



## FR. CK'S CORNER: LEADING OUR EYES UP



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By Fr. Christopher Klusman

One of the most famous things about the Milwaukee skyline is its beautiful steeples. Admiring their beauty, we can't help but

be reminded of its rich history going back to the establishment of our archdiocese on Nov. 28, 1843.

So, what is a steeple? According to the dictionary, it is a "church tower and spire." It is that pointy thing on top of a cathedral, basilica and church that stretches out toward the sky. A steeple is often topped with a cross.

People would say that the area's highest structure is what that area values the most. For example, in a farming town, a tall silo storing grain is what is very important to them.

I remember learning about how some towns have a law that no other structure can be built taller than the Catholic church in that town.

Being in Europe years ago, I remember passing a town where the Catholic church is so easily found (with its steeple) as everything was built around it and nothing was built higher than it.



I couldn't help but see how beautiful that town's physical structure shows the importance of God in everything for that village.

Also, in my travels throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, I always love it when, upon trying to find a Catholic church, I could rely on a steeple from a far distance to be able to find it, thus leading me straight to it. One example is the tall steeple of St. Andrew in Delavan.



Most important of all, while there are many other reasons why steeples are built, the one I'd like us to focus on is how steeples atop Catholic churches are **meant to lead our eyes upward**. When I look at the Catholic church and my eyes are led up, up, up toward the sky, it is meant to help remind me of God, Heaven and the spiritual things. In a day when we put daily reminders on our Apple Watches, Smartphones, etc. that vibrate or pop up on screens to remind us of our appointment, medicine, etc., steeples are precious reminders to never forget to remain focused on God and the heavenly things (such as prayer, etc.). It also helps me in my duty to God. It also can help you in yours.

Have a blessed autumn season. May the beautiful steeples on the Milwaukee skyline and

► FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued on Page 3.

### MISSION STATEMENT - DEAF APOSTOLATE

The Deaf Apostolate in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee exists to enable all Catholic Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to participate fully in the liturgical, educational, pastoral, spiritual, and human concerns ministries in the Church.



# St. Andrew Parish

## DEAF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MINISTRY

### SHARING THE GOOD NEWS

## DEAF REPRESENTATION THROUGH ART AT ST. ANDREW PARISH



**By Jennifer Paul, Coordinator  
Deaf Religious Education & Deaf Ministry  
St. Andrew Parish, Delavan**

In a vintage frame, hung on a wall in the vestibule leading into the hallowed nave, the time-stained mission statement declares that “St. Andrew is a multi-cultural

family, proud and grateful for its special ministries with the Spanish-speaking, the Deaf and seasonal visitors.”

St. Andrew Parish has been around since 1848. The Wisconsin School for the Deaf, only a couple of blocks west on the same street, was established in 1852. It was and still is the only residential school for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in the entire state of Wisconsin. In the olden days when students stayed on campus for the entire year except Christmas and summer breaks, students marched off campus for the religious services around town on Sundays. The Catholic students headed east, probably in a single file line, to St. Andrew Parish.

When St. John’s School for the Deaf, founded in 1876, at St. Francis, near Milwaukee, closed down permanently in the early 1980s, WSD saw a huge influx of Catholic students coming in.

In present day, with WSD sending their students home every weekend for over three decades now, St. Andrew Parish offers religious education classes to WSD’s Catholic students. We also offer ASL interpreting services for the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass and

monthly Bible study for Catholic Deaf adults.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we pivoted and continued with the apostolic efforts, offering the religious education classes and Fr. Klusman’s Bible study virtually. We joined Fr. Klusman’s virtual Mass in ASL with the Mass readings and Responsorial Psalm every week. St. Andrew’s own virtual Mass with Fr. Oriol

was captioned. We also produced three video series in ASL on specific subjects on our public YouTube channel.

Shortly before the pandemic, an idea came forward to have an art representation of the Deaf at St. Andrew Parish. The Deaf Art Committee was formed. The committee decided that the artwork must meet the following criteria: one, that the artwork be done by a Deaf person; two, that the Deaf person have an established reputation as an artist; three, that the artist be Catholic; and four, that the artwork complement the aesthetic character of St. Andrew Parish’s architecture.

A famous piece by the late Fran Preston fits the bill. In honor of Pope St. John Paul II’s visit to Chicago in 1979, Preston created a painting in pastels, “Jesus Love,” and the painting was presented to the late Pope on his visit. To this day, the

original sits among the splendor in Vatican City. A master copy of the painting was made so that 8.5” x 11” reprints could be reproduced for Catholic Deaf people all over the world. The artwork is so much loved in the Catholic Deaf community that we are proud to share it with the St. Andrew Parish family.





► **FR. CK'S CORNER - Continued from Page 1.**

throughout the archdiocese and other places you go lead you to remember your duty and focus on the Eucharist, the Catholic faith and other heavenly things. As it says in the Gospel of John 12:32, with the cross atop the steeple, Jesus leads people to himself: "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself."

Enjoy this Newsletter.

Before we begin, let's ask: The Immaculate Conception, patroness of our country, pray for us! St. Joseph, pray for us! St. John the Baptist, pray for us! St. John the Evangelist, patron of our archdiocese, pray for us! St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of the Deaf, pray for us! St. René Goupil, our Deaf saint, pray for us! St. Isaac Jogues, pray for us! Blessed Ulma Family, pray for us!

**Cream City Catholic**



**CATHOLIC QUIZ**

1. Which of Michelangelo's famous statues are signed by the artist?  
 (a) Pieta (b) David (c) Moses  
 (d) Madonna of Bruges
2. Which is the name of the portable bucket that holds holy water for sprinkling people or objects with blessing?  
 (a) Lavabo Bowl (b) Ablutions Bowl  
 (c) Aspersorium (d) Cope
3. In 1224, St. Francis of Assisi received what while praying on Mount Verna?  
 (a) The Cross of San Damiano (b) the Stigmata  
 (c) A letter from St. Clare (d) A vision of St. Michael the Archangel
4. Eucharistic Revival Q: What was the date of our Eucharistic Congress in Milwaukee this past summer?  
 (a) May 27 (b) June 10 (c) July 8 (d) Aug. 5
5. Eucharistic Revival Q: Who just finished providing years of weekly YouTube videos in ASL about Eucharistic Miracles?  
 (a) Br. Joseph Thermadom (b) Jennifer Paul  
 (c) Jeannine Adkins (d) Al Alvord



(Answers on page 6.)

► **ST. ANDREW PARISH - Continued from Page 2.**

The committee's work would not be possible without Greg and Patty Kostechka's generous sponsorship and Fr. Oriol Regales' sanction. The St. Andrew Deaf Art Committee also thanks these two individuals for their guidance: Fr. Christopher Klusman and Arvilla Rank, Past President of International Catholic Deaf Association (two terms from 1981 to 1985).

On Sept. 3, 2023, almost 175 years after WSD was established, the "Jesus Love" artwork was unveiled before the full congregation of St. Andrew Parish. The artwork, flanked by Frs. Oriol and Christopher at the altar, was blessed by Bishop Schuerman of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

As the sparkingly new artwork now hangs on a wall in the hallowed nave, for as long as God wills it, everyone — signing and non-signing — is reminded in a clear, universal message that Jesus in the Eucharist in St. Andrew Parish will always hold us in his arms, in deep love.

Why should you never lose your rosary?

Because you'll end up searching for decades.



## ST. ISAAC JOGUES, MODEL SAINT FOR THE AUTUMN SEASON AND EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

During the Eucharistic Revival, let's learn more about a saint whose hunger for the Eucharist is a great example to everyone. His name is St. Isaac Jogues.

Not only is he a great model saint for the Eucharistic Revival, but his feast day is on October 19 (during the Autumn season). In addition to that, he ministered alongside our patron saint for the Deaf, St. René Goupil! A new fact: when St. René Goupil was martyred, did you know that it was St. Isaac Jogues who reverently buried St. Goupil's body? They both share the same feast day of October 19 as the "North American Martyrs."

Borrowed from Fr. Roger J. Landry's "The Saints and the Eucharistic Revival" (dated Oct. 27, 2022).

*St. Isaac Jogues (1607-1646) born in France, desired to be a Jesuit, priest, and missionary, in order not just to bring the Gospel of Jesus to the New World but Jesus himself in the Blessed Sacrament.*

*He was accustomed in seminary not only to attending Mass every day but to spending long vigils in prayer before the tabernacle. He well knew that as a missionary, traveling by canoe for days, with limited supplies of unleavened bread and wine, there would likely be times when he would not have access to the altar or tabernacle, but he longed to be able to found new chapels, altars, and tabernacles so that many others who did not know yet the ongoing reality of Christ's incarnation might come to realize that God is with them, too.*

*After six years as a missionary, he was captured by the Mohawks close to Three Rivers in Quebec. He was brought down to Ossernenon, modern Auriesville, on the northern lip of the Mohawk River. Among the tortures St. Isaac needed to endure was to have his thumbs and index fingers severely mutilated, which meant that even if he had the liberty to celebrate Mass, he would no longer be able to, because according to the rubrics at the time, the priest had to hold the consecrated host exclusively with those*



*severed digits.*

*This man of the Eucharist ended up going 17 months without even being able to receive the Eucharist, until, with the help of the Dutch, he was able to escape through modern day Albany, Manhattan, and England to arrive in France on Christmas Day 1643.*

*As soon as he disembarked and had asked directions to the closest Church, he went to confession, attended Mass and received Holy Communion. "It was then," he said, "that I began to live again and tasted the sweetness of my deliverance."*

*Through the help of the Jesuit Provincial and the Queen of France, he petitioned Pope Urban VIII for a dispensation. The Pope replied, "Indignum esset Christi martyrem Christi non bibere sanguinem." "It would be unworthy that a martyr of Christ not drink Christ's blood." Finally, in March 1644, after 20 months, he was able to go up to the altar of God, hold Christ in his mangled hands, and receive Christ's Precious Body and Blood.*

*He was martyred ultimately because of the Mass kit he had left in Auriesville in preparation for Mass.*

The date of his martyrdom by the Mohawks was October 1646. He was beheaded and his body thrown into the river. During the Autumn season of 1647, about a dozen





► **ST. ISAAC JOGUES - Continued from Page 4.**

Mohawks attacked some Frenchmen. The French fought and killed 11 attackers and captured one Mohawk. They took him to the Three Rivers. The captive Mohawk bragged to the Frenchmen that he was the one who killed St. Isaac Jogues. The Algonquins and Hurons were angry and planned revenge to kill the Mohawk, but the Jesuits protected him. After several weeks with the Jesuits, the Mohawk asked them for baptism, remembering the things that St. Isaac Jogues taught him. Upon baptism, the Mohawk asked to take a new name (Isaac Jogues). A week later, Algonquins dragged the Mohawk and killed him. One of the priests said, “God willing, there are now two Isaac Jogueses in heaven.”

St. Isaac Jogues truly showed the virtue of fortitude. He could’ve stayed in France when he arrived back on Christmas Day of 1643, but he went back to North America.

On June 29, 1930, St. Isaac Jogues, St. René Goupil, and the other North American Martyrs became saints by Pope Pius XI.

Daily Life Application: Do we truly hunger for the Eucharistic Lord, the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ Himself? This is why the Church gave us a wonderful reminder of the importance of fasting at least one hour or more before the start of Mass so that our physical hunger remind us of our most important hunger: to be one with Our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our EVERYTHING, our food, our drink, our Living Water, the Bread of Life, and so many more...

St. Isaac Jogues, *pray for us*, especially during this 3-year Eucharistic Revival.

**Prayer in honor of St. Isaac Jogues**

Jesus, our Brother, you won the heart of St. Isaac Jogues and helped him grow as a caring, courageous person. He dedicated his life to sharing his love for you by carrying the Good News about your love for all people to others. Remembering the spirit of St. Isaac Jogues, may we all grow in caring and courage. Help each of us, Jesus, to be strong and gentle messengers of your love. Amen.

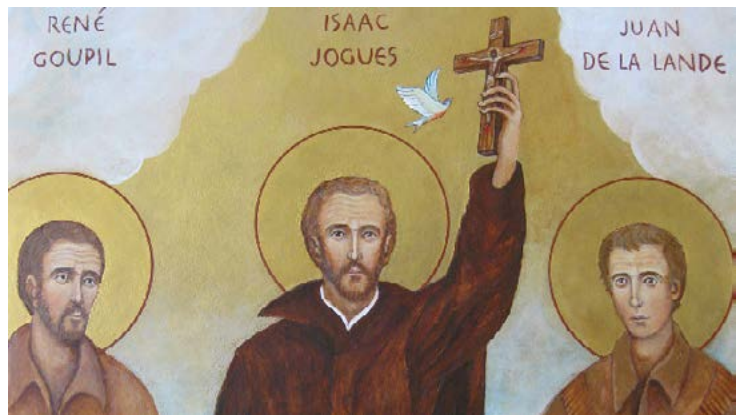


*“The sign of the cross is adorable and could not do anything but good to those who should use it. I have no intention of giving it up.”*

—St. Isaac Jogues

*(Jogues said this in response to a Mohawk elder who demanded that he stop making the sign of the cross. Jogues’s companion, René Goupil, had been killed a short time before for making the sign of the cross on Mohawk children’s foreheads.)*

facebook.com/PaoloABelzoni



What do you call a Catholic priest who became a lawyer?

A father-in-law.



We deprive ourselves of our breakfast in order to be ninety miles on our journey before the heat of the day, but to receive the Blessed Sacrament, which will *put* us more than ninety miles on our pilgrimage to heaven—ah! that is another question!

## CLARIFYING MISCONCEPTIONS

### Misconception #1

Over the centuries, the following verse from [the Book of] Revelation has been one of the most frequently quoted and most often misinterpreted verses within the Scriptures:

“This calls for wisdom: let him who has understanding reckon the number of the beast, for it is a human number, its number is six hundred and sixty-six.” (Revelation 13:18).

#### Q: 666: The Devil's Digits?

So, why is the number 666 significant?

You see, while numbers carry symbolic meaning in Scripture, they also carry numeric value, ascribed to letters. In Greek and Hebrew, letters are used for numbers and there is a value (numeric) that corresponds to every letter in those alphabets. In our alphabet, A would be 1 or Z would be 26 — you get the idea. When you add up the values in a name or a word, they will equal a sum total. For instance, say A did equal 1 and N equaled 14: the name “Anna” would equal  $(1 + 14 + 14 + 1 = 30)$ . Make sense? That being said, the number six hundred-sixty six carries a different meaning and significance depending upon who you choose to listen to on the subject.

Over the years, people have used the number to point to Napoleon Bonaparte, to corrupt popes, to religious reformers like Martin Luther, to people like Mussolini, Hitler, and Saddam Hussein. Not long ago, people were doing loose math to ascribe the number to Osama bin Laden. Most Biblical scholars attribute the number to Nero Caesar. If you take the values of the Hebrew consonants in his name they equal 666.

Nero was a vicious Roman emperor and murderer of many Christians in the early Church. It would stand to reason that since Revelation was an apocalyptic book of symbolism and vision given to St. John while he was exiled on the island of Patmos, he would be encouraging the churches under persecution in a time when most of his counterparts and fellow disciples had been martyred for the faith.

Now, as far as the devil is concerned, it's important that you don't mess around with him, for Scripture warns us: “Be sober, be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring



lion, seeking some one to devour (1 Peter 5:8).”

That being said, you need not fear the devil either. The devil is not Jesus' equal, but an angel. The devil is not equal with God. When you are feeling attacked or if you feel the presence of evil, you need only call upon the name of Christ and He will send His angels to surround and protect you. St. Michael kicks the devil's forked tail each and every time. Read Revelation 12:7-9 for more details and learn the St. Michael prayer.

God has the devil's number. God wins the war.

#### REFERENCES

*Matthew 4:1-11, Revelation 12:7-9, 13:18, Romans 7:21, 1 Peter 5:8.*

*Catechism of the Catholic Church 391-398, 2115-2138, 2851-2852, 407-409*

*Borrowed from 100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know by Mark Hart and Todd Lemieux, pages 250-252.*

## Saint Michael Prayer

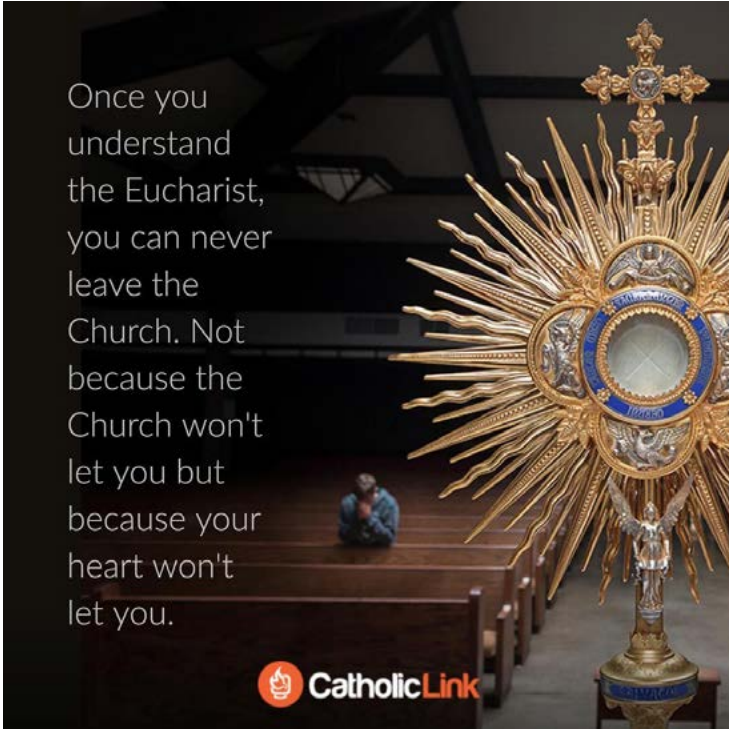
St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle,  
be our protection against  
the wickedness and  
snares of the devil.  
May God rebuke him  
we humbly pray;  
and do thou, O Prince of  
the Heavenly host,  
by the power of God,  
cast into hell Satan  
and all the evil spirits  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.

Where do cats go when they die?  
To Purr-gatory.

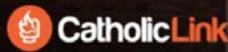


**Quiz Answers:**  
1a; 2c; 3b; 4b; 5d





Once you understand the Eucharist, you can never leave the Church. Not because the Church won't let you but because your heart won't let you.



## REFLECTION QUESTION:

Try to start a conversation with your family and/or friends about this question.



Other than Jesus, what other death in the Bible really impacted you and why?

### HOLY MASS

Speaking of the Mass, Cardinal Newman declared that, if it were physically possible for him to do so, he could have said Masses without ceasing. Here are a few thoughts on the advantages of attending Mass:

1. By attending Mass, we render to the Sacred Humanity of Christ the very highest homage.
2. At Mass, we are present with a multitude of invisible angels who are assisting in reverential awe.
3. By hearing Mass, we are preserved from certain dangers and misfortunes which otherwise, in the inscrutable decrees of Providence, would have befallen us.
4. We gain the special protection of a saint by honoring him on his feast-day with his special Mass.
5. At death, the Masses we have had said during our life will be our greatest consolation, and they will go with us to our judgment to plead our pardon.
6. One Mass said during life is worth more than many said for us after our death.
7. By attending Mass, we can shorten our purgatory, diminishing the temporal punishment due us for our sins.
8. By the Mass we can offer the greatest possible relief to the souls in purgatory.
9. At Mass, the celebrant blesses us, our actions, our temporal goods and affairs, which act is specifically ratified by God in heaven.
10. At Mass, the priest specifically forgives us our venial sins:
 

“Nothing,” says Cardinal Wiseman, “can be more perfect in structure, more elegant in conception, more solid in substance, more diverse in diction, than the Collects of the Mass.” “They are remarkable,” said Pichemot, “for their simplicity, their brevity, their richness, and their fulness. They are replete with dogmatic truth and moral duty. They are full of the liveliest faith, the firmest hope, and the broadest charity.” — *The Pilgrim*.



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

“When I got to bed at night I always keep seeing red and green lights in front of my eyes.”

“Have you seen an optometrist?”

“No, only red and green lights.”





## WHAT DO THE DIFFERENT LITURGICAL COLORS MEAN?

As we are now approaching the end of the Church year, we have seen different colors at the Mass. For the Deaf community that is very eye-centered, what do all those colors mean? The Catholic Company's "Get Fed: Bite-Sized Faith" article helps us to understand the importance and meaning of the different color:

**Have you ever wondered why priests wear certain colors for each liturgical season? Find out here.**

We associate different colors with different holidays. For instance, Christmas colors are red and green, while Halloween colors are black and orange.

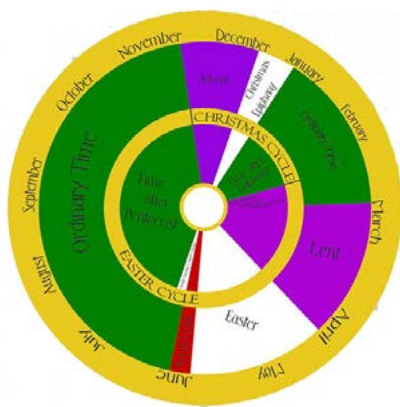
Likewise, the Church uses colors to symbolize particular liturgical seasons. The four main colors are green, violet, red, and white, but priests also wear rose on the Third Sunday of Advent and the Fourth Sunday of Lent and black for funeral Masses.

We are now in Ordinary Time, so priests are wearing green. Priests wear green for much of the year; this color represents hope and perseverance, which we ought to practice all year round.

Clergy wear purple during Advent and Lent. This color symbolizes the virtues we practice during these two important seasons: penance, waiting, and mourning.

During the Christmas and Easter seasons, priests wear white, the color for joy and purity. White also represents the Resurrection. This color's symbolism is also why brides wear white on their wedding day: to represent their purity and joy.

Red is worn on Palm Sunday, Good Friday, and Pentecost. Red is the color for Christ's Passion and for martyrdom. On Pentecost Sunday, the Apostles went out into the world to proclaim the Good News, and most of them were martyred for their faith, which is one of the reasons why clergy wear red that day. Red also symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit for Pentecost and the



Sacrament of Confirmation.

On the Third Sunday of Advent and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, priests wear a shade of pink called rose, representing joy and hope, as we anticipate the approach of Christmas and Easter. For funerals, the priest often wears black to represent death and mourning – and to remind the congregation to pray for the soul of the person who has died.

Each liturgical color has significant meaning and helps us set our minds on the season we are currently in. During this Ordinary Time, we should follow the theme of this season and listen for the messages of hope and perseverance in the daily readings.

Taken from: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/getfed/what-do-the-different-liturgical-colors-mean/>

My decoration whenever I have to host people from here on out.



In the Deaf community, we have "Deaf Standard Time." This also includes the fact that Deaf people have long good-byes. This funny pic is truly clever and funny!



## HOW THE HOLY SOULS HELPED

*Here is a powerful story borrowed from Our Young People: The Friend of the Deaf, November 1954 issue.*

Barbara made up her mind to do all she could for the souls in Purgatory during the month of November. She was always glad to do an act of kindness toward others, so it was quite natural that the suffering souls should appeal to her sympathetic nature.

She was very fond of sweet things of every description, but she made up her mind that during the “Purgatory month,” as she called it, she would do without sweets and lots of things that she liked. The hardest thing of all was to deprive herself of sugar in her tea, but in spite of this trying deprivation, she stuck to her resolution.

“Maybe I’ll be in Purgatory myself some day,” Barbara reasoned, “and then I’ll be glad to have someone do things to help me.”

Besides doing without sweets, our heroine went to Mass every morning during November. She began to wonder why she had never assisted at the Holy Sacrifice on weekdays before, and resolved that she would follow this devout practice daily in the future.

“When one just remembers that Jesus comes down from Heaven every morning to the altar,” she told herself, “how can one possibly stay away unless there is a very big excuse?”

Besides wishing to aid the Poor Souls, Barbara was also soliciting their help in obtaining the conversion of her father, who had neglected his religion for years. The little girl could not understand how anyone as kind and good as her beloved parent could forget God and the Church. Still, down in his heart, Mr. Morse was pleased to see his wife and children so devout, and would not have tolerated the thought of Barbara or Jimmy missing Mass for anything.

One evening Mr. and Mrs. Morse went to visit friends, leaving Jimmy and the baby in charge of Barbara.

It was a chilly evening, and the supply of fuel running low, the little girl went out to the coal place to get an armful of wood. Returning, she went to replenish the fire, when the flames in the fireplace suddenly leaped up and caught the ends of a woolen scarf she had wrapped about her shoulders before going out. In an instant it was in flames.

She tore frantically at the scarf and managed to fling it off, and trampling it beneath her feet, succeeded in extinguishing the blaze.



Jimmy meanwhile had hurried to the telephone and rang the place where his parents were visiting. From his incoherent remarks they gathered that the house was burning down, so in great consternation they hurried home.

Barbara scolded her brother for “making such a fuss about nothing,” as she put it. But in reality she was quite painfully

burned, and was forced to stay home from church and school for some time.

When she was able to use her hands, she spent much of her time making little gifts for Christmas, for she realized that

that festive season was not far off, and it was not a bit too soon to think of presents.

With her mother’s aid she made some lovely pin-cushions. To all appearances these were dainty little dolls, dressed very prettily in various colors, but in reality their use was to hold pins. The prettiest one that Barbara made was to be a present for mother, although, of course, mother was not aware of the fact.

“I’m so glad I don’t have to use my face to work with, and that my hands are getting well so fast,” the little girl would comment in her droll way as she worked. Her face was still bandaged, and not much of it was visible but two very bright happy eyes.

Barbara was impatient to get better so she could go to Mass again for her Poor Souls. She had offered for them the discomfort and pain she had to endure, however, reflecting that Purgatory must be something like the way she felt, a thought that afforded her much satisfaction. She would endure her burns to help to alleviate the burning through which they must pass for purification.

One day several weeks after her mishap, our heroine was coming in from school which she had now resumed, when a deafening sound as of an explosion was heard. She was still standing and

► **HOW THE HOLY SOULS HELPED - Continued from Page 9.**

wondering what it was, for the very ground had seemed to shake, when Mrs. Morse came running to the door pale and terrified.

“It’s the gas works, I know it is,” she exclaimed in frightened tones.

Barbara became greatly alarmed, too, for her father was employed at the gas plant. Mrs. Morse told her to stay with the baby, and she would go and see what had happened. Just then the telephone rang, and taking down the receiver, Mrs. Morse was told that the hospital was calling her. It wasn’t long until she was at the bed-side of her husband who had been badly injured in the gas explosion, and who was still unconscious.

Father Vincent was summoned, but the patient gave no sign of regaining consciousness, nor did the doctor hold forth any hope for his recovery.

Mrs. Morse sent word of the accident to Barbara, telling her she would remain that night at the hospital, and urged her and her brother to pray earnestly that if their father did die, he would receive the Sacraments before his soul took its flight to eternity.

Barbara did not need to be urged to pray for her parent lying so close to death’s door, and she and Jimmy recited the Rosary several times that night before retiring for the Holy Souls.

Barbara wished she could visit the Blessed Sacrament to pour out her petitions, but since this was impossible, she made a spiritual visit to the dear Lord’s throne, and derived much comfort from this pious act of devotion. The Souls in Purgatory were praying, too, for her poor father, she felt sure, and in spite of her grief she felt that all would be well.

Barbara was up quite early the following morning, for naturally enough she slept but little during that anxious night. She was giving Jimmy and the baby brother their breakfast, in her quiet, motherly way, for Barbara was very capable at preparing the meals and in doing many things about the house, when a car stopped in front of the place.

A moment later, Mrs. Morse entered the room. One glance at her face reassured Barbara that the worst had not happened, that, in fact there was good news to tell.

When she had kissed them all affectionately, their mother sat down with them and told this story.

About midnight she awoke from a troubled sleep in the easy chair where she sat. The nurse had just come in with a cup of tea for her, when suddenly Mr. Morse’s head moved slowly on the

pillow. They were at his bedside at once. He smiled up at his wife who bent anxiously over him, fearing the end had come.

“Little Barbara’s prayers – have saved me – send for the priest,” he whispered weakly.

It did not take Mrs. Morse long to reach the telephone. Father Vincent assured her he would be up at once. Everything was

in readiness in the sick room when the priest arrived, and the patient received the sacraments with edifying fervor and piety. His wife kneeling nearby wept tears of mingled joy and sorrow. Joy because the dear one had come back to the Faith, and grief because she feared that death was

impending. Had not the doctor declared that recovery was out of the question.

Despite the words of the physician, however, a few hours later the injured man was pronounced out of danger, and his recovery assured; so it was with a light heart that Mrs. Morse had returned home to reassure the little group she had so hurriedly left the night before.

In about a week, Mr. Morse was able to leave the hospital, and there was great rejoicing in the family circle the day he came home. And when he was able to go about, the first place he visited was the church which he had not entered for so many years, and with happy Barbara at his side, he knelt before the altar to thank Jesus and the Holy Souls for the wonderful blessings that had come to him through his little daughter’s loving prayers.



**Your loved ones in Purgatory need your Masses, rosaries, prayers, & personal sacrifice. STOP THEIR SUFFERING!**





## TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: OUR PREVIOUS DEAF SEMINARIAN INTERN IS NOW A DEACON!

During the first part of 2015, we had the honor of having a Deaf Seminarian Intern, Br. Joseph Thomas Thermadom, O.P. Miss., with us in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. His internship with us was part of his formation he received through his studies (2008 to 2015) for a Master of Divinity, or M.Div., through the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, Missouri.

Br. Joseph was born Deaf in Thrissur, India, to hearing parents (Thomas and Rosy). He also has a Deaf brother. He went to school with his brother in Mumbai. Br. Joseph felt called to the priesthood at an early age and had to proceed through many challenges.

With fortitude, he came to the United States to receive religious formation under the Dominican Missionaries for the Deaf Apostolate, USA. Having graduated with his M.Div. in 2015, he went back to India.

Through Br. Joseph's ministry with the Deaf in India, he came into contact with the Holy Cross Fathers. Having expressed a desire to join them, he was received at Aymanam Holy Cross community in 2017. After completing his first-year novitiate at Yercaud, he made his first religious vows May 25, 2020 (see photo). Among the 11 newly professed, Br. Joseph made history as the first Deaf native from India to take religious vows (in sign language to Fr. Sebastian, the South India Province). It was considered a "historical and rare event."

Br. Joseph continues to serve the Catholic Deaf community in India in the area of Kerala (see photo of map). He posts YouTube videos in Catechesis in Indian Sign Language. He does amazing ministry to and with the Catholic Deaf community in India.

On Sept. 18, 2023, Br. Joseph made his final vows for the Congregation of the Holy Cross. Then, the most AMAZING news is that he was ordained to the transitional diaconate Sept. 19, 2023!!! This was an even more historical and rarer event!!! A first Deaf native from India to be ordained to the diaconate! A transitional diaconate means that the next step is towards the priesthood in the future! This means that he will be the first Deaf Indian priest and the third Deaf Asian priest.

Sept. 19, 2023, was the feast day of St. Janarius. Little did I know that this would be the ordination date of Br. Joseph, because in the previous Summer 2023 Hand in Hand newsletter, there was an article about St. Janarius!



We are SO proud of Dcn. Joseph Thermadom, C.S.C.! We will offer Mass intentions in thanksgiving to God for this great gift for all of us. Please keep him in your daily prayers and upcoming Mass intentions. God bless Dcn. Joseph!

"THE GREATEST LOVE STORY OF ALL TIME IS CONTAINED IN A  
TINY WHITE HOST."  
- VENERABLE FULTON SHEEN



## A FAMILY'S HEROIC WITNESS OF LOVE

Last month, for the first time, an entire family was beatified. This article is from the September 2023 Knights of Columbus' Columbia issue. An important note is that when the pregnant mother (Wiktoria) was killed, the 7th child (a boy who has not yet been named) was in the process of being prematurely born. This reminds us of many valuable lessons about the sanctity of life and people within the womb.



*The Blessed Ulma Family.*



family life,” said Father Witold Burda, the postulator of the Ulma family’s cause for canonization.

Devotion to the Ulmas is spreading around the world, especially among young parents looking for models in the faith. Their beatification – taking place less than 40 miles (63 kilometers) from the Ukraine border – is particularly meaningful to Polish and Ukrainian Knights serving refugees of the current war.

**By Robert Mixa**

It was a long Lent for Catholics in Markowa, a town of 4,500 inhabitants in southeastern Poland. The year was 1944, four years into the German occupation. The villagers were looking forward to celebrating Easter, and the liberation from their occupiers that seemed near.

Like their neighbors, Józef and Wiktoria Ulma were preparing for the Holy Week liturgies. They were also preparing for the birth of their seventh child and the possibility that the eight Jews they sheltered could come out of hiding and live again without fear.

Such anticipation came to an end, however, in the early morning hours of March 24 when German police murdered the entire Ulma family, along with the Jews they had taken in. While they did not live long enough to partake in Holy Week, the Ulmas bore witness to Christ’s death and resurrection with their blood.

On Dec. 17, 2022, the Vatican approved a decree on the martyrdom of the family of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma, paving the way for their beatification Sept. 10 in a ceremony in Markowa. This is the first time an entire family will be beatified together.

“In proclaiming the entire family ‘blessed’ and in the decision to beatify an unborn child, the Church wishes to confirm and emphasize the beauty, importance and sanctity of matrimony and

“The story of the Ulma family shows how, faced with a dramatic choice between love and hatred, one can remain faithful to the greatest commandment by sacrificing one’s own life,” said Supreme Warden Andrzej Anasiak, who served as Poland state deputy from 2014 to 2017. “It is a story of great love confronting evil and tremendous hatred. I think that they were aware that the final word does not belong to the executioners, but to God, who conquers death.”



*Beatification Mass*



*The family grave of the Ulma family is pictured in Markowa, Poland.*

### A FAMILY FORMED IN LOVE

Józef and Wiktoria Ulma were simple yet cultured farmers, and holiness permeated their lives.

“Their sanctity was fulfilled in the simplicity of daily life,” said Maria Elżbieta Szulikowska, author of a newly published biography in Polish titled *Wiktoria Ulma: A Love Story*. “They lived in the sacraments, prayed often, cultivated many interests and showed each other and others sincere kindness and respect.”

Józef, born in Markowa in 1900, was a beekeeper and fruit farmer, as well as an amateur photographer. Active in the local parish, he had a sizable collection of books that he would often hand to

► **WITNESS OF LOVE - Continued on Page 13.**



► **WITNESS OF LOVE - Continued from Page 12.**

other people to read. Though Józef received only a primary school education, he was known for his creativity and passion for learning. He taught himself and others how to grow exotic plants and also built an electric mill, making his family one of the first in the village to have electricity.

Wiktoria also grew up in Markowa, the seventh of 13 children in a very pious family. At the age of 6, she lost her mother, just months after Poland regained independence in November 1918.

“Wiktoria learned in her family that you do not have to have much in order to help someone in need,” noted Father Burda.

Unlike most women in her social position, Wiktoria attended some university classes; she also had a special interest in theater, and it was likely during her time performing in the Amateur Theater Company in Markowa that she met Józef, who also enjoyed acting.

Józef and Wiktoria married in 1935. By 1944, they had six children, ages 2 to 8, with a seventh baby on the way. They spent a lot of time together as a family and had a tradition of spending Sunday afternoons together in the garden or on outings. Józef left behind many photos of playful children laughing with their mother and other relatives.

But war changed everything, especially the situation of Jews in German-occupied territory.

Markowa had 120 Jewish inhabitants before the occupation, and “prior to the war, their relationships were good,” explained Father Burda. “Jewish people were part of the community life of the village.”

However, in the fall of 1941, senior Nazi leaders began implementing what they called the “Final Solution” -- the elimination of Europe’s Jews. On Nov. 10, 1941, the death penalty was ordered for any Pole who provided aid or shelter to a Jew. The first of the Nazis’ extermination camps in Poland began operating that December in the village of Chelmno nad Nerem, and more were built in the months that followed.

In 1942, scores of Markowa’s Jews were deported or executed on the spot. The Germans, with the help of some locals, tracked down many of those who tried to hide.

“It was very hard to hide Jews in villages compared to bigger cities because Jews could not stay where they were known. Denunciation was a problem,” said Jan Grosfeld, emeritus professor of political ethics at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw and member of the Polish Bishops’ Committee on Dialogue with Judaism. “Nevertheless, people put themselves in great risk to help.”

Among them were Józef and Wiktoria Ulma, who around this time took in eight Jews: Saul Goldman and his four sons; Layca Didner and her daughter, and Layca’s sister, Golda Grünfeld.

More than a year later, the Ulmas and the eight Jews were

denounced by a member of the Blue Police, the police force of the occupying General Government. German officers arrived at the Ulma farm on the night of March 23-24, first killing the Jews and then Józef and Wiktoria in front of their children. According to eyewitnesses, Wiktoria went into labor and began to give birth to her seventh child right before her death.

After a brief conversation about what to do with the other six children, the officers summarily executed them: Stanisława, 8; Barbara, 7; Władysław, 6; Franciszek, 4; Antoni, 3; and Maria, 2. Eyewitnesses also recalled the head officer laughing, “Look at how Polish swine who hide Jews die.” His brutality was a message to locals that anyone hiding Jews could expect no mercy. Yet, some continued to hide them, and the memory of the Ulma family lived on in Markowa.

### GROWING DEVOTION

The family’s story began to be more widely known as the 20th century drew to a close. In 1995, Józef and Wiktoria were recognized by Yad Vashem, Israel’s Holocaust memorial, as “Righteous Among the Nations” for aiding Jews during the Holocaust. The family’s cause for beatification opened in 2003 as part of a group of 122 Polish martyrs of World War II. In 2016, the Museum of Poles Saving Jews During World War II was opened under their name in their hometown.

Urszula Niemczak, whose husband is Wiktoria’s nephew, has been tending to the family’s graves for many years, and she has personally witnessed the growing

devotion to the Ulmas. During the 2016 World Youth Day in Kraków, Niemczak distributed 80,000 prayer cards to pilgrims, and she continues to hear from people interested in the family.

“The Ulmas are witnesses to families today that we are called to serve and not to be served,” said Niemczak. “God gave the Ulmas the gift to live in simplicity, poverty and service. They knew how to be human in little things.”

The story of Józef and Wiktoria Ulma is especially inspiring to



*New altar tomb of the Blessed Ulma Family at the Church of St. Dorothy in Markowa, Poland. Pictured is Fr. Michael Niemczak, a priest of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Born in the U.S. to Polish immigrants, he is a relative of the Ulma family; his great-grandfather was a cousin to Wiktoria.*

## ▶ WITNESS OF LOVE - Continued from Page 13.

Knights of Columbus and their families who are aiding refugees of war. Markowa is in the Archdiocese of Przemyśl, which spans Poland's southeastern border with Ukraine.

"It is not an accident that Poland is the capital of the Divine Mercy devotion," said Dr. Mateusz Szpytma, deputy director of the Institute of National Remembrance and founder of the museum in Markowa. "It is a Polish tradition to help people and to provide aid. The Ulmas are exemplars of that tradition."

Przemysław Wręzlewicz, a member of St. Brother Albert Chmielowski Council 15128 in Kraków and producer of the movie *Ulmas: A Blessed Family*, believes Józef Ulma is a role model for modern men, especially fathers striving to be holy leaders of their domestic church.

"We know from witnesses, but also from countless photos that Józef took of his family, that the Ulma house must have been an extraordinary place, a house that was not created by walls, but by the love of the people living in it," he said.

Wręzlewicz is hopeful that the beatification will ignite interest in the family and inspire many, including many Knights, to follow their example of sacrifice and love.

"When we wonder if it is worth helping others, sacrificing time and resources, it is always worth remembering about the Ulma family and many others who, in a world filled with death and hatred, were not afraid to continue to love, were not afraid to put their lives and even their children's lives at stake."

The family's Bible testifies to their motivation. Father Burda explained, "They followed the example of the Good Samaritan in caring for their Jewish neighbors, evidenced

from the family Bible, in which the parable of the Good Samaritan had been underlined in red."

Yet another passage underlined in the Ulma family Bible was Christ's commandment of love: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:34-35)

*The Ulma Family, pray for us!*

## MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

By Fr. Christopher Klusman

There is an excellent movie released in 2022 titled "Purgatory," which is also available with English subtitles. Here is an official summary about the film that you can order on Amazon or on DVD.

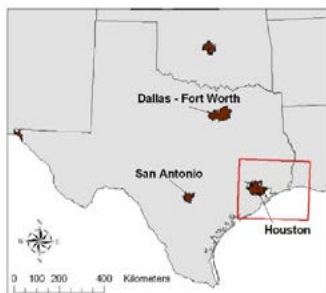
*People have been wondering what awaits them after death since the beginning of time. And although nobody managed to penetrate the secret, there have been many people through the ages that could see more – like Fulla Horak, St. Faustina Kowalska or St. Padre Pio. These mystics – people who have been graced by the visits of souls from Purgatory – are only some of the protagonists of Michal Kondrat's film entitled "Purgatory." The new film from the creator of "Love and Mercy: Faustina" and "Two Crowns," which have been appreciated both in Poland and abroad, tells the story of souls living in bodies and souls that have already left this world. It is also a reminder – in film form – of the most outstanding theologians and scientists, who have been studying the state of human consciousness when the body dies.*

*One of them was St. Stanislaus Papczyński, who died September 17, 1701. After the vision of the Holy Spirit, he founded the Marian Fathers, an order that aimed at promoting the adoration of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary and interceded particularly for the dead. The memory of those who are no longer with us was particularly strong in him after the mystical experience of the vision of Purgatory and the souls suffering there. He recommended to his brethren: "Pray, brothers, for the souls in Purgatory, for they suffer an unbearable torment." He also emphasized that there is no greater mercy than the one shown to the dead. But what actually brought him to this fervent prayer? What did he see during his revelation and what exactly did he have to say about PURGATORY and life after death? You will get the answers to these questions [by watching this film].*



## NATIONAL CATHOLIC OFFICE FOR THE DEAF PASTORAL WEEK

From Feb. 1-5, 2024, in Houston, Texas, there will be an NCOD Pastoral Week Conference. The theme is "Come, Holy Spirit." Please keep them in your prayers for a successful week.





**ATTENTION: DEAF WOMEN!**

Don't forget to register for one of the best conferences in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee! The date is Sat. Nov. 18, 2023, and it is an interpreted event.

You can register online as "Deaf Women"

at: <https://gatheringline.com/register/integrated/3200ae3e578a45328d48b162fbbcd446/select/tickets>

**NEW LOCATION: Brookfield Conference Center**

325 S. Moorland Rd. | Brookfield, WI

**8:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Doors open at 7 a.m. | Mass of Anticipation at 4 p.m.

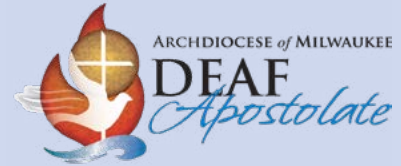


## A Plea for the Holy Souls

In the Communion of Saints, as understood by the Catholic, there is presented to him, as never to the non-Catholic, says Monsignor Benson, the satisfaction of that which, perhaps, next to the soul's need of God, is the deepest desire of his nature — the need of an open, an authorized approach to the spirit of the blest. To the Catholic believer Mary looks down with motherly eyes upon even the most miserable of the children of Eve; sinners who by penitence have risen to sanctity, themselves help us sinners by their prayers and their sympathy; holy virgins intercede for the defiled, and martyrs for those who suffer. Indeed, God gives to the Catholic for every joy he renounces a thousandfold more; for every human relationship that is sacrificed for Christ's sake a heavenly one instead; for "lands and houses" the whole earth, which is His footstool; for every cross a crown. And all this is a hun-

dredfold, now in this present time, as well as in life everlasting.

The numerous devotions sanctioned by the Church in behalf of the Souls in Purgatory, remind us of our great obligation to pray for the dead. If we have been heedless in the past let us make reparation by fervour in hearing Mass for the dead, in offering Communion for that intention, in making the Way of the Cross, in saying the Rosary and the use of Indulged Prayers, performing acts of charity — many are the means of winning favour with God for the faithful souls waiting their release from Purgatory. Let us avail ourselves of each opportunity, and we shall not only discharge a sacred duty, but shall secure for ourselves powerful advocates at the Throne of Mercy in our own time of need. The Holy Souls are grateful. They never forget their friends.

**Renewal Prayer for Deaf Catholic Church**

Father, we ask you to look with mercy at us, your Deaf Catholic Church.

We ask you to bless us, inspire us to always love you above all things and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We pray to you for our bishops, our spiritual leaders.

Please bless them and give them the strength and wisdom to guide us, their people.

Help them to recognize, understand, and respond to our unique needs.

Please bless the priests, deacons, religious, and lay people who serve our community.

Inspire them so that they may then inspire all hearts of deaf people to know, love, and serve you and your Catholic Church.

Father, we pray to you for our baptized

Deaf Catholic brothers and sisters.

Please send your Holy Spirit to enkindle and renew their hearts

so that they may continue to grow spiritually through making time for prayers, receiving sacraments, and serving other people.

Our young baptized Deaf Catholics are growing up in a challenging and confused world.

Almighty God, please help them understand that the way of the world does not give life; your way alone gives true life.

Please touch their hearts and guide them to find your love.

Bring them back to the Church.

Put in them the desire to pray, to receive the sacraments and to serve other people.

Holy Spirit, come and transform each of us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Holy Mary, our Mother, pray for us. Amen.

# INTERPRETED & ASL *Masses* THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MILWAUKEE



## - ASL WEEKEND MASS -

### St. Charles Borromeo Parish

5571 S Marilyn  
St., Milwaukee,  
WI 53221

Time: Saturdays, 6 p.m.

Please email [deafapostolate@archmil.org](mailto:deafapostolate@archmil.org)  
for updates on Signed Masses.



## - CLOSED CAPTIONED MASS -

### St. Clare Parish

7616 Fritz St.,  
Wind Lake, WI  
53185

E-Mail: [bulletins@tds.net](mailto:bulletins@tds.net)

Website: [stclarewindlake.org](http://stclarewindlake.org)

*\*Times Listed Are Subject to Change\* as of  
October 1, 2022*



## - INTERPRETED SUNDAY MASS -

### St. Andrew Parish

714 E. Walworth Ave,  
Delavan, WI 53115

Time: 9 a.m.

E-Mail: [deafministry@](mailto:deafministry@sascatholics.org)

[sascatholics.org](http://sascatholics.org)

Website: [standrews-delavan.org](http://standrews-delavan.org)



### St. Mary's Immaculate Conception

1610 Monroe St,  
West Bend, WI 53090

2nd Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Email: [rprim@wbparishes.org](mailto:rprim@wbparishes.org)

Website: [stmaryparishwb.org](http://stmaryparishwb.org)



### St. Peter Parish

2224 30th Ave,  
Kenosha, WI  
53144

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Please request at least 3 days in advance to:  
[broadwayterp73@gmail.com](mailto:broadwayterp73@gmail.com).

Website: [stpeterskenosha.com](http://stpeterskenosha.com)



### St. Joseph Parish

1619 Washington  
St, Grafton,  
WI 53024

1st & Last Saturdays at 4 p.m.

and 3rd Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

E-Mail: [parish@stjosephgrafton.org](mailto:parish@stjosephgrafton.org)

Website: [stjosephgrafton.org](http://stjosephgrafton.org)



### St. Paul the Apostle Parish

6400 Spring St,  
Racine, WI 53406

Time: 10 a.m.

(on certain Sundays)

Please check with office prior to attending

E-Mail: [svrana@stpaulracine.org](mailto:svrana@stpaulracine.org)

Website: [stpaulracine.org](http://stpaulracine.org)



### Shepherd of the Hills Parish

W1562 County  
Road B, Eden,  
WI 53019

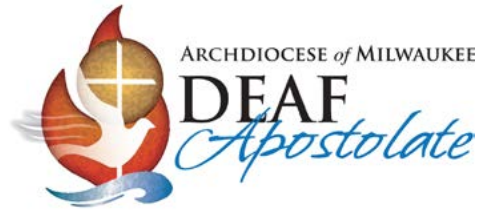
Please email [deafapostolate@archmil.org](mailto:deafapostolate@archmil.org)  
for schedule

Website: [sothparish.org](http://sothparish.org)



ARCHDIOCESE  
of MILWAUKEE





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(Fr. Christopher is off on Monday early evenings & Tuesdays)

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*Director*

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**General Inquiries:**

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**EMERGENCIES Only: Text Fr. Christopher at: (414) 793-1369**

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- (1) **E-mail:** Cost is FREE and will be emailed to you. Please fill out this online form to get your Newsletter at: <https://www.archmil.org/deaf-apostolate/offnav/Subscription-Form.htm>
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Cost: \$12.00 for 4 Newsletters from Jan. to Dec. 2023.

Make checks payable to: The Deaf Apostolate.

Mail to: **Deaf Apostolate, Archdiocese of Milwaukee**

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