



INSTITUTE FOR  
*Evangelization*  
Office of Life, Justice & Peace  
Archdiocese of Baltimore



## DEAF MINISTRY

December 2023



**Wishing You a Blessed Christmas Season and a  
Happy New Year!**

### Schedule of Masses for Christmas

Fr. Mike Depcik will celebrate **Christmas Mass in ASL at 4 pm at the St. Ignatius Country Church**, 8817 Urbana Church Road, Urbana, MD 21704. All are welcome!

Interpreted Masses for Christmas are scheduled at the following locations:

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

**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton**, Crofton, 9 pm Christmas Eve

**St. John**, Frederick, 6 pm Christmas Eve & 9 am Christmas Day

**St. Joseph**, Fullerton, 3 pm Christmas Eve

**St. Vincent de Paul**, Baltimore, 8 pm, Christmas Eve

This year is quite unusual. Sunday, December 24 is both the Fourth Sunday of Advent *and* Christmas Eve. We will have **Mass for the Fourth Sunday of Advent at 10 am** and also have **Christmas Eve Mass the same day at 4 pm** both at the Country Church. We are expected to go to Mass both for the Fourth Sunday of Advent *and* for Christmas. Please plan to attend both Masses!

**Mass in ASL** with Fr. Mike is held **every Sunday at 10 am at St. Ignatius Country Church**, 8817 Urbana Church Rd., Urbana (except for January 7 – see below). Mass in ASL is held **at St. Isaac Jogues Chapel**, 9215 Old Harford Rd., Balto at **4:30 pm on the first Saturday** of the month (the next Mass is Saturday, January 6).

For a list of regularly interpreted weekend Masses, please see the list later in this newsletter.

## Upcoming Events – Save the Dates

### Sunday, January 7, 2024 – Installation Mass for Fr. Brian Nolan

On January 7, Archbishop William Lori will come to St. Ignatius Church for the Installation of Fr. Brian Nolan as pastor. The Installation Mass will be at 11 am. **There will be no regular 10 am Mass in ASL at the St. Ignatius Country Church on January 7.** Fr. Mike Depcik will concelebrate the Mass with Archbishop Lori and Fr. Brian Nolan. **Please plan to attend the 11 am Installation Mass at the big church, 4103 Prices Distillery Road.** Please come show Archbishop Lori and the people of St. Ignatius parish how grateful we are for Fr. Mike Depcik and the use of the Country Church. Seats will be reserved for the Deaf. The Mass will be very crowded! Please plan to arrive early!

### Friday, January 19 – March for Life

On January 19 in Washington DC, there will be a March for Life. This is an opportunity for you to demonstrate your support for life from conception to natural death. **Fr. Mike Depcik is planning to lead a group going to the March in Washington.** There are plans to meet up in DC with Fr. Shawn Carey from Boston and his group and any other Deaf people who plan to attend the march. Please save the date and watch for more details.

### Sunday, January 21 – Children’s Mass

This will be our first Children’s Mass at 10 am. Children will do one of the readings, lead the Prayer of the Faithful and/or a song after Communion. Future Children’s Masses are planned for February 25, March 17, and April 28.

### Beginning January 21 – RCIA

#### Want to Become Catholic? Have You Not Received Confirmation? Just Want to Learn More About the Catholic Church and Our Faith?



Fr. Mike Depcik will start a series of sessions to prepare individuals to be received into the Church or to become a full member of the Catholic Faith. Anyone is welcome to attend just to learn more about the Catholic Faith. The sessions will **begin January 21, 2024.** Classes are planned for twice each month following Sunday Mass in a classroom at the big church.

### Beginning February 15 - Adoration and Bible Study Planned for Lent



Fr. Mike Depcik is planning to have Eucharistic Adoration followed by a Bible Study class on the Thursday evenings during Lent. On **Feb. 15, Feb. 22, March 7, March 14 and March 21,** Adoration will be from 5:30 – 6:30 pm at the Country Church. Bible Study will follow at 7 pm at St. Ignatius parish center. All are welcome.



### March 16 – Day of Reflection

Fr. Mike Depcik will hold a Lenten Day of Reflection at the Seton Shrine, Emmitsburg, MD on March 16. Please plan to attend.

### May 19 – First Holy Communion

The children who have been prepared will receive their First Holy Communion on May 19. The children will take various parts in the Liturgy.



### June 20 – 23, 2024 – National Deaf Cursillo retreat

There will be a National Deaf Cursillo weekend retreat at the O’Dwyer Retreat House in Sparks, MD from June 20 – 23. Sue Smith is the local coordinator. Contact Sue for details at

[Mdcursillo68@gmail.com](mailto:Mdcursillo68@gmail.com) for more information.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS SINCE FR. MIKE DEPCIK ARRIVED

Weekly Mass and Holy Day Mass in Urbana at St. Ignatius Country Church

Monthly Mass in Baltimore area at St. Isaac Jogues Church

11 Deaf readers plus Coordinator for the readers in Urbana, and

1 DeafBlind reader in Urbana

Catholic Review reporter scheduled for interview with DeafBlind reader

1 Deaf Sacristan who is now training another in Urbana

2 Ushers in Urbana, 2 in Balto.

5 Volunteer Tactile Interpreters in Urbana

2 Volunteers providing rides to DeafBlind

1 New Deaf altar server in Urbana

2 Volunteers to set-up and plan social events in Urbana

3 Couples who want to be married

Marriage Preparation process underway with Fr. Mike Depcik and 4 mentor couples

Several people who want to be Baptized, join the Church, receive First Communion, and/or Confirmation

OCIA planned starting in January 2024

Adoration and Bible Study weekly in Advent

7 Students attending Faith Development class with Deaf instructor and assistant

Visit of a well-known Deaf Deacon on 10/22

Bishop Bruce came to celebrate Mass with Fr. Mike Depcik on 10/29

Fr. Mike Depcik has made many, many Pastoral Visits

Support provided by Fr. Mike to family who lost a loved one

Fr. Mike attended Frederick County Regional Priests meeting

Strong cooperation from the pastors at St. Ignatius in Ijamsville and St. Isaac Jogues & St. Ursula in Balto.

Two platforms built for better visual access at the Country Church in Urbana

40 participated in a Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan Monastery in Washington, DC

Lenten Day of Reflection planned for March 16 in Emmitsburg

National Deaf Cursillo planned for June 2024 at the O'Dwyer Retreat House in Sparks, MD

Plan to start two Deaf Catholic Councils – One in Urbana, one in Baltimore

Pastoral Plan for Deaf Ministry has been updated

The use of Closed Captioning for Mass when an interpreter is unavailable being investigated to be used as a trial at St. Ignatius, Ijamsville when Fr. Mike Depcik is away

2 Volunteers are investigating having "Deaf music" at the Mass in Urbana

Fr. Mike Depcik meeting with one seminarian to learn ASL, and in contact with a second seminarian

Fr. Mike in contact with Mt. St. Mary's University re providing ASL training for seminarians at the University

Attendance growing steadily in Urbana and in Baltimore

People coming regularly from the Archdiocese of Washington and from West Virginia to attend Mass in Urbana

Please find below the attendance data and collection amounts from the Masses in ASL at Urbana and Balto.

Date	Attendance			Collection		
	Balto.	Urbana	Total	Balto.	Urbana	Total
August 20, 2023		36	36		\$170.00	\$170.00
August 27		44	44		\$210.80	\$210.80
September 3 (Labor Day Weekend)		32	32		\$120.00	\$120.00
September 9 after Reception		22				\$ -
September 10		32	54		\$ 237.50	\$237.50
September 16 - Balto. September 17 - Urbana	34	23	57		\$ 88.00	\$88.00
September 24 (Tropical Storm Ophelia)		28	28		\$117.00	\$117.00
October 1		43	43		\$117.00	\$117.00
October 8		39	39		\$277.00	\$277.00
October 15		38	38		\$203.61	\$203.61
October 22 w/ Deacon Patrick Graybill		72	72		\$341.00	\$341.00
October 29 w/ Bishop Bruce Lewandowski		75	75		\$444.00	\$444.00
November 1 All Saints Day		28	28			\$ -
November 4-5	20	46	66	\$71.00	\$242.00	\$313.00
November 12		59	59		\$252.50	\$252.50
November 19		40	40		\$222.00	\$222.00
November 26 Thxgv. Wkend - Fr. Tripplett		33	33		\$150.00	\$150.00
December 2-3	17	43	60	\$54.00	\$207.00	\$261.00
December 8 Immaculate Conception		26	26			\$ -
December 10		50	50		\$252.00	\$252.00
December 17		48	48		\$220.00	\$220.00
Total						\$ 3,996.41
Average Weekend Amount	23.7	44.6	48.6	\$62.50	\$215.08	\$217.56

List of regularly interpreted weekend Masses:

**Church of the Resurrection, Ellicott City**, 9:30 am Mass Sundays (when requested – Contact Chris Duck at [chris.duck@archbalt.org](mailto:chris.duck@archbalt.org) )

**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/Urbana**, 10:00 am Mass in ASL Sundays at Country Church, 8817 Urbana Church Road, Urbana, MD 21704

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

**St. Joseph, Cockeysville**, 12 noon Sundays

**St. Joseph, Fullerton**, 10:30 am Sundays (when requested – Contact Melissa Kadar at [lisa8530@comcast.net](mailto:lisa8530@comcast.net) )

**St. Mark, Catonsville**, 7:30 am Sundays (when requested – Contact Margaret Decker at [margaret.r.decker@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.r.decker@gmail.com) )

**St. Ursula, Parkville**, 5 pm Saturdays (when requested – Contact Margaret Decker at [margaret.r.decker@gmail.com](mailto:margaret.r.decker@gmail.com) )

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