

ST. FRANCIS BORGIA DEAF CENTER, 8025 W. ADDISON
DEC. 21, 2008 **4th SUNDAY of ADVENT**

HOLIDAYS can mean...HAPPINESS or HEARTBREAK! Often, the "heartbreak" happens because of too much drinking (alcohol) or using illegal drugs! If a deaf person needs help because of alcohol or drug problems, contact ARD (Addiction Recovery of the Deaf). ARD helps deaf and hard of hearing persons with these problems. 773-227-8562 tty/vp.

If the police arrest you for a DUI, you can get help (get license back; DUI classes). Call: 1-888-255-5523 (Pilsen Wellness Center).

INFORMATION for DEAF Masses in Aurora, Elgin, Crystal Lake, Rockford, DeKalb at:
www.DeafApostolateRockfordDiocese.weebly.com. Email: cathy.signor@yahoo.com

PARENTS: protect and help your children. Go to: www.childrenmatternetwork.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

WED, 12/24, CHRISTMAS EVE:

4pm Mass, St. Francis Borgia; "Birthday party for Jesus" after Mass. Fr. Mike.

8pm Mass, St. Julie, 7399 W. 159th. Refreshments. Fr. Joe.

Midnight Mass, Holy Name Cathedral, WGN-TV, closed-captioned.

THURSDAY, 12/25, 10:30am Mass, St. Francis Borgia. Fr. Mike.

SUN, 12/28, 10:30am Mass. Feast of Holy Family. Blessing for families after Mass.

WED, 12/31, 5pm Mass. "Open House" after Mass.

THURS, 1/1, 10:30am Mass. Coffee & rolls after Mass.

Read about a woman who went to Africa to work with deaf people who have HIV/AIDS.
Sarahinkampala.blogspot.com.

Dec.27-29, McCormick Place has a FREE Sports Tournament for children and teens. It is a very fun event! There are many different activities young people can participate in. For info, go to:
www.McCormickPlace.com

12/31: "Open House" after the 5pm Mass at St. Francis Borgia. We have plenty of coffee, pop FREE. If you pay \$15, you get all sorts of appetizers; delicious, hot food; coffee, pop, etc, and desserts. A terrific deal! We are open till after Midnight to celebrate the New Year. Children 12 and under are FREE.

POLICE WARNING: all police departments will be VERY STRICT during the holidays. They will give tickets for speeding, NOT wearing seat belts, NOT having car insurance. Make sure you stop at all STOP signs and red lights!

The CATHOLIC OFFICE OF THE DEAF has moved. Our new address is: **3525 S. Lake Park Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60653-1402.** (This is by 35th & Cottage Grove)

Our new phone numbers are: **312/534-7899 (voice), 312/751-8368 (TTY/VP), 312/534-0394 (fax)**. Come by and visit or give us a call anytime!

SHOEBOXES for HOMELESS ADULTS: Sun, 1/4/2009, St. Francis Borgia parish (hearing and deaf) will collect "Shoebboxes for the Homeless". On January 6th, St. Stanislaus Kostka parish gives these to the homeless people of Chicago. 90% of these are men. They need: toothbrush, toothpaste, warm socks, razors, scarves/mittens, bar soap, hair shampoo. Bring to mass on Jan. 4th.

TRINIDAD/TOBAGO are two islands in the Caribbean. There is a wonderful group of Deaf Catholics on those two islands, "Touch of Christ Ministries" If you ever plan to visit these islands, contact them at: tocdef@tstt.net.tt

PRAY for...DEANNE SEYMOUR who is very sick...HENRY KOWALSKI who died....TANYA HAMMERSMITH's mother, Mildred, who died in South Africa recently.

EVERY SUNDAY, Mass 5pm, INTERPRETED, at Old St. Patrick's Church, corner of Adams and Des Plaines, Chicago. Old St. Pat's is one of the most beautiful churches in Chicago. Deaf people are very welcome there.

READ YOUR BIBLE EVERYDAY:

12/22: 1 Samuel 1:24-28/Luke 1:46-56

12/23: Malachi 3:1-4,23-24/Luke 1:57-66

12/24: 2 Samuel 7:1-16/Luke 1:67-79

12/25: Isaiah 1:9-16/Titus 2:11-14/Luke 2:1-14

12/26: Acts 6:8-10;7:54-59/ Matthew 10:17-22

12/27: 1 John 1:1-4/ John 20:2-8

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

- 1) Once again, THANKS for your amazing generosity for...giving warm clothes to children who suffered sexual abuse...helping out deaf people with disabilities at Mabley Center. Even though these are tough economic times, you have been extremely generous. God will reward you!
- 2) On Thurs, 12/11, a small group of us traveled to be part of the Mass and celebration at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Des Plaines. WOW! The Mass was very inspiring. We had two excellent Spanish to sign-language interpreters. Everyone there made our deaf group feel very welcome. Next year, we plan to bring more people to experience this special feast!
- 3) DRIVERS; please make sure you keep your headlights and taillights clean during the winter.
- 4) In the FALL, John & Meg Lo, Kathy Hiatt, Susan Murphy, Donna Sheehan, Jim Kreis, Patricia Millar-McCarthy, Colleen Sweeney, and Eileen Rozborski held Ice Cream Socials which raised over \$200 for the Catholic Office of the Deaf. Thanks.
- 5) So much happens during this time of the year. So many people are VERY generous with their time and effort. Thanks to...TOM SISK, ITALO DE ARCANGELIS, ED SCHULTZ for the terrific Senior Citizen Christmas Party. As always, the food and place were great...MRS. CARMEN REYES, ROSEMARIE CARSELLO, and all those who worked on the Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass and Fiesta 12/13. We had a wonderful evening...BRIAN SWATEK, RICHARD & KATHY KUSH and the entire CCE Committee for a fun & filling Christmas party last Sunday...MS. KATHLEEN ERICKSEN for arranging the 5pm Mass at St. Patrick Parish in Lemont last Sunday. I celebrated the Mass with a group of deaf/hearing children. This was the first Mass like this in Lemont...Fr. MIKE DEPCIK, who was available for Reconciliation (Confession) Sat., 12/13, then joined us at 10:30am Mass on 12/14 before driving to Tinley Park for the 4pm Mass there!
- 6) YOUR Christmas donation to Church keeps us open and operating for another year. Please be generous.
- 7) Last Sunday, Fr. Mike Depcik shared wonderful news with us. DEACON PATRICK GRAYBILL from New York will move to Chicago on February 1st. Deacon Pat will be here for about 7 months. He will be able to help us at St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center and St. Julie Billiart. However, Deacon Pat will also need time to consider whether or not he will join a religious order in the Fall. Deacon Pat is a deaf man who has been an actor, a teacher, a sign-language instructor, a giver of retreats (he gave our Lent Mission in Chicago a few years ago!), and a wonderful man. I am very pleased he will be with us, at least for some time in 2009.
- 8) CHRISTMAS 2008: looking back on the year, I have a lot of mixed feelings. I think of so many wonderful people who died: JOHN RAHN, IRENE RUSSELL, CECILE CARSELLO, MARY JO SCANLAN, EUGENE CURTIN, and so many others. I miss my mom and my Uncle Charles terribly. Yet, at the same time, the lives of these good people continue to inspire me. We had a new baby born into my family, William VanDeWalle. He was, in the midst of death, a great sign of hope.
During this year, NANCY HUBER retired after many years serving our children, but MAGGIE SWATEK took up that responsibility. We were able to travel to Italy and Rome to see the Pope, and have the Pope see the deaf! And over and over again, I was blessed to share in the life of the deaf community, your lives. In my life, YOU are the "GIFT". Thank you for all your support and love for me. You are great and wonderful people, a true sign of God's love in this world.
- 9) MOPD (City of Chicago Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities) is now on the first (1st) floor of City Hall, 118 N. Clark St, Chicago.
- 10) Sat, 1/3/2009...."Three Kings" Celebration at St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center. Information in our church paper next Sunday!
- 11) Each week, Fr. Mike Depcik helps us all understand our Catholic Faith. How? With his VLOG! This is a terrific way to learn about the faith. Go to: www.frmd.org