



# DEAF MINISTRY

of the Diocese of Joliet

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

Diocese of Joliet  
Office of the Bishop



Blanchette Catholic Center  
16555 Weber Rd.  
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403  
[www.diojoliet.org](http://www.diojoliet.org)



December 2024

Dear Deaf and Hard-of Hearing Community,

Greetings in Christ! As we await our Lord's coming this Advent, I wanted to extend a special greeting to each of you. Thank you for the great gift you are to our Church, and the impact you make in the Body of Christ. We are blessed to have you as part of our Catholic family.

This Advent, I pray you may draw closer to the Lord in a new way, alongside your friends and family. Please take advantage of the wonderful formation offered by Reverend John Abulag, and the opportunities for ASL-interpreted Masses. As we await the gift of Christ's coming at Christmas, may we also rejoice at our most recent gift as a diocese of Bishop Dennis Spies, our new Auxiliary Bishop! The Lord has truly blessed us this year.

St. Paul teaches us, "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ." – 1 Cor. 12:12 (NABRE). As members of our one body the Church, you make a unique contribution that only you can make. We need you, and our Church desires to be close to you. Thank you for drawing close to Christ this season.

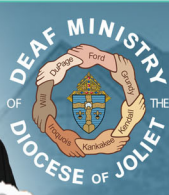
As I remain –

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*+ Ronald A. Hicks*

Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks  
Bishop of Joliet

*Jesus is  
the Reason  
for the Season!*



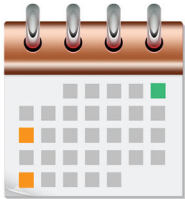
# 2025 Mass Schedule for the Deaf Community



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 PM: Fellowship (Snacks) & Confessions

2 PM: Faith Formation\*

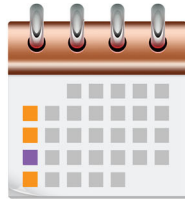
4 PM: Hearing Mass w/ Fr. John Maria



St. Margaret Mary

1450 Green Trails Drive  
Naperville, IL

<https://www.smp.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\*

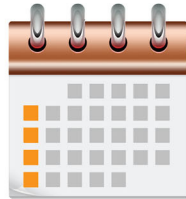
12 Noon: Fellowship



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

**NOTE:**  
If your loved one dies and you need a sign language interpreter for Catholic funeral AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, contact Renata Cichowicz at [rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:rcichowicz@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](mailto:frjohnmaria0722@gmail.com).



\*Faith Formation: Mini-workshop / retreat, Bible Study or any religious activities conducted in American Sign Language (ASL)

<https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/doj-deaf-ministry>



## 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](mailto:frjohnmaria0722@gmail.com)  
(708) 940-0763 text

DEAF MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET  
 &  
 ICDA-US CHAPTER #46  
 present

2025

DEAF

RETREAT

March 8 - 9, 2025

SATURDAY: 8 AM - 10 PM  
 SUNDAY: 8 AM - 12 Noon

WITH  
 GUEST  
 SPEAKER:



Fr Chris  
 Klusman

AT

CARMELITE SPIRITUAL CENTER

8419 BAILEY ROAD  
 DARIEN, IL 60561

**NOTE: ASL-only Retreat ( no voice/asl interpreter )**

Cost:

Catch the early bird special! Register by January 31<sup>st</sup> for **\$125** / single occupancy, **\$90** / double occupancy, and **\$100** / commuter.

After January 31<sup>st</sup>, regular costs apply.

Schedule:



**SATURDAY**

- 8:00 AM** Arrival / Registration
- 8:30 AM** Breakfast
- 9:30 AM** Workshop
- 12:30 PM** Lunch
- 1:30 PM** Workshop
- 4:30 PM** Confession
- 5:30 PM** Dinner
- 7:00 PM** Vigil Mass / Special Blessing

- 8:30 PM** Lenten Trivia
- 9:30 PM** Eucharistic Adoration
- 10:00 PM** Closing

**SUNDAY**

- 8:30 AM** Breakfast / Room Sign-Out
- 9:30 AM** Workshop
- 11:30 AM** Final Prayer with Blessing
- 12 Noon** Departure



(708) 927-3355



rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org



<https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/doj-deaf-ministry>



# Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet & ICDA-US Chapter #46's **Weekend Retreat Registration Package** **March 8 – 9, 2025**

Carmelite Spiritual Retreat Center, Darien, IL

## Participant Details:

Full Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Text Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

## RATES:

Rates include 3 meals on Saturday, one night's lodging and Breakfast only on Sunday per person. Single rooms are limited. After Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, single rooms will be automatically wait-listed (i.e., the double occupancy rate will apply until a single assignment is confirmed). If no single rooms become available, room sharing will be necessary. Commuter's rates may vary.

## MEALS:

All meals are standard and may contain eggs and/or milk. If special dietary needs are required other than what is provided by the retreat, it is necessary for individuals to bring their own food or **\$10.00 per person, per day, additional charge for Special Meal** (from gluten-free to vegan) will be added to the registration fee. No food / drinks permitted in the sleeping rooms at any time.

## ARRIVAL:

Saturday Check-in: 8:00 AM | Sunday Departure: 12 Noon

## DIRECTIONS:

Please refer to Carmelite Spiritual Center's website: [www.carmelitespiritualcenter.org](http://www.carmelitespiritualcenter.org).

## EXTRAS:

It is necessary to bring personal wake-up devices and personal hygiene products.

## NOTES:

- ▶ Full Payment on **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION** is due by: **January 31, 2025**
- ▶ Full Payment on **REGULAR REGISTRATION** is due by: **February 21, 2025**



(708) 927-3355



[rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org)



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	OVERNIGHTER - Early Bird	OVERNIGHTER - After January 31	COMMUTER - Early Bird	COMMUTER - After January 31
<b>1 person / Single Occupancy*</b>	<b>\$125</b> <u>Includes:</u> - 3 meals Saturday - one night lodging - 1 Sunday breakfast	<b>\$170</b> <u>Includes:</u> - 3 meals Saturday - one night lodging - 1 Sunday breakfast	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>1 person / Double Occupancy**</b> <i>(applies to couples or roommates)</i>	<b>\$90</b> <u>Includes:</u> - 3 meals Saturday - one night lodging - 1 Sunday breakfast	<b>\$135</b> <u>Includes:</u> - 3 meals Saturday - one night lodging - 1 Sunday breakfast	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
<b>Saturday / Sunday Commuter</b>	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	<b>\$100</b> <u>Includes:</u> - 3 meals Saturday - no lodging - Sunday Breakfast	<b>\$110</b> <u>Includes:</u> - 3 meals Saturday - no lodging - Sunday Breakfast

- \* 39 rooms available for both single and double occupancy. **FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE** until the rooms are booked out.
- \*\* The double occupancy rate will apply until a single assignment is confirmed. Twin beds available.
- ▶ Early Bird registrants will receive a bonus gift.
- ▶ Price includes all activities, workshop sessions and meals throughout the day.
- ▶ All meals included: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner on Saturday. Breakfast only on Sunday.
- ▶ Healthy snacks of tea, coffee and water provided.
- ▶ ASL-only retreat ( no voice or asl interpreter ).
- ▶ Price DOES NOT include transportation to and from the retreat.

#### OVERNIGHT RATES/ROOMS:

- **Single Occupancy** -     **\$125/earlybird**     **\$170/regular**
- **Double Occupancy** -     **\$ 90/earlybird**     **\$135/regular**

- Assign roommate or couple (name): \_\_\_\_\_

• **Special Needs:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### COMMUTER RATES:

- **Saturday / Sunday** -     **\$100/earlybird**     **\$110/regular**

Saturday & Sunday attendee arrival time: 8:00 AM | Please stay throughout the days for all events

#### DIETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Special Meal** -     **\$10/per person, per day**

- Gluten-Free? Vegan? Other? (please list): \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAND TOTAL:**    \$    \_\_\_\_\_ .



(708) 927-3355



rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org



<https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/doj-deaf-ministry>



## CONSENT WAIVER:

Please fill out the Adult Liability Waiver & Medical Form on the next page and submit it with other registration forms.

## PAYMENT / REFUND:

- ▶ Check - payable to **DEAF MINISTRY - DOJ** in full amount.
  - ▶ All mailed registrations / checks for **EARLY BIRD registration** must be postmarked by **JANUARY 31, 2025**.
  - ▶ All mailed registrations / checks for **REGULAR registration** must be postmarked by **FEBRUARY 21, 2025**.
  - ▶ **Cancellation Fee: \$20.00** ( Full refund if you cancel it before February 28<sup>th</sup> )
  - ▶ **No refunds after February 28, 2025.**

## REGISTER:

Please print and fill out the forms, and mail the **completed forms and check in full amount** to:

**The Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet**  
**c/o: Martha Torres**  
**16555 Weber Rd**  
**Crest Hill, IL 60403**

Registrations will be available through email, online or in-person at Blanchette Catholic Center (BCC).

**NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR THE DAY OF THE EVENT.**



(708) 927-3355



rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org



<https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/doj-deaf-ministry>



Participant Name	FIRST	LAST	
Address			
City		State	Zip
Email		Cell Phone	

GENERAL PERMISSIONS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, agree on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns, executors, and personal representatives, to hold harmless and defend Parish:

And the Diocese of Joliet, its officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives from any and all liability for illness or death arising from or in connection with my participation in the trip.

VIDEOS, PHOTOS, and VIRTUAL PLATFORMS

Videos and or/photos may be taken during this event. This authorization form constitutes permission to use my image in video and/or photos which may be used for future promotional efforts including the parish and/or Diocese of Joliet website. If you wish to opt out of this permission initial here: Participant's Initial \_\_\_\_\_

CODE OF BEHAVIOR

I acknowledge that I am representing our diocese/parish during this event, and I will represent us well. I will adhere to all Diocesan Guidelines and display responsible, mature, and respectful behavior in my words, actions, and usages.

EXPECTATIONS

- All participants are expected to arrive on time.
- All participants are expected to demonstrate respect and common courtesy at all times. Inappropriate language/behavior/conduct will not be tolerated.
- Socializing should always be done in public areas.
- Dress should reflect the values of modesty and respect, and inscriptions and images on clothing should reflect Christian values.
- The possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- The possession of any illegal substances is prohibited and subject to legal action.
- Smoking, vaping, e-cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and cannabis in any form are prohibited.
- Weapons and/or drug paraphernalia are prohibited.

INFRACTION OF THESE RULES CAN MEAN IMMEDIATE DISMISSAL WITH NO REFUND.

I understand and agree to the Code of Behavior. I also understand and agree that at the time of an infraction requiring my dismissal I will be responsible for any and all costs related to dismissal from said events and activities and any all costs assessed by local authorities.

Participant's Initial \_\_\_\_\_

MEDICAL PERMISSION FORM

I grant permission for the administration of First Aid by the people in charge of the event and those transporting to and from the event as their judgement deems advisable and to make the necessary referrals to qualified physicians for the treatment of illness or accidents of a more serious nature. In the event that I should require medical treatment and I am not able to communicate my desires to attending physicians or other medical personnel, I give permission for the necessary emergency treatment to be administered. I hereby give permission to the physicians selected by the adult staff to hospitalize, secure proper treatment for and to order injections, anesthesia or surgery if deemed necessary. I also understand that I will be responsible for any costs incurred.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

ALLERGIC TO MEDICATIONS: YES [ ] NO [ ]

If YES, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

ALLERGIC TO OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER CONDITIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

INSURANCE INFORMATION

Policy in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D.# \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

Physician Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT

In the event of an emergency please contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Relation \_\_\_\_\_

Participant Name	(Please Print)	
Participant Signature		Date



WISDOM

UNDERSTANDING

COUNSEL

KNOWLEDGE

FORTITUDE

PIETY

FEAR OF THE LORD



## Congratulations

On November 8, 2024, 5 Deaf students in the REACH Program at St. Raphael Church in Naperville received the sacrament of Confirmation. They are (from left to right):

Matthew S., Yhadira S., Madeline R., Vanessa B., and Imelda D.

Bishop Kane from the Archdiocese of Chicago celebrated the mass with Fr. John Maria Abulag, Chaplain for the Deaf, and Fr. Ternan Monteiro, Parochial Vicar at St. Raphael Church.

May the Holy Spirit guide them and the Lord bless them as they continue their faith journey.



## In Memoriam



Travis Racine

1941 - 2024



## Please Pray for

- Richard Kush
- Hedwig Iovito
- Brian Swatek and Family
- Mark & Kate Kubey
- Fr. Joseph Mulcrone
- Renata Cichowicz
- Mike Dyas
- Peggy Crotty
- Mary Holden
- Patricia Flannery-Slitz

*If you would like to add or remove a name from the prayer list, please contact Renata Cichowicz, Pastoral Outreach Lead at [rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org)*



# 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](mailto: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](http://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>.

## NCOD PASTORAL WEEK 2025

January 23-26, 2025, in Birmingham, AL. Join us at our annual Pastoral Week conference in Birmingham, Alabama! We have a wonderful group of speakers set up as we humbly ask, "Come, Holy Spirit!" Look up at <https://www.ncod.org/Pastoral-Week-2025> for more info.

## DEAF MINISTRY - JOLIET, IL DEAF RETREAT 2025

March 8-9, 2025, at Carmelite Spiritual Center, Darien, IL. This event is hosted by the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet. Please see the attached flyer. For more info, contact Renata Cichowicz at [rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org).

## KC DEAF RETREAT 2025

March 7-9, 2025, at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, Topeka, Kansas. This event is organized by the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas. For more info, contact Katie Locus at [deafministry@archkck.org](mailto:deafministry@archkck.org) or VP (913) 324-5378.

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE JUBILEE for Deaf or with Disabilities

April 25 - May 5, 2025, featuring Rome & Assisi. 10 day pilgrimage to Rome to participate in the Jubilee of Persons who are Deaf or live with Disability 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](mailto:specialneedministry@adw.org). Or call (301)853-4560, or VP (301)200-5430.

## 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](mailto:allenalvord@archstl.org).

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*If you are interested in adding new information under Resources, please contact Renata Cichowicz at [rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:rcichowicz@dioceseofjoliet.org)*

# RESOURCES

## 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](mailto:rockfordhi@aol.com)

## 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](http://www.frmd.org).

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM FR. JOSEPH MULCRONE

*St. Francis Borgia / Chicago*

### IMPORTANT LAW UPDATES FOR STATE OF ILLINOIS

HOSPITALS & the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). The ADA requires ALL hospitals / Rehabilitation Centers to provide "effective communication" for patients and/or family members who are Deaf/hard-of-hearing. This is the law. Many hospitals use VRI (Video Relay Interpreting) to communicate. Some Deaf people are satisfied with this. Some Deaf people prefer an in-person sign language interpreter. If a Deaf person is going to go into a hospital for surgery or some other medical treatment, they (or family) need to contact the hospital before the date of treatment. Tell the hospital that the person is Deaf and needs the right communication.

