



DEAF MINISTRY

of the Diocese of Joliet

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

DEAF LENTEN RETREAT

It All Starts with Wings

“**G**od assigned the guardian angels to us from the moment of our conception to the day we die. That’s when we will finally meet with them in Heaven,” Rev. Christopher Klusman, Chaplain for the Deaf from the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, said in his presentation to participants, cited Diana Stallings. “We use our instincts to feel our guardian angels’ presence to fight off the dangers around us, to overcome temptations, to prevent Satan from suggesting evil thoughts, to instill us holy thoughts and desires, and to strengthen / comfort us during our darkest times. We need to acknowledge that we do have unseen friends around us.”

Angels was the theme of the overnight retreat for the Deaf Catholic

faithfuls, held March 8 - 9 at the Carmelite Spiritual Retreat Center in Darien, IL, hosted by the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet and the ICDA-US Chapter 46. Twenty-eight faithful Deaf persons from IL, MI, WI, and even Minnesota attended.



The purpose of this Deaf Lenten Retreat was to rejuvenate ourselves mentally, spiritually and physically. During the weekend there was a workshop presented by Rev. Christopher Klusman, meals, tours to museum and shrine of St. Therese of Liseux, confessions, fellowships, a Kahoot Lenten Trivia game and Vigil Mass in ASL. The Carmelite Spiritual Center provided a serene place for the guests to stay, to spend time reflecting on our lives, and developing a relationship with the Lord. This retreat weekend wasn’t meant to be a substitute for real life. Rather, it was meant to be a way to send us out into the world recharged mentally, spiritually and physically to face the challenges ahead of us with the help of our devoted, featherly winged angels!

(See more photos on page 5)



photo credit: Hugh Fung



Reflection

from

Fr. John Maria

As we celebrate this Jubilee of Hope, let us be reminded that God's love knows no limits. To my dear brothers and sisters in the Deaf Ministry, you are a living witness to the power of faith, perseverance, and service. Your hands speak the language of love, your hearts echo the voice of Christ, and your presence in our Church is a beautiful testimony of God's grace.

No challenge is too great when we walk together in faith. The Lord sees your dedication and He strengthens you in your mission. Do not lose hope! As our dear patron saint in the Deaf community, Saint Francis de Sales, once said: 'Be at peace. Set aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and continually remind yourself: "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped. He is not only with me but also within me, and I am in Him."' Your service in the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet is a vital part of the Church's mission—to bring the Gospel to all, to build a community of love, and to journey together as one family in Christ.


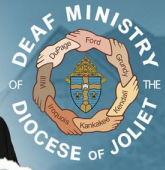
May this Jubilee be a time of renewal, joy, and deeper commitment to serve our community through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary and our dear patron saint, Saint Francis de Sales. Let us continue to proclaim the Good News in ways that go beyond words—through our hands, our hearts, and our unwavering hope in the Lord.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11.

Let us also keep praying for each other each day so that we will be committed to our ministry despite of the challenges we will encounter along the way. Prayer is the wind beneath our wings, enabling us to soar to great heights.

With prayers and blessings,

Fr. John Maria Abulag, OP Miss.





2025 Mass Schedule for the Deaf Community



Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus

604 North Raynor Avenue
Joliet, IL
<https://www.straymond.net/>



10:30 AM INTERPRETED MASS:


- 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month
- **FAITH FORMATION & VIGIL MASS**
(1st Saturdays)

1:30 PM: *Confessions*
2:15 PM: *Potluck/Faith Formation**
4 PM: *Hearing Mass w/ Fr. John Maria*



St. Margaret Mary

1450 Green Trails Drive
Naperville, IL
<https://www.s MMP.com/>



11:00 AM INTERPRETED MASS:


- 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month
- **FAITH FORMATION & DEAF MASS in ASL**
(3rd Sunday, in the basement)

9:30 AM: *Confessions*
10 AM: *DEAF MASS w/ Fr. John Maria*
11 AM: *Faith Formation**
12 Noon: *Fellowship*



St. Isidore

427 W. Army Trail Rd.
Bloomington, IL
<http://www.stisidoreparish.org/>



10:00 AM INTERPRETED MASS:

- Every Sunday of every month

Please text Fr. John Maria if you cannot make it to the FF and/or Deaf Mass.
(708) 940-0763

*Faith Formation: Mini-workshop / retreat, Bible Study or any religious activities conducted in American Sign Language (ASL)
<https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/doj-deaf-ministry>

NOTE:

If your loved one dies and you need a sign language interpreter for Catholic funeral AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, contact Justin Reyes at jreyes@dioceseofjoliet.org.

If you know of a Deaf person in the hospital or nursing home who would like Fr. John Maria's blessing, please contact Fr. John Maria Abulag at frjohnmaria0722@gmail.com.

TRAINING TO BE AN ALTAR SERVER

Assisting the priest during mass as an altar server is a distinguished honor and an opportunity to grow in faith and service within the church community. It is a role that requires dedication, respect, and commitment to the sacred liturgy.

If you are interested in attending a training to become an altar server, please contact Fr. John Maria Abulag at:
frjohnmaria0722@gmail.com



FR. JOHN MARIA'S VOCATIONAL HOURS:

MONDAY & TUESDAY:	ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST / WINFIELD
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY:	BLANCHETTE CATHOLIC CENTER / CREST HILL
FRIDAY:	OFF
1ST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH:	ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS / JOLIET -ASL FAITH FORMATION / INTERPRETED MASS FOR THE DEAF
3RD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH:	ST. MARGARET MARY / NAPERVILLE -ASL DEAF MASS & FAITH FORMATION FOR THE DEAF

Questions - contact Fr. John Maria at: frjohnmaria0722@gmail.com
(708) 940-0763 text

2025 EASTER MASS SCHEDULE

Please see below for our Easter Schedule. All are welcome to join us. All Masses will be ASL-Interpreted.

Masses will be held at:

St. Isidore Parish - 427 W Army Trail Rd, Bloomingdale, IL

St. Margaret Mary Parish - 1450 Green Trails Dr, Naperville, IL

St. Raymond Nonnatus Parish - 608 N Raynor Ave, Joliet, IL

EVENT	DATE	TIME	WHERE	
First Saturday	Saturday, April 5, 2025	1:30 PM 4:00 PM	Bell Tower St. Raymond	Faith Formation w/ Fr. John Maria & Sign-Interpreted Mass
1st Sunday	Sunday, April 6	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	St. Isidore St. Margaret Mary	ASL-Interpreted Mass
Palm Sunday (2nd Sunday)	Sunday, April 13	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 10:30 AM	St. Isidore St. Margaret Mary St. Raymond	ASL-Interpreted Mass
Holy Thursday	Thursday, April 17	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	St. Isidore St. Raymond	ASL-Interpreted Mass <i>(arrive early to reserve seating)</i>
Good Friday	Friday, April 18	7:00 PM 7:00 PM	St. Isidore St. Raymond	ASL-Interpreted Mass <i>(arrive early to reserve seating)</i>
Easter Sunday (3rd Sunday)	Sunday, April 20	10:00 AM 10:00 AM 11:00 AM 10:30 AM	St. Isidore St. Margaret Mary St. Margaret Mary St. Raymond	ASL-Interpreted Mass Deaf Mass (TBD)* ASL-Interpreted Mass ASL-Interpreted Mass
Fourth Sunday	Sunday, April 27	10:00 AM 11:00 AM 10:30 AM	St. Isidore St. Margaret Mary St. Raymond	ASL-Interpreted Mass

Please note that there is **NO EASTER VIGIL MASS ON SATURDAY NIGHT.**

**Will announce the final confirmation of the 10 AM Deaf Mass on our next April email blast.*

Any questions, please contact Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet, Martha Torres, at 815-221-6128 or mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org.

COMMUNITY EVENT



OUR LADY of MERCY
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Individuals with DisABILITIES/special needs
are invited to join us with their friends and
family for a special DisABILITIES Mass!

March 16, 2025 @ 2PM

Fellowship in the MPR to Follow (Please
RSVP so we may welcome you!)
701 S Eola Road, Aurora, IL 60504



Scan so we can
welcome you!

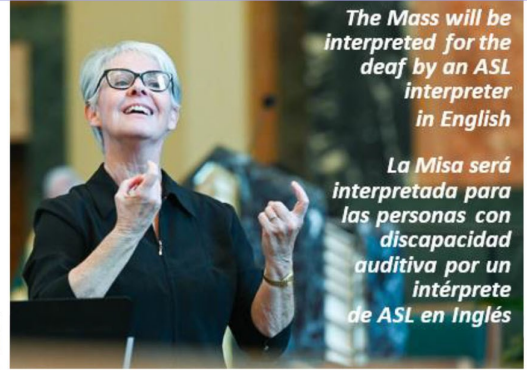
We look forward to welcoming you
and many others from throughout
the Diocese of Joliet and we hope
you will join us as we celebrate the
blessings of those with
disABILITIES in our Church
family, as well as the wonderful
gifts they bring to our parish!



2025 Deaf Lenten Retreat took place on the beautiful campus of the
Carmelite Spiritual Retreat Center, Darien, IL last March 8 & 9. To view more photos,
go to: <https://www.deafcatholicjoliet.org/25-03-deaf-lenten-retreat.html>



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



The Mass will be interpreted for the deaf by an ASL interpreter in English

La Misa será interpretada para las personas con discapacidad auditiva por un intérprete de ASL en Inglés



ALL ARE WELCOME!

Click button below or scan QR code to register

REGISTER NOW



¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!

Haga clic en el botón de abajo o escanee Código QR para registrarse

REGÍSTRASE AHORA

Department of Catechesis and Evangelization
Departamento de Catequesis y Evangelización

You are cordially invited to the Diocese of Joliet

Jubilee Mass for Persons with disABILITIES
June 1, 2025
12:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Hicks; refreshments and fellowship to follow. Those with disABILITIES, and their caregivers, will receive a special blessing.

Están cordialmente invitados a la Diócesis de Joliet

Misa Jubilar para Las Personas con disCAPACIDADES
1 de Junio de 2025
12:30 p.m.

Catedral de San Raimundo
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois

La misa será celebrada por el obispo Ronald Hicks; refrescos y compañerismo a seguir. Aquellos con disCAPACIDADES, y sus cuidadores, recibirán una bendición especial.

Questions? ¿Preguntas?

Martha Torres
(815) 221-6128

mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org

DIOCESE OF JOLIET



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS



Admission Package: \$100 per Adult

- Open Bar.....4:00–5:00 & 7:00–8:00 p.m.
- Mariachi Band.....4:30–6:30
- Dinner.....5:00–7:00
- Christmas Show.....7:00–8:00

****Special Gift****

Your admission includes gift contribution to Fr. Joe Mulcrone.

Dress Code: Semi-formal (No jean)

RSVP Deadline: Monday, November 3rd
Hurry! Seating is limited to 350 guests.

Event Chairperson: Iris V. Martinez
Tx. 773-679-8441 / fideliris@gmail.com

For Reservations Contact:
Susan Elizabeth
Tx. 773-870-6369 / susanelizabethr@yahoo.com

Please Note
All reservations are final; NO refunds.

Entrée – Chicken or Vegetarian: Circle your meal choice.

Please print your full name:

1. _____	C V	6. _____	C V
2. _____	C V	7. _____	C V
3. _____	C V	8. _____	C V
4. _____	C V	9. _____	C V
5. _____	C V	10. _____	C V

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/ZipCode: _____
 Email/VP/Text #: _____

Make check or money order payable to:
St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center
 Cash is accepted in person.

In Memoriam



Hedwig Iovito

1949 - 2025



Mark J. Kubey

1946 - 2025

Please Pray for

Slavica DiDonna

Meg Tupa-Lo

Brian Van Thyne

Richard Kush

Iovito Family

Kubey Family

Fr. Joseph Mulcrone

Renata Cichowicz

Peggy Crotty

Mary Holden

Patricia Flannery-Slitz

If you would like to add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact Justin Reyes, Director of Catechism and Evangelization at jreyes@dioceseofjoliet.org



SAINT OF THE MONTH: *St. Catherine of Sienna*



Ask the LORD for
rain in the
springtime; it is the
LORD who sends
the thunderstorms.
He gives showers
of rain to all people
and plants of the
field to everyone.

Zechariah 10:1

RESOURCES

REACH Program

Religious Education Apostolate for Christian Handicapped (REACH) provides sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation, First Eucharist, and Confirmation at St. Raphael Parish / Naperville. This program provides classes for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf with disABILITIES. Classes are taught or interpreted in ASL. Contact Religious Education office at [630/615-7614](tel:6306157614).

MINISTRY FORMATION PROGRAM (MFP)

The Ministry Formation Program for Catholic Deaf Persons is a three-year program of education and formation for Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing women and men to acquire and develop ministerial skills necessary to serve as active Catholic lay ministers in a Deaf community. For more information, please contact Dr. Ian Robertson at mfpdirectorchicago@gmail.com.

ICDA-US LOCAL CHAPTER #46

Join us at the International Catholic Deaf Association of the United States, local Chapter #46 of Joliet to plan spiritual and social events throughout the year. All are welcome!! Click on www.deafcatholicjoliet.org for more information.

disABILITIES MINISTRIES

For more information regarding the ministry for Persons with disABILITIES, go to the website: <https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/disabilities-ministry>.

FR. MIKE DEPCIK'S KITCHEN TABLE

To watch a video of Fr. Mike Depcik's homilies, interviews, bible study and more in ASL, go online to www.frmd.org.

If you are the organizer of a religious event and would like it included in this newsletter, please contact Sharon DiGuido at sharon.diguideo@gmail.com. This event must be accessible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

DisABILITIES MASS

March 16, 2025, at 2:00 PM, at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Aurora, IL, Individuals with DisABILITIES / Special Needs are invited to join with their friends and families for a special DisABILITIES Mass. (See flyer attached on page 5)

ST PATRICK/ST JOSEPH DINNER

March 16, 2025, 10:30 AM Mass & 4 PM Mass, Dinner to follow, St. Julie Billiart Parish, Tinley Park, IL, Must RSVP to Coleen Sweeney - Text: 312-909-0047 or irishgal31@gmail.com.

DEAF EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

April 4-6, 2025, at the National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Emmitsburg, MD. Hosted by Fr. Mike Depcik. Guest Speakers: Jeanine Adkins and Deacon Patrick Graybill. This event is for all the Catholic Deaf Community to come and gather for Eucharistic Adoration, presentations, lunch and the Vigil Mass. Also, they will have the opportunity to tour around some famous religious historical sites. For more information and to register: <https://sjdc-oll.org/eucharistic-congress-1>. Registration expired March 1, 2025.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE JUBILEE for Deaf or Persons with Disabilities

April 25 - May 5, 2025: featuring Rome & Assisi. A 10 day pilgrimage to Rome to participate in the Jubilee of Persons who are Deaf or live with Disabilities events. Will explore many significant sites of our beautiful faith as we experience the peaceful setting of Assisi. ASL interpreters will be provided. ASL Mass will be held every day. For more info, contact: specialneedministry@adw.org. Or call (301)853-4560, or VP (301)200-5430.

MORE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

April 12, 2025, 9 AM - 4 PM, at Olivet Nazarene University, a recognized Christian university, Bourbonnais, IL. Join us as we uncover inspiring new insights from timeless biblical truths that will motivate you in your faith journey and help you break free from the limitations that have been holding you back. ASL interpreters available. Coupon code: GROUP14.

More info: <https://www.moreconference.org/>.

RESOURCES

CDS ANNUAL RETREAT 2025

May 9-10, 2025, at Our Lady of the Snows, Belleville, IL. Join us at our annual Catholic Deaf Society Retreat with Fr. Mike Depcik. A limit of 25 people can stay at the Shrine Guesthouse. Contact allenalvord@archstl.org.

JUBILEE MASS FOR PERSONS WITH disABILITIES

JUNE 1, 2025, at Cathedral of St. Raymond, Joliet, IL. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Hicks, refreshments and fellowship to follow. Those with disABILITIES and their caregivers will receive a special blessing. ASL interpreter provided. See flyer attached. Contact Martha Torres at 818-221-6128 or mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org.

2025 RELIGIOUS ASL WEEK

SAVE THE DATE!

July 13-18, 2025, at Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford, IL. This program is intended for Priests, deacons and seminarians who work with the Deaf Community - Working interpreters who have been certified (or qualified in their state) - Deaf ASL Lectors (members of the Deaf community who are now doing the readings for Sunday liturgies). RASL Week includes accommodations, meals and program costs (travel is participants' responsibility) Please contact Monsignor Nelson's office at: TTY: 1-815-399-8184, VP: 815-217-2234, Voice: 1-815-399-4300, E-mail address: rockfordhi@aol.com

2025 JESUS DEAF CREW

August 3 - 8, 2025, at Carls Family Village, Brooklyn, MI. For those who want to deepen their faith, be empowered to be Jesus' disciples and share their faith with others. A Catholic Religious Enrichment Week is a two-year summer program led by Fr. Mike Depcik. The program is limited to 24 participants. For more information and to register: <http://www.deafcathnyc.org/events-2/-catholic-religious-enrichment-week/>

ICDA-US 75th YEARS ANNIVERSARY BASH

October 10 - 12, 2025, at Hampton Inn, St. Augustine, FL. Join us in celebration of ICDA-US 75th Anniversary. Group Code: March 21st. Deadline: Sept 1st. For more information, go to www.icda-us.org

80TH BIRTHDAY BASH for Rev. J. Mulcrone

November 22, 2025, at O'Hare Tech Center, Schiller Park, IL. Join us in celebration of Fr. Joe's 80th birthday. Seating is limited to 350 guests. See attached flyer. Contact fideliris@gmail.com.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FR. JOSEPH MULCRONE

St. Francis Borgia / Chicago

Many DEAF people often need help with SOCIAL SECURITY, letters/forms from the government, MEDICAID, INSURANCE, victims of scams or crimes.

Where can they go to get help?

CHS (Chicago Hearing Society) offers many services for deaf/hard of hearing persons. 2017 N. Mendell St, Suite 3NE, CHICAGO, IL 60614. 773-248-9121, 773-904-0154vp.

ACCESS LIVING, 115 W. Chicago Ave, CHGO, 60654, 312-640-2100. They offer services for ALL persons who are disabled in Chicago.

PROGRESS CENTER, 7521 Madison St, Forest Park, IL. 60130. 708-209-1500. info@progresscil.org. They offer services for all persons with disabilities. They have an excellent DEAF STAFF.

DuPAGE CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, 739 Roosevelt Rd, Suite 109, GLEN ELLYN, IL 60137. 630-469-2300.

LAKE COUNTY CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING, 377 N. Seymour Ave, MUNDELEIN, IL 60060. 847-949-4440.

WILL-GRUNDY CIL, 77 N. 129 Infantry Dr., JOLIET, IL. 60435 815-729-0162.

SCHAUMBURG TOWNSHIP DISABILITY SERVICES. They have an excellent deaf staff person, SARITA PHADKE, who is very knowledgeable about services for deaf persons. 847-285-4541. 224-520-9763vp.

Problems with the State of Illinois???

Contact **State of Illinois DEAF & HARD OF HEARING COMMISSION**, 528 S. Fifth Street, SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701 217-557-4495v, 217-303-8010vp, 888-261-2698 tty.

Last Friday, March 7, all the Catholic churches in IRELAND and POLAND had a special prayer day for all the people who have suffered SEXUAL ABUSE. **SEXUAL ABUSE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** are terrible crimes. If you or someone you know has been a victim of these crimes, GET HELP. Survivors of sexual abuse and domestic violence have a right to help and also financial assistance.