



INSTITUTE FOR
Evangelization
Office of Life, Justice & Peace



DEAF MINISTRY

December 2022

Advent Greetings!

Advent means “coming.” During Advent we celebrate that Jesus Christ is coming at Christmas. We all do various kinds of preparations for Christmas. We’ve just been through Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, and Giving Tuesday. The stores have had holiday decorations up since Halloween. Now decorations are appearing in our neighborhoods and in our homes. Most of us are quite busy with all of these preparations.



However, let’s not forget to prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas. What are some ideas regarding preparing for the coming of the Savior? What would be pleasing to the Lord? Hopefully, we can find some time in our busy schedules for prayer, to prepare our hearts for the Lord’s coming. Of course, we have the tradition of giving gifts at Christmas time. Have you given thought to giving to people in need at this time of year? But most of all during this hectic time of year, let’s try to remember to be loving to others. After all, God loved each of us so much, he sent us his own Son to be our Savior. Happy Advent, everybody! And Merry Christmas when it comes!

And during Advent and Christmas time, let us remember that Jesus Christ comes to us not only in a manger and a stable. Jesus comes to us during every Mass. At communion, we receive Jesus, the Body of Christ. Let’s remember that Jesus comes to us during every Mass.

The following have interpreted **Sunday Masses**:

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

The following will have interpreted **Masses for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2022:**

Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City, 5:00 pm Christmas Eve in the tent
(due to the renovation of the church)

Our Lady of the Fields, Millersville, 9:30 am Christmas Day

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

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

I will be sending out further updates as I receive the information.

You may also check the archdiocesan Deaf Ministry page for updates at

<https://www.archbalt.org/deaf-ministry/upcoming-events/>



Save the Dates: Fr. Mike Depcik will be here for Mass in ASL on March 25-26 and May 20-21, 2023. More details will be provided later when we are closer to the dates.

Welcoming a New Member to the Church

On Sunday, December 18 at 9 am, at St. John's Church, 112 East Second Street in Frederick, we will welcome a new Deaf member to the Catholic Church. This young adult expressed interest in becoming a Catholic, and has been working with Deacon Luke Koski to learn about the Catholic faith. You are welcome to attend the 9 am Mass on December 18 when she will receive Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion. The Mass will be interpreted. You are welcome to come and welcome her!



Pastoral Plan for Deaf Ministry

For many months, thirteen members of a committee representing the Deaf Community came together to work on a Pastoral Plan for Deaf Ministry here in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Assistance was provided by the Office of Parish Renewal. Numerous meetings were held. The process involved prayerfully looking at seven Core Mission Priorities and considering barriers to accomplishing each priority. Then strategies to address each priority were identified. Once this process was completed for all seven Core Mission Priorities, a discernment process was used to identify which strategies would be focused on during the coming year. After six strategies were identified, each was broken down into Action Steps. Then members of the Advisory Committee were asked to pick an Action Group to assist in the implementation process for the Pastoral Plan.



A strong and heartfelt **thank you** to the members of the Advisory Committee on Deaf Ministry that worked together on this process, and **congratulations** on a job well done! The Pastoral Plan will be presented to Archbishop Lori in January. Chris Duck has been asked to give a

presentation on the Pastoral Plan at the annual meeting of pastoral workers, NCOD's Pastoral Week, in Santa Fe, NM in January. Hopefully, the process we used will be informative to others and useful for other places to consider for their circumstances.

Four Action Groups have been identified: Training for Parish Staff, Retreat Opportunities, Need for Interpreters, and Community Meetings. If you are interested in the details of the plan or would like to volunteer with implementing the strategies that have been identified, please contact Chris Duck. We welcome your participation and involvement!

Signing Deacon Scheduled to Be Ordained a Priest

God willing, Deacon Luke Koski will be ordained a priest on Saturday, June 24 at 10 am at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. Please continue to pray for the seminarians. Now the Archdiocese of Baltimore has 54 seminarians! Deacon Luke has been working hard on his ASL skills. He plans to be able to provide Mass in ASL when he becomes a priest. So please pray for him and plan to come to his ordination if you can!



Also, please pray for other seminarians who are learning ASL. In addition, pray that God will inspire some young Deaf men to become priests!