SPRED

Special Religious Education

’23-’24 SPRED Program

Saturday Classes 10 am to 12 pm

* Children ages 6-12
* Dates: Sept 9 & 23; Oct 21; Nov. 4 & 18; Dec 9; Jan 6 & 20; Feb 3; Mar 9 & 23; Apr 6 & 20

SPRED (*Special Religious Development*) is designed for persons who are developmentally disabled so that they may come together with spiritual friends and catechists to form an active small faith community.

SPRED fosters and nourishes spiritual and personal growth by helping those with disabilities discover God’s action and presence in their lives.

SPRED provides developmentally disabled parishioners an opportunity for celebration and worship and prepares them for the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist) and Penance.

SPRED serves children and young adults with developmental disabilities such as Down Syndrome, Autism, and Learning Disabilities. Participants are referred to as “friends” as they learn to become friends with Jesus.

***The ability to read is not a requirement as all projects and activities are designed to meet the needs of those with disabilities at various levels of achievement.***

The program typically meets for 12 sessions from September – April.  SPRED friends, along with adult volunteers, participate in catechesis and joyful activities that include crafts, music, and spiritual lessons with connections to the Mass, scripture, and daily life.

### *Typical Session*

The sessions are two hours long comprised of three sections:

* **Welcoming, Gathering, Faith Lesson Activities** (60 minutes)

*-Games, puzzles, crafts, music, instruction*

* **Special Liturgy** (30 minutes)

*-Reading of the Word, prayers, special blessing, sacred music, singing, musical instruments*

* **Agape** (30 minutes)

*-Prayers, fellowship, snacks, & drinks, clean-up, and dismissal.*