

DisAbility Ministry

Newsletter

April/May



**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.

CELEBRATING MARCH DISABILITY AWARENESS MONTH AROUND THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET

Students in Our Lady of Mercy's REACH Faith Formation class for students with special needs celebrated World Down Syndrome Day by coloring and designing a pair of "Crazy Socks" to wear on March 21st!



Our Lady of Mercy Church in Aurora, IL hosted its 2nd Annual DisABILITIES Mass on March 16th for persons with disABILITIES as well as their families and friends!



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JOIN US FOR THE UPCOMING IN-PERSON "FINDING GRACE IN YOUR FAMILY" PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

**Where: St. Rafael Church in
Naperville, IL**

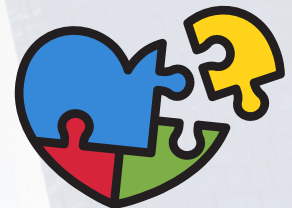
When: April 12 from 10-11AM

**RSVP to Martha at
mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org**

***There will be no scheduled
meeting in May***

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.

APRIL IS AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH



Loving God,
Bless today in special ways
all the children, adults and families
who see the world through the window of autism.
May Your Spirit burn bright in them
and all who celebrate and honor
the richness of our diversity
during this Autism Awareness month of April.
Grant us, O Lord,
the wisdom
to see your image reflected
in all of our differences,
and to recognize the unique gifts
we each have to offer.
May the doors of ministry in our Church
Continue to open wide in welcome to all of God's family.
We ask this in Jesus' holy name. Amen.

Special Camps



"This is the best week of my whole life"

Easter Party

When: Sunday, April 13, 2025
Time: 12pm - 3pm

Where: DuPage Fairgrounds
2015 Manchester Road, N County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Easter Egg Hunt • Hay Ride
Face Painting & Crafts • Petting Zoo
Music, Games, Dancing
Luncheon sponsored by Knights of Columbus*

Sponsored By:



**Knights of
Columbus*
&
Special
Camps**



*Distributed by The National Catholic Partnership on
Disability*

**RSVP to Kevin Callahan at
DD.Kevin.Callahan@gmail.com**

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SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

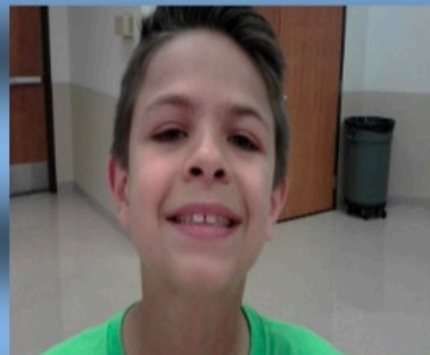
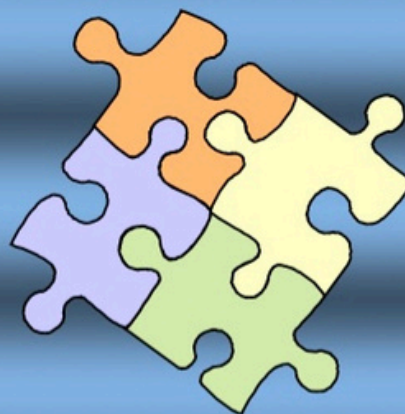
St. Anne Church's 6th Annual SPICE Game Day

**Individuals with
DisABILITIES/special needs
are invited to join us with their
friends and family for a day of
fun, smiles, and laughter!**

**May 10th, 2025
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Please RSVP to Cathy Gillooly,
DRE at reo@stanneparish.org
or call at (630) 554-1425**

**Our Location is:
551 Boulder Hill Pass
Oswego, IL 60543**



**We are pleased to welcome you and
many others throughout the Diocese
of Joliet!**

Our Game Day celebrates, teaches,
and gives back to the DisABILITIES
Community. We will not only play
games, but hear a story and do a
service project.

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**SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING
EVENTS**



The Mass will be
interpreted for the
deaf by an ASL
interpreter
in English

La Misa será
interpretada para
las personas con
discapacidad
auditiva por un
intérprete
de ASL en Inglés



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Click button below or
scan QR code to register

**REGISTER
NOW**



**¡TODOS SON
BIENVENIDOS!**

Haga clic en el botón
de abajo o escanee
Código QR para registrarse

**REGÍSTRASE
AHORA**

Department of
Catechesis and
Evangelization
Departamento de
Catequesis y
Evangelización

You are cordially invited
to the Diocese of Joliet

**Jubilee Mass for
Persons with
disABILITIES
June 1, 2025
12:30 p.m.**

**Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois**

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ronald
Hicks; refreshments and fellowship to follow. Those
with disABILITIES, and their caregivers, will
receive a special blessing.

Están cordialmente invitados
a la Diócesis de Joliet

**Misa Jubilar para Las
Personas con
disCAPACIDADES
1 de Junio de 2025
12:30 p.m.**

**Catedral de San Raimundo
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois**

La misa será celebrada por el obispo Ronald Hicks;
refrescos y compañerismo a seguir. Aquellos con
disCAPACIDADES, y sus cuidadores, recibirán una
bendición especial.

Questions? ¿Preguntas?

Martha Torres

(815) 221-6128

mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



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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-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@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