



Signs of the Times



Volume 54

First Sunday of Advent Begins November 30th



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The Year of the Gospel of Mark: Discipleship

Our Deaf Mass Schedule for Jan. 2009 thru June 2009 will be sent out in a special issue in late December.

We are now going into "Cycle B" of our Church Year with the beginning of Advent on November 30th. This is called "The Year of the Gospel of Mark: Discipleship". The Gospel of Mark is one of four gospels in the Holy Bible. Mark (John Mark was his full name) was an associate with Simon Peter, one of the 12 apostles that followed Jesus Christ throughout His public ministry on earth. Peter was the name given to Simon by Jesus Christ personally (Mark 3:16). Peter was very close to Jesus and after the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, Peter was one of the founders of the early Christian church. Although the scrolls were written by Mark, the facts in it are thought to be the accounts of Peter during his ministry with Jesus. The agreement among scholars is that the scrolls of Mark were written between 50 and 60 A.D. Mark's writings are the shortest of all the New Testament gospels and tells of Jesus' ministry in detail of the events and miracles of Jesus and are consistent with the other three gospels; Matthew, Luke and John. The Gospel of Mark gives us many important facts and lessons. First, it clearly proves that Jesus Christ is the Messiah that was foretold throughout the Old Testament. Second, it proves that Jesus was the Son of God, (whom He claimed to be) by living a sinless and perfect life. Third, the Gospel records Jesus' miracles over nature. The most important fact in the Gospel of Mark is the proof that Jesus Christ overcame the power of death through His resurrection from the tomb. Lastly, Jesus gives people perfect instructions for how God wants people to live, handle difficult problems, and make choices regarding their future for eternity. Every word spoken and written in this Gospel can be applied to life and I encouraged you to read the Gospel of Mark and be a good disciple of our Lord.

Diocesan News



From the Director:
Msgr. Glenn L. Nelson

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year. Now as we begin Advent, we also begin a New Church year. The First Sunday of Advent begins November 30th and with that our readings at Mass are cycled in Year B which focuses on the Gospel of Mark. Jesus' call to us to follow him as disciples should not be ignored.... It requires us to say YES (*Fiat* in Latin language) to help bring the Good News of Jesus' saving work to all people. So many people still do not follow Jesus Christ and sometimes we may be the only person they will ever meet who can invite them to follow Jesus as well. As a New Year resolution, we should try to invite someone to attend church with us who may have never gone before. Everyone needs to hear the Good News of God... it is a wonderful gift we should be excited to share with others..... Does our life reflect what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. Think about this: If we were

taken to court and put on trial for being a follower of Jesus, would there be enough evidence in our lives that would be used in court to convict us "guilty" of being a Christian? " In this upcoming new year, we should also recommit ourselves to regular attendance at Mass (Both Deaf Mass and Interpreted Mass) Think about it: at every Mass we get to meet Jesus Christ, the Son of God, full present in the Eucharist (communion). We go to God's house (Church) to share a meal with him and listen to his teachings (in Bible). We are so blessed and lucky to receive the gift! All people are invited to go too, but many of them throw the "invitation" in the trash. Sad!

I invite all of you to help join us in celebrating Christmas this year. Our Christmas Mass begins at 12:00 Noon in DeKalb at Christ the Teacher University Parish and the party begins afterwards at 1:00 PM.

Please join us for prayer and fellowship. Also, thank you to all who have donated gifts for the residents of the Jack Mabley Center. It is always a joy to bring Christmas to the residents there in Dixon, I hope you will consider volunteering to help bring Christ Cheer to a very special community.

Finally, I take this opportunity again to thank all of my wonderful interpreters and volunteers who help make the Deaf Apostolate such an active and life-giving ministry. I could not do this work alone, and I am glad I do not have to...you are all WONDERFUL!

God bless you all!!!!



Please pray for...

Those who are sick:

Jan Zaremski—Sister-in-Law of Mike and Lori Cazel



Those who have died:

Mary Frances Mulcrone—November 9, 2008
Mother of Fr. Joe Mulcrone-Chicago Deaf Office

Monsignor Charles Peter Mulcrone—October 30, 2008
Uncle of Fr. Joe Mulcrone—Chicago Deaf Office



THANK YOU

Cathy Signor and Msgr. Nelson would like to extend a special thank you to the Deaf Ladies of the Visitation and everyone who helped with the Cookie Dough Fundraiser and to everyone who purchased items. It was a success.



Reminder....Watch for more information on our 2009 Lenten Retreat March 13-15, 2009 at Bishop Lane Retreat Center, Rockford. Contact Cathy Signor for info Cathy.Signor@yahoo.com

HELP US GO GREEN!

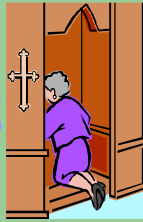
As the price of postage continues to rise, we are looking for ways to save money and paper. We would like to send you the Newsletter, Deaf Mass Schedule and other important announcements by e-mail in PDF format and you can print them off at home. If you would like to help, please send an e-mail to either Cathy Signor at cathy.signor@yahoo.com or Deb Beatty at DBeatty@RockfordDiocese.org and include your name and e-mail address saying you want to go green! Thank you to all who have asked to go green already.

We also have the newsletters and announcements available on our website below.

www.DeafApostolateRockfordDiocese.weebly.com



Confessions



Amboy

St. Patrick Church
32 N. Jones Avenue

November 29
4:00 PM

ROCKFORD

Holy Family
Parish Center Chapel
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.

December 21
12:30PM

AURORA

St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

December 21
8:30 AM

CRYSTAL LAKE

St. Thomas Parish Center
272 King Street

December 7
8:30 AM

DeKALB

Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

December 14
After Christmas Party
Approx. 4:00 PM

ELGIN

St. Thomas More Church
215 Thomas More Dr

December 7
12:30 PM

FREEPORT

St. Thomas Aquinas
1400 Kiwanis Dr.

By Appointment
TTY 815/758-0279

Feast of Immaculate Conception

AURORA

(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street
7:00 PM

CRYSTAL LAKE

(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak
Upon Request to
Mary Donner
Dockie50@yahoo.com

DeKALB

(DEAF MASS)
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.
9:00 AM

ROCKFORD

(Interpreted)
Holy Family Parish Center Chapel
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.
5:30 PM

December 8th

Holy Day
of
Obligation

Christmas Mass Schedule



DeKALB
(DEAF MASS)
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.

Christmas Day
December 25 10:15 AM

AURORA
(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street

Christmas Eve
5:00 PM



CRYSTAL LAKE

(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak

Christmas Eve 4:00 PM



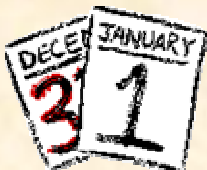
ROCKFORD

(Interpreted)
Holy Family Parish Center Chapel
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.

(Christmas Eve Children's
Mass in Gym 4:00 PM)

Christmas Day 9:30 AM

New Year's Mass Schedule



AURORA
(Interpreted)
St. Joseph Church
722 High Street
January 1st
9:30 AM

CRYSTAL LAKE
(Interpreted)
St. Thomas Church
Route 176 & Oak
Upon Request to
Mary Donner
Dockie50@yahoo.com

DeKALB
(Interpreted)
Newman Center
512 Normal Rd.
Time to be set
DBeaty@
Rockford Diocese.org

ROCKFORD
(Interpreted)
Holy Family Parish Center Chapel
Alpine & Highcrest Rds.
Contact Sheila Antosch
On Mass Time smarc2terp@
catholicexchange.com

Mary,
Mother of God
IS a Holy Day
of
Obligation



Christmas Party

Diocese of Rockford

Deaf Apostolate Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14th, at Christ the Teacher Parish in DeKalb
12:00 Noon Mass



Deaf Mass at 12 noon ***Christmas Party following at 1:00 PM

Lunch and beverages will be served

Please bring your favorite holiday dessert to share!

Bring the family, Santa Claus will be there for the children
(Please RSVP by December 10th to Cathy Signor at cathy.signor@yahoo.com
or call Dawn on VP at 815-965-9840 so they have a count for the meat)

For menu or directions, see our website listed below
<http://DeafApostolateRockfordDiocese.weebly.com/christmas-flyer.html>



Jack Mabley Center 2008 Christmas Party

Saturday—December 20, 2008 Dixon, Illinois

Once again the Rockford Diocese Deaf Apostolate will be hosting a Christmas Party for the residents at the Jack Mabley Developmental Center in Dixon, Illinois. Through the generosity of many volunteers and Secret Santas, we are able to provide a special day of gifts, cake, pizza, Christmas stories, prayer and a visit from Santa Claus. Special thanks is given to Cathy Signor who helps in coordinating this special day and asks Santa to stop by for the residents. Contact Cathy.Signor@yahoo.com



(Picture of magnet above)

Keep Christ in Christmas Car Magnet

\$5.00 per magnet, For the Deaf Apostolate Office to promote the true meaning of Christmas. Purchase yours today!

Available from Msgr. Nelson after Deaf Masses or
Send \$5.00 with your return address information to:

Deaf Apostolate Car Magnet Order
Diocese of Rockford
PO Box 7044
Rockford, IL 61125

