



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Secretariat for Evangelization

222 North Seventeenth Street • Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-1299

Telephone (215) 587-3913 • Video Phone (267)507-1212 • Fax (215) 587-3561

Email: sr.kschipani@archphila.org • www.opdarchphilly.org • www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org

OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE

August 26, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The new school year is beginning in a very different way and in the midst of the many challenges, I hope you are thinking about the ongoing Religious Education of your child who is Deaf/hard of hearing. The principal Religious Education Program of the Deaf Apostolate is usually at St. Matthew Parish School, 3040 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia PA 19149. We do hope at some point to host class or occasional gatherings there. ***However, for now we will have classes virtually each week using Zoom.***

To register for weekly Religious Education, **[please complete the on-line registration form by clicking here.](#)** Complete this form as soon as possible. The deadline is **September 5, 2020.** The fee for the Deaf Apostolate Religious Education program covers the cost of books and materials. (I am reducing the fee this year – your donations and support of the Deaf Apostolate are always appreciated.) **The fee for one child is \$30.00 and \$50.00 for two or more children in a family. [Please pay on-line by clicking here.](#)** Please place the amount of your payment on the line for Deaf Apostolate. If this fee is difficult at this time, please call and request special consideration. If you prefer to pay by check, please make payable to: Deaf Apostolate, 222 North Seventeenth Street - 8th Fl., Philadelphia PA 19103-1299.

I hope to plan a time to meet up safely for families to pick up materials on Sunday, September 20, 2020 after the 11 AM interpreted Mass at St. Matthew Church. I will email more details about this after registrations are complete. Please be sure to select your proffered day and time for class at the end of the on-line registration. Once there is a consensus, I will email you the schedule,

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. I know many are still staying at home on Sunday due to the pandemic- I hope you are able to watch a streaming Mass in American Sign Language with your family. Also the precautions taken at St. Matthew's and the ability to distance makes it seem a very safe environment.

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