ADVENT RETREAT

Imagine ourselves going into a classroom and taking a test WITHOUT any preparation or studying? Or imagine ourselves being in the kitchen and making whatever we want WITHOUT any preparation or detailing? And, can we really imagine our own New England Patriots playing a football game WITHOUT any preparation or practicing?!! Then, that is why we have the season of Advent in our Christian tradition to prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming.

In order for us to be well prepared for Christmas, the Boston Deaf Apostolate will once again offer Advent Retreat on Saturday, December 14th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the Pastoral Center in Braintree. Fr. Shawn Carey will lead the retreat to guide your Advent journey. There will be a time for reflection, group discussion, prayer, fellowship lunch, and a Daily Mass (not count as a Sunday Mass). Then after the retreat, you can go Christmas shopping across the street at the South Shore Mall! What a nice way to start with a retreat before getting busy shopping!

For head count, please email Fr. Shawn at frshawn@bostondeafcatholic.org to let him know that you will plan to attend and how many in your party will also attend. Looking forward to spending time in prayer and reflection with you in this Advent season.

SIGNING SANTA IS COMING TO TOWN!

On December 15, the ICDA Chapter 5 Boston Catholic Deaf Fellowship will host a Signing Santa Party following 11am ASL Mass at Sacred Heart Parish on 1317 Centre Street in Newton. There will be potluck, games, storytelling, candies, and, the best of all, SANTA! The party is located at the MacKenzie Center next to the rectory. Please bring a side dish to share with the community. Don't forget to bring the whole family and your Christmas spirit!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
4:00pm – ASL Mass with English voice interpretation, St. Clare Church, 1244 Liberty Street, Braintree
7:00pm – ASL Mass with English voice interpretation, Sacred Heart Church, 1317 Centre Street, Newton
11:00pm – Mass celebrated in English and ASL with interpretation, St. Francis Church, 856 Washington Street, Braintree

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25, 2019
9:00am – ASL Mass with English voice interpretation, St. Francis Church, 856 Washington Street, Braintree
1:00pm – ASL Mass, New England Homes for the Deaf, 154 Water Street, Danvers

SENIOR DEAF Ministry Events

CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS SEASON
December 3 at 9:30am-1:30pm
Please bring a $10 wrapped Yankee Swap gift and dessert. Lunch is $5.00 at door.
MacKenzie Center, Newton

CATHOLIC SPOTLIGHT
December 17 at 9:30am-1:30pm
Pastoral Center in Braintree

Please contact Betty at Betty.whittaker@bostondeafcatholic.org or VP at 617-440-7679 for more information.

DECEMBER 8, 2019
Rosary Prayer
Please show up at the downstairs chapel no later than 10:15 a.m.
Confession
Following 11am ASL Mass

ASL Mass Schedule
Please check into bostondeafcatholic.org for any possible calendar changes.

SACRED HEART PARISH
1321 Centre Street, NEWTON
December 1, Sunday, 11am
December 8, Sunday, 11am
December 15, Sunday, 11am
December 22, Sunday, 11am
December 29, Sunday, 11am
January 5, Sunday, 11am

SAINT CLARE
1244 Liberty Street, BRAINTREE
December 2, Monday, 9am
December 9, Monday, 9am
December 16, Monday, 9am
December 23, Monday, 9am
December 30, Monday, 9am

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI
856 Washington Street, BRAINTREE
December 3, Tuesday, 7am
December 10, Tuesday, 7am
December 17, Tuesday, 7am
December 24, Tuesday, 7am
December 31, Tuesday, 7am

NEW ENGLAND HOMES FOR THE DEAF
154 Water Street, DANVERS
December 4, Wednesday, 2:30pm
December 11, Wednesday, 2:30pm
December 18, Wednesday, 2:30pm
December 25, Wednesday, 1pm
January 1, Wednesday, 2:30pm

*Mass is officiated by Fr. Shawn Carey in ASL with VOICE INTERPRETED unless specified otherwise.
December 2019

“SAINT” OF THE MONTH Part 1
The Boston Deaf Catholic Community had a visitor during October 31 to November 5, 2019. We had the privilege to interview the guest. Thank you, Dana, for the opportunity!

What is your name and where are you from?
Dana Laffersova is from Lipniky, Slovakia. It is on the east side of Slovakia.

Where did you go to school/deaf school?
During the Communism era, Dana attended a hard of hearing (HOH) elementary school in Levoca. When Communism ended November 17, 1989, mainstream for the deaf started. She studied clothing industry for five years during high school (1992-1997) in Kremnica. In 2006, Dana went on to study for three years at Presov University and in 2009, she received her Bachelor degree in Catholic Theology.

How did you learn your Catholic faith?
Dana started practicing religion after age ten. Before then, during the Communist Era, Dana saw a girl reading religious materials. She was curious and asked her to teach about God. There was a strong communist woman who was a staff at the school. She witnessed the teaching, took the religious materials and told the girl to stop teaching. The staff also informed Dana’s father. He was glad however Dana’s mother thought different. She believes people of little faith will get sick often. Dana decided to deepen her religion but her mother didn’t know Slovakia Sign Language (SSL) to educate Dana. A Lutheran gave Dana a graphic book about Jesus. She felt inspired after reading it. In 1986, she received her First Communion when she was ten years old. Her life changed during high school when she converted to Catholicism at 18 years of age. She wanted Eucharist as often as she can and she read the Bible daily. Part 2 in the January 2020 edition.

DON’T FORGET THE GIFTS ON DECEMBER 8TH
Sacred Heart Parish is now conducting their annual Christmas Gift Giving Drive. The parish is collecting necessities for the homeless and low-income families, as well as the New England Home for the Deaf and Walden School. Cards listing the specific needs are available at the back of the Main Chapel. Please bring the unwrapped gifts to a table at the MacKenzie Center during their Advent Party on Sunday December 8th.

FUTURE ARTICLES
We are looking for articles for future issues of Fellowship Post. Contact Cheryl at crjohnston5@gmail.com if you want to contribute. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATES!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In 2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>‘Reflection’ Day Retreat</td>
<td>December 14, 2019</td>
<td>Braintree Pastoral Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Party And Signing Santa</td>
<td>December 15, 2019</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epiphany Potluck</td>
<td>January 5, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Super Bowl ‘Salsa’ Competition</td>
<td>February 2, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICDA General Meeting</td>
<td>February 9, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vermont Winter Retreat</td>
<td>March 6, 7 &amp; 8, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick’s Brunch</td>
<td>March 15, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICDA General Meeting</td>
<td>May 17, 2020</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Contact Information
The Office of the Deaf Apostle
Archdiocese of Boston
66 Brooks Road
Braintree, MA

Fr. Shawn Carey, Office of the Deaf Apostle
Director
frshawn@bostondeafcatholic.org

Jenna Jacek, Interpreting Coordinator
jenna.kish@bostondeafcatholic.org

Betty Whitaker, Senior Deaf Wellness Program Coordinator
betty.whitaker@bostondeafcatholic.org

It’s important to take God’s love personally, though it may be an easy thing to do. Sure, God loves the world, but he does love each one of us individually.

-Tim Tebow

Contact Fran Noll at fnoll28@aol.com regarding Church Duties.