Please RSVP at this link or QR below.



Sponsored by the Dept. of Catechesis and Evangelization

Questions? Contact 815-221-6150 or jreyes@dioceseofjoliet.org



DisABILITY Ministry
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Stay Connected with Resources in Your Local Community

DisABILITY Ministry

Religious Education/Sacramental Preparation Programs for Persons with Disabilities in the Diocese of Joliet						
Program	Age	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Frequency	Sacramental Prep	Contact
REACH – Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	K-6	Sunday	10:55 a.m.– 12:05 p.m.	Weekly; see schedule here		Debbie Macaluso dmacaluso@notreda meparish.org (630) 601-1762 Mary Baker mbaker@notredame parish.org (630) 601-1757
SPICE – Special People Included in Catholic Environments	K-8	Saturday		Weekly	First Communion and Confirmation	Cathy Gilooly reo@stanneparish.o g (630) 554-1425
SPICE for Teens	Junior High (up to 18)	Saturday	3–4:30 p.m. Parents meet at the same time	Monthly	First Communion and Confirmation	Jenine Boes Phone (630) 554-2502 Cell (630) 551-4862 T.j.boes@att.net
REACH – Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	6+	Saturday	9:30–11 a.m.	Twice a month	First Communion and Confirmation	Jeanne McDonald jmcdonald@st- raphael.com (630) 615-7614 Registration
Naperville, IL 60540 Phone(630) 355-4545 FUN Group	18 years and up	Saturday	9:30–11 a.m.	Twice a month		
REACH – Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	K-8	Mondays	4:45–6 p.m.	Twice a month	First Communion and Confirmation	Madonna Wojtaszek Healy madonnawoj@gmail com Catechists: Peggy O'Brien, Sandra Campbell
REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	K-8	Wednesdays	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Bi-monthly	First Communion and Confirmation	Tami Brongiel tbrongiel@stmarym kena.org
REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	Grades 1–8	Monday and Thursday	Monday 6:30- 7:15 p.m. (Grades 7/8) Thursday 5-5:45 p.m. (Grades 1-6)	Weekly	First Communion and Confirmation	Geri Morse (815) 436 4501
RFACH - Religious	К-8				First Communion and Confirmation	Theresa Pratt tpratt@sspeterandp ul.net (630) 357-2436
REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	K-6; 7 Years and older for Sacramental Prep	Sunday	8:30-9:45AM	Bi-Monthly (See Schedule Here)	First Reconciliation, First Communion & Confirmation	Lydia Schmitt, lydias@olm rcy.com 630-851-3444 EXT 235
SPRED (Special Religious Education Development)	Ages 13-40	Monday Evenings	6:30–8 p.m.	Three times a month (September to April)		Melanie Schneider Melanie.Schneider@ isitationcc.org (630) 209-0064
	REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped SPICE - Special People Included in Catholic Environments SPICE for Teens REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped SPEED (Special Religious Education	Program Age REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped K-8 SPICE - Special People Included in Catholic Environments SPICE for Teens Junior High (up to 18) REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped SPRED (Special Religious Education Ages 13-40	REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Sacramental Prep SPRED (Special Religious Education Ages 13–40 Monday Fuenings	REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian	Program Age Meeting Date Meeting Time Frequency REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped REACH - Religious	Program Age Meeting Date Meeting Time Frequency Sacramental Prep REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped SPICE - Special People Included in Catholic Environments SPICE - Special People Included in Catholic Environments SPICE for Teens Junior Nigh (up to 18) Saturday 3-4:30 p.m. Parents meet at the same time Monthly First Communion and Confirmation REACH - Religious Education Apostolate Handicapped Saturday 9:30-11 a.m. Twice a month First Communion and Confirmation REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Sacramental Prep Sunday 8:30-9:45AM Bhonthly (See Schedule Here) SPRED (Special Religious Education Apostolate for Sacramental Prep Sunday 8:30-9:45AM Bhonthly (See Schedule Here) First Communion Frest Communion Apostolate for Sacramental Prep Sunday 8:30-9:45AM Bhonthly (See Schedule Here) First Communion Apostolate for Christian Apostolate for Sacramental Prep Sunday 9:30-11 a.m. Twice a month Three dimension Apostolate for Christian Apostolate for Sacramental Prep Sunday 9:30-11 a.m. Twice a month Monday 4:30-7:15 p.m. (Grades 7:8) Monday 4:30-7:15 p.m. (Grades 7:8) Monday 4:30-7:15 p.m. (Grades 7:8) Monday 4:30-7:15 p.