



INSTITUTE FOR
Evangelization
Office of Life, Justice & Peace



DEAF MINISTRY

September 2021



In June in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we began the celebration of the **Year of the Eucharist**. The theme for the year is: Encounter Christ's Presence. The emphasis is on the ways that the Church teaches that Christ is present in the Mass. These include His presence in the proclamation of the Scriptures, in the Congregation (the People of God), in the priest, and in the consecrated Bread and Wine. Because many people do not fully understand about Christ's presence in the Eucharist, Archbishop Lori plans to have the archdiocese emphasize this presence throughout the year.

The Mass (the Liturgy of the Eucharist) has been celebrated regularly since Jesus' death and resurrection. It was instituted at the Last Supper that Jesus ate with his apostles. This happened in the context of the Jewish feast of Passover. There is so much to understand regarding the Eucharist. We will have **a study group that focuses on the Eucharist and on Eucharistic miracles** that will begin this fall. In fact, the same study will be offered at two separate times, one on Sunday evenings and the other on Thursday evenings. There will be six sessions that meet on Zoom every two weeks. Some of the topics that we will cover are: The Mass as a sacrifice, how many Masses are celebrated all over the world, transubstantiation (the changing of the bread and wine into the body and blood of Christ), the Eucharist as food for our journey on Earth, and the question about the angels and saints being present at every Mass. I am sure the Mass will be more meaningful for you if you participate.



Please consider joining us for this study. The Sunday night group will begin on September 26 and meet every two weeks on Zoom. The Thursday night group will begin on September 30 and meet every two weeks on Zoom also. There will be a captioned video, discussion, and questions and answers. If you would like to participate, please contact Chris Duck at chris.duck@archbalt.org.



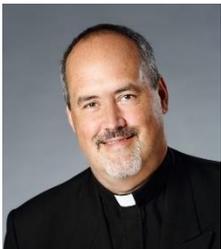
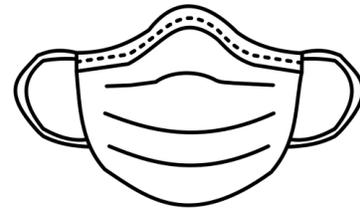
We are no longer excused from attending Sunday Mass because of the pandemic. Of course if you are ill or have a serious medical condition that needs special consideration, you can still be excused. What a wonderful time to come back to church and encounter Christ present at the Mass. It has been wonderful to have access to Mass in ASL online during the pandemic. However, we cannot experience

Christ's presence in the same way through the internet as we can in person. In person we can experience Christ in the four different ways mentioned above, but in particular, we can actually receive the Body of Christ personally.

Parishes no longer require you to sign up to come to Mass. In most places, **masks are not required** if you are vaccinated. (You can wear a mask if you prefer.) **Note:** Be sure to keep up with local requirements as the rules may change!

I would suggest that you check with the parish or with the interpreter to see if the schedule for Mass has changed.

Also check to be sure that the Mass will be interpreted. Some parishes have not been providing the interpreter because no Deaf people have been coming to Mass. If you want to attend with an interpreter, please be sure to ask for the interpreted Mass. **Welcome back to church!**



Fr. Mike Depcik will be here for Mass in ASL the weekend of October 9 – 10. Please save the date! More details will be provided later when we are closer to the date. Planned future dates are April 2-3, 2022, and June 4-5, 2022.

Plans are underway to begin the process of establishing an archdiocesan **Pastoral Plan for the Deaf**. This will be a process of assessing the needs of the Catholic Deaf Community and establishing a plan for how the archdiocese should plan to meet these needs. Members of the Deaf Community will be involved in this process. Please keep this process in your prayers!

Chris Duck • Coordinator of Deaf Ministry • Archdiocese of Baltimore
Office: 410-547-5419 • Cell/text: 410-868-6470 • chris.duck@archbalt.org