



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA

Secretariat for Evangelization

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OFFICE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES & THE DEAF APOSTOLATE

August 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The new school year is beginning for many and I hope you are thinking about and the ongoing Religious Education of your child who is Deaf/hard of hearing. We will have in person weekly religious education. Following the guidelines of the Archdiocese there will be steps to keep all as safe as possible from the spread of Covid. In summary this includes: teachers, parents who enter the building and students wearing masks, distancing of 3 feet and the other hygiene, and cleaning policies. Please see the memo explaining these in detail. Also we will ask all parents/guardians to sign a waiver indicating that they understand the risks involved.

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, you can complete the registration and waiver forms online or use the paper copies and mail them to the Deaf Apostolate. Please complete the forms by **September 10, 2021**. 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 paper forms and registration fee payable to: Deaf Apostolate, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia PA 19103-1299. **You may also pay by credit card by using the online link. All links for online registration and payment are listed on the next page.** Please be sure to complete the electronic forms online or mail in the printed registration forms.

The first classes will be **September 26, 2019** 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. During class each Sunday we hope to have an informal Religious Sign Language Class for parents. This will assist parents in teaching prayers to their children in American Sign Language.

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

DEAF APOSTOLATE 2021-2022
STEPS FOR ON LINE REGISTRATION FOR WEEKLY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

1. **Complete the online registration form:**
<https://form.jotform.com/212156765878166>
Or you can complete the paper copy of the registration and mail it in to the Deaf Apostolate.

2. **Complete the required waiver form:**
<https://form.jotform.com/212425226568153> (English)

<https://form.jotform.com/212426053960148> (Spanish)

3. **For online payment use this link:** <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=180900>
The fee for one child is \$50 and for two children it is \$75. When you click the link, please place payment amount next to Deaf Apostolate. For special event please type in PREP. **To pay by check:** Make check payable to the Deaf Apostolate and mail to: Deaf Apostolate, 222 North 17th Street, Philadelphia PA 19103-1299.

For paper copies of the Registration form or Waiver Form go to:
<https://deafcatholicphilly.org/religious-education-and-sacramental-preparation/>

COVID-19 POLICY AND PROCEDURES FOR 2021-2022

Memo for Parish Religious Education Programs:

<https://deafcatholicphilly.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/8.26.21-Memorandum-PREP-in-person-instruction-Covid-plan.pdf>

The Deaf Apostolate director, teachers, families and participants will be following these rules and procedures.

Full Archdiocesan Plan in detail:

<https://aopcatholicsschools.org/catholic-schools-onward-cso-2/>

The faculty and staff of St. Matthew School will be following these procedures. And the Deaf Apostolate program will also follow these guidelines that apply to our weekly classes.

**If you know other Deaf/HH youth who are Catholic,
please share this information with them.**

Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM
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Archdiocese of Philadelphia
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