

DisAbility Ministry

Newsletter

February/March



**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.

CELEBRATIONS AROUND THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Parishes around the Diocese prepared their hearts for the coming of Jesus this Advent Season!

Our Lady of Mercy Church, Aurora, IL

Our Lady of Mercy's REACH students and families gathered together for a meet-&-greet and stories with St. Nicholas followed by decorating Nativity-scene cookies made by Moose & Me Bakery!

St. Mary Church, Mokena, IL

St. Mary celebrated Christmas with their choir member, Mrs. Noonan, who led students by singing carols! Catechist, Mrs. McGarry, played an elf delivering gifts to students in their REACH program!

St. Rafael Church, Naperville, IL

St. Rafael welcomed their REACH students and families to a sensory-friendly Advent Mass followed by an opportunity to visit with Santa!



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DisAbility Ministry March is DisABILITY Awareness Month!

Join us at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Aurora for a special sensory-friendly DisABILITIES Mass, followed by fellowship!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN OUR DIOCESE



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 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!



Finding Grace in Your Family Parent Support Group

For parents and caregivers of persons with disABILITIES; sponsored by Diocese of Joliet

Saturday, February 1st

7:00 PM to 8:30PM

Our Lady of Mercy Church

701 S. Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504

Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker *Dr. Madonna Wojtaszek-Healy* is a popular speaker at both the national and diocesan level, Madonna's experience as the mother of children with ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome has given her insight into the challenges that families who have a member with disABILITIES face.

Desserts Included

RSVP to Lydias@olmercy.com
by January 24th so we may welcome you!

RSVP for our next In-Person "Finding Grace in Your Family" Parent Support Group Meeting on 02-01-2025!

RSVP to Lydias@olmercy.com

Consider Learning More About How the
DisABILITY Ministry is being supported
by contributors to the 2025 CMAA!

[Click to Watch a
Video Clip](#)

[https://youtu.be/U91PKAJI13o?
si=00WYb5sGoIG_z
xE7](https://youtu.be/U91PKAJI13o?si=00WYb5sGoIG_zxE7)



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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. 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