



INSTITUTE FOR
Evangelization
Office of Life, Justice & Peace



DEAF MINISTRY

December 2021



Thanksgiving has come and gone. Advent is here. Now we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. To prepare for his coming, we need to do more than decorate the house and doing our Christmas shopping. Yes, we need to do those, too. But we need to prepare a place in our lives and in our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ.

In our busy schedules, we need to find time for thought and prayer. We need to think of others who are in need and consider what we might be able to do for them. We need also to plan to attend Mass on the Sundays leading up to Christmas and to attend Mass for Christmas Day (either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day). Because of the pandemic, we were able to watch the Mass on the internet. What a blessing to watch Mass with a Deaf priest or a priest who can sign. Although these signed Masses are still available, the Church no longer excuses us from attending Mass in person because of the pandemic. What better time to celebrate our faith in

beautifully decorated churches, with our fellow believers, and with the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist? “Come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”



Are you looking for a parish that has an interpreted Mass for Advent and Christmas (and beyond)? Here is as much information as could be found regarding parishes planning interpreted Masses during Advent and Christmas. However if your parish is not listed below, don't be afraid to contact your parish or the interpreter at your parish and request that the Mass be interpreted. Contact Chris Duck with any updates.

The following have interpreted **Sunday Masses** since the pandemic:

Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City, 9:30 am Mass Sundays

Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, 9:30 am Mass Sundays

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Pikesville, 8:30 am Mass Sundays

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Crofton, 4:30 pm Mass Saturdays

St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Ijamsville, 8:00 am Mass Sundays

St. Ignatius Catholic Church (Hickory), Forest Hill, 9:00 am Mass Sundays

St. John the Evangelist, Frederick, 9:00 am Mass Sundays

St. Joseph, Cockeysville, 12 noon Sundays

St. Mark, Catonsville, 7:30 am Sundays

St. Ursula, Parkville, 5 pm Saturdays

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Baltimore, 10:00 am Mass Sundays

The following will have interpreted **Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2021:**

Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City, 5:00 pm Christmas Eve

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Pikesville, 8:30 am Christmas Day

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Crofton, 6:00 pm Christmas Eve

St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Ijamsville, *

St. John the Evangelist, Frederick, 6:00 pm Christmas Eve and 10:00 am Christmas Day

St. Joseph Cockeysville, 12 noon Christmas Day

St. Ursula, Parkville, *

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Baltimore, 8:00 pm Christmas Eve

* Time to be decided

Further updates will be available by contacting Chris Duck at chris.duck@archbalt.org or by checking the archdiocesan Deaf Ministry page at <https://www.archbalt.org/deaf-ministry/upcoming-events/>

Note: There is **no** longer an interpreted Mass at **Immaculate Heart of Mary** parish in Baltimore. However, there is **now** an interpreted **Saturday evening Mass at 5:00 pm at St. Ursula** parish.

Special thanks goes out to **Maureen Kristofco** for her many years of service interpreting at Immaculate Heart!



In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, we continue to celebrate the **Year of the Eucharist**. We focus on Christ's Presence in the Eucharist. He is present in the proclamation of the Scriptures, in the Congregation (the People of God), in the priest, and in the consecrated Bread and Wine. May we take time to think about Christ's presence in the Eucharist throughout the year.

Save the Dates: Fr. Mike Depcik will be here for Mass in ASL on April 2-3 and June 4-5. More details will be provided later when we are closer to the dates.



Religious Education / Faith Formation

Attention Parents. If you are looking for a religion class for a Deaf child or are looking for your child to be prepared for First Communion, First Reconciliation, or Confirmation, there are some options available. Faith formation opportunities should be available at your own parish. If you need assistance in making those arrangements, please contact Chris Duck.

However, I am aware of opportunities at two parishes. First, the Church of the Nativity is starting a program for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children at their parish in Timonium, MD. Here is the information:

Catholic DHH Ministry: Church of the Nativity located at 20 E. Ridgely Rd in Timonium

(Baltimore) MD is now offering a DHH Ministry for children and youth with hearing loss. Through the NEXTGEN Program a variety of age-appropriate activities for children and youth are provided as they grow in faith. All communication choices (spoken language, ASL, signed English) and technological use are respected and supported. Support for children and youth who are deaf and hard of hearing and their families continues during the Mass Services. For more information about the NEXTGEN Program, go to www.churchnativity.com/nextgen. For an overview of the DHH Ministry, scroll to Buddy Ministry under NEXTGEN or go to the following link: www.churchnativity.com/buddyministry.

In addition, there is a Deaf instructor working with a young student at St. Ignatius of Loyola in Ijamsville, MD. This student is being prepared for First Reconciliation and First Communion. The child also is receiving faith formation instruction (religious education). If you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance, please contact Chris Duck.

Donations to Deaf Ministry

Some people have requested to make donations to Deaf Ministry. You can make donations online through the archdiocesan website. Note: It is important to support your local parish and the other ministries in the archdiocese also. But here is how you can donate to Deaf Ministry:



To donate by check, write the check to the **Annual Appeal**. Specify that it is for **Deaf Ministry Only** on the memo line or with an accompanying note. Mail the check to:
Archdiocese of Baltimore
Dept. of Advancement, 4th Floor
Attn: Vicki
320 Cathedral Street
Baltimore, MD 21201

To donate online:

Go to the AOB website and click on "Giving." Scroll down to "Appeal for Catholic Ministries." Click on "Donate."

For "Designation" leave it alone so it says "No parish specified."

Complete the "Donation Amount", (if you want to donate monthly, check that box)

Fill in the "Billing Address", and the "Payment Details."

Under "Leave a comment", type in "**Deaf Ministry Only**".

Then click "Donate."

Either way, the staff is aware that they need to put that money aside in Deaf Ministry only.



The process is underway to develop an archdiocesan **Pastoral Plan for the Deaf**. This is 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 are involved in this process. **Please keep this process in your prayers!**

Prayers for the Seminarians

Please continue to pray for the seminarians. Now the Archdiocese of Baltimore has 54 seminarians! One of them, Luke Koski (shown in the picture), has been working hard on his ASL skills. He wants to be able to provide Mass in ASL when he becomes a priest. Luke (God willing) is scheduled to be ordained a deacon on May 21, 2022. So please pray for him and his progress (and plan to come to his ordination if you can)!



Also, three other seminarians are learning ASL, so please pray for them: Michael Moore, Sam Huffer, and Ian Nelson. In addition, pray that God will inspire some young Deaf men to become priests!

Spiritual Mentoring Available



A member of our Catholic Deaf Community, Ms. Marie Williams, has recently completed extensive training as a Spiritual Mentor. She is available as a Spiritual mentor for women who are interested in their spiritual growth and in reaching their fullest potential. A Spiritual mentor is someone, like a teacher, who can help enhance one's faith in Christ, can assist you in how to have a better relationship with Christ, and how to become more mature in one's faith. A spiritual mentor is one who cares about you and wants the best for you. She can help answer questions about self, life and God. Also, through this process, you can learn how to give back, help others and how to engage in fellowship.

Questions that someone might bring to the process involve prayer life, reading the Bible, fasting and giving alms or any questions about God. Because nowadays we tend to be distracted so much during our daily life, often we can benefit from learning how to focus more on Jesus Christ and grow more spiritually.

If you are interested in having a spiritual mentor or if you have further questions about spiritual mentorship, please contact Marie Williams at Mariwillart@gmail.com.