



DEAF CATHOLIC NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 Issue 2

Advent/Christmas 2023

Message from Father Loomis



Dear Friends,

During the Advent and Christmas season, as a Church we ponder that silent night when a very pregnant virgin and her humble but tired husband sought urgently for a room to stay overnight, but there was no room for them at the inn. Each time we read this, the utter lack

of hospitality toward the family most deserving of our love pricks the heart and yields a slight cringe. Most of us shift in our chair. Perhaps we attempt in vain to break eye contact with God's gaze, hoping to feel the shame less deeply. So, why am I laughing?

Undoubtedly, the night of Jesus' birth did not find us at our best. But what of Jesus? He knew how this moment would take place, yet He chose to come anyway. To a people unprepared and a world totally uninterested, Jesus Christ imposed Himself in love. Bethlehem could not take Him, Herod did not want Him, and Jerusalem (which represents the whole world) shared his concern. But Jesus came anyway. His arrival wasn't convenient for anybody, including the Holy Family. Too bad. He came anyway, and I find His insistence hilarious. Knowing how often I complain, how I respond to God's generosity with stubbornness, and how I take His blessings so much for granted, I have to laugh. There He is, every day, unfettered by my obstinance and undeterred by my callousness, imposing Himself into my life. And I love Him for it!

I think of parents of newborn children who feel exhausted, under-slept, and burned out. Then the baby's cry asks for more. The cycle can feel brutal in the moment, but ultimately this demand of selfless care fosters virtue in the parent and yields the wine of selfless love by first squashing the grape of one's ego. This is easier when the parents have reordered their lives to meet the infant's needs, which yields a new thought.

Wouldn't it be better, if we just let Jesus in? If He continues to impose Himself, what if we just let Him? In this regard, Our Lady shines as a bright example. Never, at any point when Jesus asserted Himself into her plans or daily routine, did Mary prove herself closed to Him. Because of this, we have hope of salvation. I love that Jesus insists on breaking into our lives. I'd love it more if we all, including myself, let Him. Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Sean Loomis,

Chaplain to the Deaf Apostolate
fr.sloomis@archphila.org

Message from Deacon Billy



Dear Friends,

I wanted to share and thank Sister Kathleen again for all she has done for us. To some, this time of the year might be "dark" but as Advent begins - we light up a candle each week as we await the arrival of Baby Jesus. As Christmas approaches - more lights go up making our nights brighter. - if we do not take the time

to enjoy the lights and good times - it can disappear quickly. We need to watch - as we do not know when he is coming back. For many of us, we tend to try to change for the better after Christmas and say I resolve to be a better person, to take care of myself better. It is much easier to improve ourselves when we have a community and support from people around us.

2024 will be an exciting year for us as we have many things that will be happening. I would like to repeat what was mentioned at the Mass of Thanksgiving and reception for Sr. Kathleen - Deaf Apostolate will continue to exist with your support! If you would like to do something, please let me know and we can discuss options.

Do not forget to light up your heart and show your love for your family and community during this wonderful time of the year.

God Bless you!

Deacon Billy Griffin
wgriffin@archphila.org

Message from Natalie Rivera

Greetings!

My name is Natalie Rivera, and I am the new Director of the Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate. Prior to this new position, I was the Program Coordinator for the office and assisted Sister Kathleen Schipani in the organization and planning of the events and programs including the annual mass honoring gifts for persons with disabilities and the Deaf community and Camp Overbrook. As you know, Sr. Kathleen was elected to the IHM Leadership team and in August, moved to the Mother House. Since then, I have been learning a lot more about the ministries and am in awe of how Sr. Kathleen balanced both so gracefully. The Archdiocese of Philadelphia is truly blessed to have Sr. Kathleen.

In the fall we also welcomed our new Program Coordinator for the office, James Flanagan, who has been assisting both Deacon Billy and I with our daily tasks. With his person-centered demeanor and initiative, James will be a wonderful asset to our office.

I look forward to learning more about the Deaf community and getting to know you better as we continue our mission of ensuring that all are one body in Christ. May you all be reminded of God's unconditional love during this holy Christmas season and may the new year bring you an abundance of blessings.



James, Billy, & Natalie

Msgr. Paul Dougherty



Cardinal O'Hara High School in Springfield, Delaware County has welcomed us to celebrate Mass on the second Sunday of each month at 10:30 am in the School Chapel. I was pleased to see that the Chapel has recently been renovated

with new pews, lighting, and a new tabernacle. It looks beautiful and we are pleased to have a reverent setting for our monthly Mass. They also have recently renovated the room we use for our social after Mass. It is directly across the hall from the Chapel and the room has a brand new beautiful floor and some new furniture for sitting

down to enjoy some refreshments and the company of one another. In November we made our yearly trip to a restaurant to enjoy a good brunch together. We enjoyed good food and good company at the Country Squire in Newtown Square.

Everyone is welcome to join us at O'Hara for our monthly Mass. There is plenty of parking. The Chapel is on the second floor but the building is handicap accessible and there is an elevator for those who wish to use it. We enter by the front door. I am usually there by about 10:00 am to open the door.

I want to thank all those who congratulated me on being named a Missionary of Mercy. It is an honor to bring God's forgiveness, compassion and mercy to his people. There is no better way to open your heart to the Lord's goodness, peace and strength then through the celebration of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist and Reconciliation. It has been a joy to serve the Deaf Catholic community for many years now and I always look forward to the monthly Mass at O'Hara. Come and celebrate the goodness of the Lord with us.

God bless you,

Monsignor Paul Dougherty
pastor@saintmarg.org



Message from Sr. Kathleen



Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your notes and prayers as I transitioned to my new position on the Congregational Leadership Team for the IHM Sisters. Thank you especially for the beautiful Mass and reception the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It was so good seeing so many of you. Thank you for all the good wishes, prayers, and gifts. As I explained at the reception, I will always be grateful for the Deaf who through teaching me sign language invited me into their world. A world and culture that taught me so much.

When I first began teaching religion classes to Deaf children after school at St. Martin of Tours over 35 years ago, I never would have imagined all the people, experiences and adventures that enriched my life. I am so grateful for each of you. I will be living at Immaculata, Malvern, PA at Villa Maria House of Studies across from the University. I will be keeping you all in prayer and will assist now and then when I can- interpreting or helping in some way, I hope.

As I prepare for this Advent and Christmas season, I pray that each of us can notice God's grace and loving presence in our lives. May God's redeeming love fill your hearts with hope, peace, and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

Sr. Kathleen Schipani, IHM
S.K.Schipani@IHMimm.org

Deaf Apostolate

Christmas Schedule: Please see the listings of Masses that will be interpreted on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Any changes to this schedule will be updated via Email – If you are not receiving email from us, please send us your current email address to wgriffin@archphila.org. To ensure that you receive the emails, please add mail@flocknote.com to your address book or safe sender list.

Deaf Catholic Retreat Weekend: Fr Shawn Carey will be at Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center in Stone Harbor, NJ on April 5-7, 2024. This retreat will be hosted by Deaf Ministry, Camden and Deaf Apostolate. Limited to 35 adults – Email wgriffin@archphila.org to get registration information.

Volunteers to visit People in need: We are looking for volunteers to visit Valley View residents and few other people that are scattered throughout the Diocese. If you would like to get involved, please let us know and those who might need visitors can also reach out to us to let us know that would like a visit.

Catholic Women's Conference Deaf Track: Please save the date, October 19th 2024 for next year's Catholic Women's Conference. Please let us know if you have a suggestion for a presenter for next year's conference.

Cursillio: Cursillio #68 will be happening near us in Sparks, Maryland at O'Dwyer Retreat Center on June 20-23, 2024. Limited to Deaf Catholic Adults. All presentations will be in American Sign Language. See Flyer in this newsletter for more information. Email the local coordinator in Maryland Mdcursillio68@gmail.com for more information.

Eucharistic Congress: Fr Mike Depcik discussed the importance of community in our church life. We had people from Maryland and New Jersey join us at the Congress at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. It was a wonderful and a faith filled day.

Camp Overbrook: In Sign 2024: June 17 – June 28, 2024 – This camp is for children who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Be sure to ask your child's IEP team to place attendance at camp as part of IEP to enhance communication and advance educational goals. Please request transportation from your district in advance as well. Some districts will provide door to door transportation. To be part of this 10 days of fun filled camp, please visit www.deafcatholicphilly.org for more information. Registration will open on February 12th 2024.

Mass with Archbishop Nelson Perez: The annual Archdiocesan Eucharistic Liturgy honoring the Gifts of Person with Disabilities,

The Deaf Community, Family, Friends and Caregivers is scheduled for Sunday March 10th at 3:00 PM at Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul at 18th and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia. See flyer for more information. All are Welcome.

QR CODE: You now can use QR Code to make donations to Deaf Apostolate by scanning the code.



DEAF APOSTOLATE
222 North 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
215-587-3913 voice
267-579-3351 video phone
267-844-3379 cell/text
www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org
wgriffin@archphila.org

De Sales Society

Our heartfelt condolences are with AnnaMaria Tamaro-Bintliff whose husband, Barry passed away on September 17, 2023. Family, relatives and friends attended Barry's lovely funeral service on September 27, 2023. There will be a memorial Mass for AnnaMaria Tamaro-Bintliff's deceased husband, Barry Bintliff at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at St. Stanislaus Chapel, 51 Lansdale Ave., Lansdale, PA.

Liz and Nick Fazzolari Jr.'s grandson, Joe recently graduated from trade school, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster with an Electrical Technology degree. He is currently looking to be a lineman. We wish him the best of luck. Their other second grandson, Kevin graduated from Penn State University last December with a Computer Engineering degree. He recently started a job with Fast Enterprises in East Sacramento, California. Their last one granddaughter, Julia is currently in her second year at Auburn University in Alabama. She is studying to get a Chemical Engineering degree.

Liz and Nick Fazzolari Jr.'s grandson, Ryan, is currently dealing with difficult health issues. Please pray for Ryan and all the family. Everyone's prayers and thoughts are greatly appreciated.

Our prayers are with Linda Sheak for her surgery on December 5, 2023.

June Goodwin has been going through Chemotherapy, Lumpectomy and Radiation since May 11, 2022 through January 19, 2023 for breast cancer. Recently, she had an MRI which showed no trace of cancer. She will have

a surgery to remove the port on November 21, 2023. She wants to thank her husband, daughters, friends, and Bible Study group for their prayers and she asks all to continue praying for her.

We wish Sr. Kathleen Schipani all best in her retirement from Deaf Apostolate and also in her new career with her IHM Order. We thank Sr. Kathleen for her services to Deaf Catholic Community including us, DeSales Society.

James Goodwin, President/Editor
DeSales Society
j.goodwin.125@gmail.com

ICDA News

ICDA Chapter #8 need officers: I am chairperson for nominations. Our next General meeting is at St. Matthew Church, 3000 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149 after interpreted mass at 11:00 am on January 7, 2024. If anyone is interested in any of these officers position or have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know and contact me at VP 302-261-8601, email me at plhampel@comcast.net or text me at 302-897-3765. To become an officer for one of these positions, you will need to be a ICDA member – Members can find Membership form in this newsletter.

Please pray for our deaf catholic community which need improve for our present and future.. So let's pray..

Renewal Prayer

Father, we ask you to look with mercy at us, your Deaf Catholic Church. We ask you to bless us, inspire us to always love you above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray to you for our bishops, our spiritual leaders. Please bless them and give them the strength and wisdom to guide us. Help them to recognize, understand, and respond to our unique needs.

Please bless the priests, deacons, religious, and lay people who serve our community. Inspire them so that they may then inspire all hearts of deaf people to know, love, and serve you and your Catholic Church.

Father, we pray to you for our baptized Deaf Catholic brothers and sisters.

Please send your Holy Spirit to enkindle and renew their hearts so that they may continue to grow spiritually through making time for prayers, receiving sacraments, and serving other people.

Our young baptized Deaf Catholics are growing up in a challenging and confused world, Almighty God, please help them understand that the way of the world does not give life; your way alone gives true life.

Please touch their hearts and guide them to find your love. Bring them back to the Church. Put in them desire to pray, to receive the sacraments and to serve other people.

Holy Spirit, come and transform each of us through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Holy Mary, our Mother, pray for us. Amen.

This prayer is said every Friday..

St. Charles News

St. Charles Deaf Catholic Community; We gave Monsignor Paul Dougherty a small surprise 70th birthday party after Mass on 2nd Sunday of October and enjoyed eating cake and stuff.. Monsignor Paul looks great for his age!

We the St. Charles Deaf Catholic Community went out to our annual breakfast after mass on November 12th and ate delicious meal together.



Come to join us every second Sunday of each month (January 14, February 11) in the chapel on 2nd floor at Cardinal O'Hara High School, 1701 Sproul Rd, Springfield, PA 19064 at 10:30 am. All are welcome and hope to see you there!

Patty Hampel, Editor



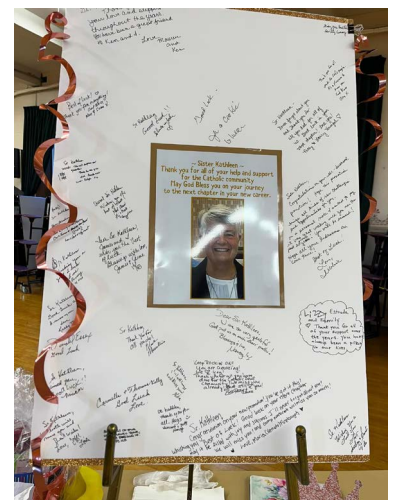
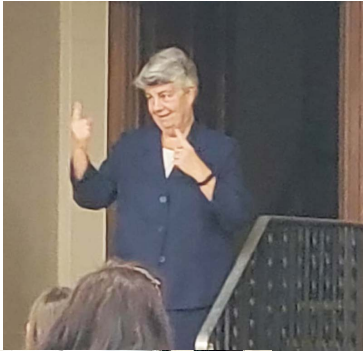
Eucharistic Congress



Fr. Paul's Birthday



Mass of Thanksgiving



Missionaries of Mercy



With God, All Things are Possible

Deaf Cursillo #68

June 20-23, 2024

**O'Dwyer Retreat Center
Sparks, Maryland**

A retreat to help people to understand what it means to follow Christ. Give a new meaning and encouragement to life. To experience the Holy Spirit and the spirit of Jesus that you will see in one another.

The Deaf Cursillo is for Catholic Deaf Adults – singles, married couples, and non-Catholic spouses of Catholics. All presentations are in American Sign Language with no voice interpreter.

Cost is \$275 per person from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon. A \$75 deposit is due now and the other \$200 is due by April 12, 2024. The cost covers room and meals. There is a limit of 30 participants. After that you will be put on a waiting list. First come, first served.

If you fly in, transportation will be provided from Baltimore Washington International Airport. Please arrange to arrive before 3:00 pm since the retreat begins at 4:30 pm on Thursday, June 20.

Contact Sue Smith, Local Coordinator at Mdcursillo68@gmail.com to register for the Cursillo. If you have questions, her VP number is (301) 563-9441 or email her at mdcursillo68@gmail.com

ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
Office for Persons with Disabilities & the Deaf Apostolate

THE ANNUAL ARCHDIOCESAN CELEBRATION

Honoring the Gifts of

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, THE DEAF COMMUNITY,
FAMILY, FRIENDS & CAREGIVERS

Celebration of the Eucharist



Sunday, March 10, 2024 @ 3:00 pm

Cathedral Basilica SS. Peter and Paul
18th Street & Benjamin Franklin
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Principal Celebrant and Homilist

Archbishop Nelson Pérez

Liturgical Choir

Holy Innocents Young Adult Choir

Reception following Mass



RSVP at www.OPDarchphilly.org or call 215-587-3530 with
number of attendees and accommodations needed.
Please arrive by 2:30 pm. Accessible parking available.
Address for Paratransit: 222 N. 17th Street/Phila., PA 19103

SCAN ME





International Catholic Deaf Association

Philadelphia Chapter #8

ICDA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE 2024

Register online at: www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org

Benefits of becoming a member are: cultural, spiritual and social union among the Deaf/HOH Catholics and opportunities to engage in good works pertaining to the spiritual, educational, social and moral advancement of Deaf/HOH persons.

**INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC DEAF ASSOCIATION - UNITED STATES SECTION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR PHILADELPHIA ICDA CHAPTER #8**

I hereby submit my application for membership in the ICDA-US.

_____ Annual Membership for Married Couples - \$25.00

_____ Annual Membership for Individuals - \$15.00

_____ Life Membership for Individuals - \$200.00 (Pay in full or payment over 2 years)

_____ Life Membership for Married Couples- \$300.00

I am Deaf_____ / Hearing_____ and Catholic_____ / Non-Catholic_____.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Cell Phone/Text _____ FAX _____

E-Mail _____ VP _____

(Make Check/Money Order payable to ICDA, chapter #8)

Send form and payment to:

**ICDA c/o Deaf Apostolate
222 N. 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103.**

DEADLINE FOR MEMBERSHIP IS January 30, 2024

DEAF CATHOLIC



International Catholic Deaf Association

Philadelphia Chapter #8

ICDA Chapter #8 – 2024 Meeting Dates

January 7, 2024

March 3, 2023

June 2, 2024

Join us for ICDA Meeting after Mass

St. Matthew's Church

3000 Cottman Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19149

APRIL 5-7, 2024



Save **THE DATE**

DEAF CATHOLIC RETREAT WEEKEND

with Fr. Shawn Carey

Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, Stone Harbor, NJ

www.vmbythesea.com

Hosted by Deaf Ministry, Camden and the Deaf Apostolate, Philadelphia



Philadelphia Chapter #8
**International Catholic
Deaf Association**



Dingo

**Saturday, April 27, 2024
12:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.**

**at
Saint Matthew School Hall
3000 Cottman Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19149**



Nikesha and Mack Centeno - Co-Chairpersons

ADMISSION: \$25.00 Per Person - \$30.00 Per Person at the Door

PLEASE NOTE: Adults Only (18 years old and up)

*****NO REFUND!*****

DEADLINE: April 17, 2024

DINGO GAMES 50/50 CHANCES RAFFLE REFRESHMENTS ON SALE

If you have any questions, please contact Nikesha or Mack Centeno

VP: (215) 501-7811 or Email: Mrscenteno12@gmail.com

Please make check or money order payable to: **I.C.D.A.**
Clip and send to: Nikesha Centeno, 7874 Anita Drive, Phila., PA 19111

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE: _____

VP: _____ EMAIL: _____

OF ADULTS _____ x \$25.00 Per Person = TOTAL _____

2024 Deaf Apostolate
Archdiocese of Philadelphia
DEAF COMMUNITY – ASL MASS

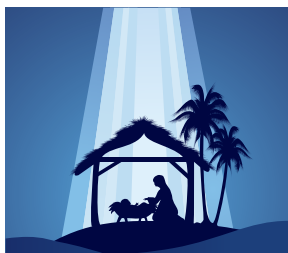
DATE	LOCATION	TIME	ADDRESSES
Jan. 7	Cardinal O’Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	ST. STANISLAUS CHAPEL 51 Lansdale Ave. Lansdale, PA 19446
Jan. 28	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
Feb. 11	Cardinal O’Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	ST. MATTHEW LOWER CHURCH 3000 Cottman Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19149
Feb. 18	St. Matthew, Philadelphia	11:45 AM	
March 10	Mass at Cathedral	3:00 PM	CARDINAL O’HARA HIGH SCHOOL CHAPEL 1701 S. Sproul Road Springfield, PA 19064
April 14	Cardinal O’Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
April 28	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:15 AM	
May 12	Cardinal O’Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	ANNUNCIATION B.V.M. CHURCH 401 Brookline Blvd. Havertown, PA 19083
May 19	St. Matthew, Philadelphia	11:45 AM	
June 9	Cardinal O’Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	<hr/> REV. SEAN LOOMIS, CHAPLAIN/COORDINATOR Annunciation BVM Parish fr.sloomis@archphila.org Phone: 215-561-1313 / Video Phone 267-507-1215
June 23	St. Stanislaus, Lansdale	11:45 AM	
July 14	Cardinal O’Hara Chapel	10:30 AM	
CONFESSIONS ARE BEFORE 30 MINUTES BEFORE MASS. You can also email or call Fr. Sean Loomis or Msgr. Paul Dougherty to set up a time for Confession in ASL.			MONSIGNOR PAUL DOUGHERTY St. Margaret Church 210-212 N. Narberth Ave. Narberth, PA 19072 pastor@stmarg.org Phone: 610-664-3770
Check for updates and full schedule of interpreted Masses at: www.DeafCatholicPhilly.org			
			DEACON WILLIAM GRIFFIN Deaf Apostolate, Coordinator wgriffin@archphila.org Video Phone: 267-579-3351



**Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Deaf Apostolate
222 North Seventeenth St.
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299**

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CHRISTMAS INTERPRETED MASSES 2023



**Cathedral of SS. Peter & Paul
Philadelphia, PA
18th and Benjamin Franklin Prkwy
Christmas Eve 5:00 PM**

**St. Matthew Church
Philadelphia, PA
3000 Cottman Avenue
Christmas Day 11 AM Upper Church**

**St. Pius X Church
Broomall, PA
220 Lawrence Road
Christmas Day 9:30 AM**

**St. John Chrysostom
Wallingford, PA
615 S. Providence Road
Christmas Eve 6:00 PM**

**Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Doylestown, PA
235 E. State Road
Christmas Eve 6:00 PM**

**St. Stanislaus Church
Lansdale, PA
51 Lansdale Avenue
Christmas Eve 4:00 PM**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

SEND TO: DEAF APOSTOLATE
222 NORTH 17TH STREET - 8TH FLOOR
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-1299

Email: wgriffin@archphila.org

☐ CHANGE OF ADDRESS

☐ INTERESTED IN NEWSLETTER



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Updated listing at DeafCatholicPhilly.org