

## Parishes with Special Needs Programs

St. Anthony, 7659 West Sauk Trail I Road  
Frankfort, IL. 60423, 815-469-6072  
Contact: Ms. Barbara Becker

The program at St. Anthony Parish in Frankfort has been in place for six years. The curriculum is based on the Rose Kennedy Program and is detailed by the special education teachers each week. Parents are invited to stay for the class, however they do not always work with their own child, but another child in the program. The program is open to students from age six to fourteen.

St. Charles Borromeo, 145 East Grand  
Bensenville, IL. 60606, 630-766-8822  
Reach Coordinator: John Ainworth

The parish uses the Spred program. There are two different groups. Children (7-17 years of age) and adults (18+). There is a ratio of one on one between participants and friends. The groups meet on alternating Mondays from 7:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m. The groups are ecumenical and are from the parish and surrounding area. Sacramental preparation is done individually to meet the specific need of the student.

St. Isidore, 427 West Army trail Road  
Bloomington, IL. 60108, 630-529-9191  
Contact: John Collins

This is a program that involves a number of parishes in the Northwest Dupage area that is hosted at St Isidore Parish. There are currently two levels. Level 1 uses a customized curriculum and first Eucharist and Reconciliation preparation are generally a part of this level. Level II is generally for students who have completed two years in level 1 and have received 1<sup>st</sup> Eucharist and Reconciliation. It is lectionary based class, and seeks to aid the young person to understand and participate in the weekly worship of the community. Classes meet mid September through the last weekend in April at the same time of the regular religious education classes at St. Isidore. Confirmation is conducted in cooperation with the young person's home parish.

St. Joan of Arc, 4913 Columbia,  
Lisle, IL. 60532-2299, 630-971-1740  
Reach Contact: Mrs. Robin Pycik

The program meets every Saturday from September through May from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. The program is open to children of any age. There is a prayer time, Bible readings, singing, and also time for crafts. Occasionally, short videos will be shown. Curriculum for the class is the Silver-Burdett & Ginn workbook. Sacramental preparation is part of the program and parents are encouraged to be active in the process.

St Joseph, 283 North Center,  
Bradley, Il. 60915-1699, 815-937-9340  
Reach Contact: Evelyn Soldan

The program meets the third Sunday of the month to celebrate mass. Special needs individuals are trained as servers, Eucharistic Ministers, and gifts bearers for this mass. After Mass refreshments are served and bible bingo is played. Participants live in area group homes. Most are adults, but children would be welcome. Sacramental preparation is done on an individual basis.

St. Joseph, 4824 Highland, Ave.  
Downers Grove, IL. 60515-3693, 630-971-1740  
Reach contact: Mrs. Jean Knapkic

The program meets every other Wednesday during the school year from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Participants are children from 6 to 16 years of age. The class consists of 15 minutes of singing, 15 minutes of lesson time 15 minutes of craft time, and a snack. Prayer concludes the evening. Students receive one on one attention. Students are also prepared for sacraments on an individual basis to meet the wide arrange of abilities. The parish includes student from surrounding parishes. Students from other parishes are encouraged to receive sacraments in their home parish when they are ready.

St. Liborius, 71 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street  
Steger, Il, 60475-1895, 708-754-1363  
Reach Contact: Linda Longtin

The program meets the same time regular religious education classes are held. The program is tailored to meet the particular needs of the student for that year. Texts that are used in the regular classroom are also used, but at a slower pace. The students are included in all parish activities.

St. Mary, 11409 west 195<sup>th</sup> Street  
Mokena, IL. 60448, 708-479-3385  
Reach Contact: Kathy Kowalewski

This program gives parents the option of placing their child in the regular Religious Education program with accommodations made as necessary or placing their child in the Reach program. Reach meets on select Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Parents are welcome to attend the program. At the appropriate time, children participate in parish sacramental celebrations.

St Mary Magdalene, 127 Briggs Street  
Joliet, IL. 60433, 815-722-7653  
Reach Contact: Susan O'Brien

The program meets every Saturday during the school year from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. It is open for students from preschool to grade 8. The regular religious education curriculums are used, but are adapted and used at a slower pace to meet the needs of the student. Sacrament preparation is included in the program. The program is open to all children with special needs in the Joliet/Will county area.

SS. Peter & Paul 36 N. Ellsworth Suite 104  
Naperville, IL. 60540, 630-357-2436  
Reach Contact: Jean Pociask

The program meets on Saturday mornings from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the ministry Center. Participants' range from age 9-22. The Rose Kennedy Curriculum is used. A preview of each Sunday's Gospel Reading is also included. Reach participants attend all religious education prayer services and programs. Students also plan and participate in their own mass. The parish also has an adult Reach Group that meets on alternate Wednesday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This is run as a Bible study, small faith community.

St. Raphael, 1215 Modaff Road  
Naperville, IL. 60540-7818, 630-355-4545 Press 5 and ext.121  
Reach Contact: Jean McDonald

The program meets every Saturday from October through April from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. There are three groups a younger, middle, and older group ranging from age 5-33. There is a lead catechist for each group and a helper catechist in the younger and middle groups and a helper catechist for every two students in the older group. First Eucharist and Reconciliation are special programs for participants and their families. Confirmation is received with the parish.

A Religious Education Program specifically designed for deaf children began this past year at St. Raphael. The curriculum is interpreted to meet the needs of the students. Sacrament preparation is included in this program.

Holy Spirit Community, 2228 Snow Creek Road  
Naperville, IL. 60564, 630-922-0081  
Contact: Cindy Swanson

The parish has an inclusive based policy in which all children whatever gifts or needs are included in the regular religious education classroom. The special needs coordinator offers direct support, resources, and catechist workshops. Catechists who have special need students in the classroom can contact the coordinator if a challenge arises that requires assistance. There is also a special needs support group for parents that meet once a month. The parish has a Special Needs Committee that works under the Justice Commission. The parish hosts an Annual Special Needs Awareness Mass in which the entire congregation's vision is open to the gifts and strengths of people with special needs.

Holy Trinity, 111 S. Case Ave.  
Westmont, IL. 60559, 630-968-5978  
Reach Contact: Judith Manganiello

The program meets every other Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Curriculums used are Rose Kennedy, Journey with Jesus and Pflaum Weekly Gospels. The curriculums are adapted to meet the unique needs of each student. Sacrament preparation is done on an individual basis.

Or Lady of Mt. Carmel, 8404 Cass Ave.  
Darien, IL. 60561, 630-963-3053  
Contact: Ms. Polly Rausch

The parish has combined the ideas of a number of different programs together into one they call Christos. Most students with special needs are placed in regular religious education classes. However, those who have difficulty participating in the regular classroom are given the option of attending both the regular R.E. class and Christos or just Christos. The program meets bi-weekly during Fall and early winter and ending during the month of February. During each session the student is paired with an adult companion to provide an example, encourage, teach, etc. They also participate in a liturgical celebration that is tailored to their special needs and abilities. The program includes assistance with sacramental preparation, and texts are adapted or eliminated depending upon individual student needs.

#### Support Groups for Parents with Special Needs Children

St. Petronille, 425prospect, Suite107  
Glen Ellyn, IL.60137, 630-469-0404 (ext.2107)  
Contact: Adele Lessmeister

Parents come together on a monthly basis and offer support, experience, encouragement, and networking. The group is open to all parents of all stages and ages. It is an eclectic group in regards to the special needs of the children of the parents attending the group.

