



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Secretariat for Evangelization

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OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE

September 3, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The new school year has already begun for many 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 is where the Deaf Apostolate has 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. Mail or email the form to me by **September 14, 2018**. You can also bring it to Church on the September 9th. The fee for the Deaf Apostolate Religious Education program covers the cost of books and materials. **The fee for one child is \$50.00 and \$75.00 for two or more children in a family. If this fee is a difficulty please call and request special consideration.** Please submit completed form and registration fee payable to: Deaf Apostolate, 222 North Seventeenth Street - 8th Fl., Philadelphia PA 19103-1299.

This year during class each Sunday we will have a Religious Sign Language Class for parents. This will assist parents in teaching prayers to their children in American Sign Language. The first classes will be **September 23, 2018** at 9:45 AM. Please use the back entrance of St. Matthew School that goes into the cafeteria area. I will meet with parents and children together, introduce the teachers and then have class with the children. We hope that children and their families will then attend the interpreted or Deaf Community Mass each Sunday.

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. Please do not hesitate to contact me (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