

DisABILITY Ministry Newsletter



DisABILITY Ministry

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.



Contact Us

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



Welcome SPRED to Saint Mary

Special Religious Development
Faith 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

Contact

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

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!

DisABILITY Ministry Newsletter

August/September



**DisABILITY
Ministry**

**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!

DisABILITY Ministry Newsletter

August/September



**DisABILITY
Ministry**

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

SUMMER DANCE AT VISITATION PARISH



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!

DisABILITY Ministry Newsletter

August/September



**DisABILITY
Ministry**

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

BOWLING

St. Rafael's FUN Group



**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
AT THE BLANCHETTE CENTER**

**DisABILITY
Ministry**



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 Newsletter

August/September

Stay Connected with Resources in Your Local Community



DisABILITY Ministry



Religious Education/Sacramental Preparation Programs for Persons with Disabilities in the Diocese of Joliet							
Parish	Program	Age	Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Frequency	Sacramental Prep	Contact
Notre Dame Parish 64 Norfolk Ave. Clarendon Hills, IL (630) 654-3365	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@notredameparish.org (630) 601-1762 Mary Baker mbaker@notredameparish.org (630) 601-1757
St. Anne Parish 551 Boulder Hill Pass P.O. Box 670 Oswego, IL 60543 Phone(630) 554-1425	SPICE - Special People Included in Catholic Environments	K-8	Saturday		Weekly	First Communion and Confirmation	Cathy Gilooly reo@stanneparish.org (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
St. Raphael Parish 1215 Modaff Rd. Naperville, IL 60540 Phone(630) 355-4545	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
	FUN Group	18 years and up	Saturday	9:30-11 a.m.	Twice a month		
Cathedral of St. Raymond 604 N. Raynor Avenue Joliet, IL 60435 Phone (815) 722-6653	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
St. Mary Parish 19515 115th Ave. Mokena, IL 60448 Phone (708) 326-9356	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@stmarymokena.org
St. Mary Immaculate Parish 15629 South Route 59 Plainfield, IL	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
Sts. Peter and Paul 36 N. Ellsworth Street Naperville, IL 60540 Phone (630) 355-1081	REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	K-8				First Communion and Confirmation	Theresa Pratt tpratt@sspeterandpaul.net (630) 357-2436
Our Lady of Mercy Church 701 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504 Phone 630-851-3444	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@olmerycy.com 630-851-3444 EXT 235
Visitation Parish 779 S. York Street Elmhurst, IL 60126 Phone(630) 279-7058, ext. 502	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@visitationcc.org (630) 209-0064