

DisAbility Ministry Newsletter December/January



**DisAbility
Ministry**



Contact Us

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.

Students with Special Needs Are Welcome! CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

St. Rafael's REACH Advent Mass (Santa will be there!)

December 14, 2024 11AM

MUST RSVP and email for details @
jmcdonald@st-raphael.com



17 students with disABILITIES received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville on November 8, 2024!



DECEMBER 3RD IS INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Pope Francis' 2019 message at the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, stated: "We are called to recognize in every person with disabilities, even complex and serious disabilities, a unique contribution to the common good through their original life stories. ... and to recognize them as persons of equal dignity, as brothers and sisters in humanity."

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Finding Grace in Your Family



**RSVP for our
next online
support group
session
12-17-24 @
7PM**

Have you heard of our parent support groups for caregivers of persons with disABILITIES? Parenting a child with physical, developmental or mental-health disABILITIES can be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. But it also can strain your household an marriage and test your faith. Join Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy for a program designed to support couples and singleparents who have children with disABILITIES. The program has in-person meetings as well as monthly online sessions.

Lord, you understand the unique challenges and joys of caregiving, for you are the ultimate caregiver. May I feel your presence with me, a constant source of comfort and assurance. Remind me that my efforts are meaningful, and help me to reflect your love to those I care for. Amen.



UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DIOCESE

All persons with special needs, along with their family and friends, are invited to celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Aurora on March 16, 2025 at 2PM! Fellowship will follow the Mass. Please RSVP so we may welcome you!

 **OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Individuals with DisABILITIES/special needs are invited to join us with their friends and family for a special DisABILITIES Mass!

March 16, 2025 @ 2PM

Fellowship in the MPR to Follow (Please RSVP so we may welcome you!)
701 S Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504



SCAN ME
Scan so we can welcome you!



We look forward to welcoming you and many others from throughout the Diocese of Joliet and we hope you will join us as we celebrate the blessings of those with disABILITIES in our Church family, as well as the wonderful gifts they bring to our parish!



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**Stay Connected with
Resources in Your Local
Community**



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, IL60448 Phone (708) 326-9356	REACH - Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped	K-8	Wednesdays	4:30-5:30 p.m.	Bi-weekly	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@olmercy.com 630-851-3444 EXT 235
Visitation Parish 779 S. Work Street Elmhurst, IL 60126 Phone(630) 279-7058, ext. 502	SPRED (Special Religious Education Development)	Ages 13-40	Wednesday Evenings	6:30-8 p.m.	Three times a month (September to April)		Melanie Schneider Melanie.Schneider@visitationcc.org (630) 209-0064