



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

## Secretariat for Evangelization

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### OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE

Sept. 13, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The new school year has already begun and I hope you are thinking about and the ongoing Religious Education of your child who is deaf/hard of hearing. The principal Religious Education Program of the Deaf Apostolate will be at St. Matthew Parish School 3040 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19149. This location will be where the Deaf Apostolate will have the Deaf Community Mass on the First and Third Sundays at 11:15 AM in the Lower Church and interpreted Masses on the Second and Fourth Sundays in the Upper Church. There is parking behind the Church that is convenient to the entrance we will use to the School for the Religious Education classrooms.

To register for weekly Religious Education, please complete the enclosed form and bring it to Church this Sunday or send it to the Deaf Apostolate by **September 20, 2017**. The fee for the Deaf Apostolate Religious Education program covers the cost of books and materials.

This year during class each Sunday we will hope to have a Religious Sign Language Class for parents. This will assist parents in teaching prayers to their children in American Sign Language.

Parents and children are asked to attend a brief **initial meeting** after the 11:15 AM Mass at St. Matthew Church this Sunday, **September 17, 2017**. The meeting will be in the School cafeteria after Mass which will enable me to show you the entrance to the School and the classroom areas. If you are unable to attend please be in touch with me by phone or video phone. The first classes will be **October 1, 2017** at 9:45 AM.

I will be giving out the schedule for classes at the meeting and emailing them shortly after the meeting so you have an electronic copy. The celebration of Mass is at the heart of our Catholic faith, we are fortunate in this Archdiocese to have Masses in American Sign Language at various sites. For your child who is deaf attending these Masses in ASL will enable your child to more fully understand and live their faith.

All the Masses, programs and events of the Deaf Apostolate are on line at the Archdiocesan Website [www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org](http://www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org). Please do not hesitate to contact me ([sr.kschipani@archphila.org](mailto:sr.kschipani@archphila.org)) by e-mail or phone us at **215-587-3530 phone or 267-507-1215 video phone**. Please know that you and your families are in my prayers.

Sincerely,

*Sr. Kathleen Schipani*

Sister Kathleen M. Schipani, IHM  
Director