



St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center

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The Christmas Season • December 24, 2017



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CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

“The Word who found a dwelling in Mary’s womb comes to knock on the heart of every person with singular intensity this Christmas.” St. John Paul II

The Staff at the Catholic Office of the Deaf would like to wish you and your loved ones a healthy, safe & blessed Christmas.

May your New Year be filled with happiness, love and peace.

Mass Every Sunday 10:30am
At St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center

Mass at 4:00pm:
St. Julie Billiart:
Dec, 24, Jan 14, Feb 11 & 18,
Mar 11 & 18, Apr 8 & 15

St. Mary of Vernon: 4th Sunday of every month

REMEMBER: it is the homeowners' responsibility to make sure their sidewalks are clear of snow and ice, so people are less likely to fall. The City of Chicago can fine you for not clearing your sidewalks!

FROM FR. ROBERTO

Exciting Time of the Year

I consider Christmas time to be the best time of the year. This wonderful season can bring forth a variety of emotions: excitement, happiness, sadness, stress. We also might have long lines that can try our patience.

I am enthusiastic and happy about all the celebrations and gatherings with family and friends. I eagerly await the joyful decorations of the season. However, I feel sad because there are people who will not be at our Christmas Celebration because they have passed or some may who cannot join us for other reasons. I can get stressed out thinking about what gifts to get and to whom I should give. Sometimes, I can feel lonely in the midst of all of the activities and parties—a feeling that nothing or no one can satisfy. This feeling reminds me of St. Augustine's famous quote from the Confessions, "You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it rests in you."

I find solace in the words of St. Augustine. They made me realize that it is okay to feel lonely at times or not completely fulfilled because I am separated from God. The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ reaffirms my hope. Even though we were separated from God, God became one of us to reconcile us with himself, to bring us back home. "Tonight, a great light shines forth" (Is 9:1). Thus, the wonderful celebration of Christmas "brings abundant joy and great rejoicing" (Is 9:2). It is consoling to know that God loves us so much to take our human nature and to be born into our world.

In his Christmas homily Pope Francis writes, "Today, the Son of God is born, and everything changes. The Savior of the world comes to partake of our human nature; no longer are we alone and forsaken." Jesus has come to illuminate our lives that can so often be troubled by the darkness of sin. If we were only capable of embracing him and allowing ourselves to be embraced and loved by Jesus, he would give us eternal peace. Pope Francis said that "this Child teaches us what is truly essential in our lives. He was born into the poverty of this world; there was no room in the inn for his family. Shelter and support for his birth was found in a stable where he was laid in a manger among the animals. And yet, from this nothingness, the light of God's glory shines forth."

Amid the difficulties of life and mixed feelings that this season may bring, the true celebration should fill us with empathy, compassion and mercy for our brothers and sisters. May our lives, like those who saw the Child Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem, be filled with wonder, awe and peace.

Blessed Christmas to all!

LITTLE RED CYRANO:

an apocalyptic clown comedy for all audiences – new play, LIVE THEATRE, featuring d/Deaf actors. At Strawdog Theatre, 1802 W Berenice, Chicago now thru Jan. 7. INFO: redtheater.org/red-cyrano/

EVENTS COMING UP:

Sunday, Dec 31

Let's Groove Our Way NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY at Swoboda Deaf Center, 7050 W. Belmont. 7 pm to 1 am. Dress for 1970s style. Ticket deadline Dec 27 - \$25 to \$40/person
INFO: www.swobodadeafcenter.org or Facebook

Saturday, Jan 6, 2018:

2-7pm: The Day of Three Wise Kings. St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center. Wonderful for FAMILIES! \$15
INFO: IDLA.response@gmail.com or Facebook

Fri Mar 2 to Sun Mar 4, 2018:

11th Annual LENTEN RETREAT for the Deaf hosted by Msgr Glenn Nelson. At Bishop Lane Retreat Center in Rockford.
INFO: www.rockforddiocese.org/deafapostolate/retreats

MARK YOUR CALENDARS CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH - CHRISTMAS EVE MASS.

- * 4:00PM: ST. FRANCIS BORGIA. "BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS"
- * 8:00PM: ST. JULIE. REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS

MON, DEC 25 - NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- * 10:30AM: ST. FRANCIS BORGIA. REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASS.
- * NO MASS AT ST. MARY OF VERNON.

SUN, DEC 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE

- * 10:30AM: ST. FRANCIS BORGIA. FR. MICHAEL DEPCIK WILL CELEBRATE.
- * 5:00PM: ST. FRANCIS BORGIA. FR. JOE MULCRONE WILL CELEBRATE.
- * OPEN HOUSE AFTER MASS. POTLOCK EVENT - BRING A DISH TO SHARE

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Genevieve Balsitis
Bob Healy
Penny Hendee
Susan Postl
Paul & Charlotte Seegert
Mary Ann Kula
Donna Taylor
Leandra Williams
Claudia Glenn
Theresa Stanis
Esther Stolarski
Majka family
Caroline Goraj
James Mulcrone
William Costello
Bob Ryan
Mark & Diane Kubey
Marilyn Johnson

Lee Husted
Mary Jane Ryan
Schelag Foler
John Hoberg
Drucilla Ronchen
Kevin Ronchen
Arlene Redmond
Dolores Amato
Clarence Whitt
Elena Sabbia
Peggy Crotty
Joan Christian
Genevieve Uhren
Nicole Arendt
Fr. Michael Hayduk
Danny Rivera
Lori Patyk

Lenae Lesberg who died Dec 8.

Christmas is a time to reflect and rejoice in the birth of Jesus, God's Gracious Gift. Wishing you a blessed Christmas from, Margaret Swatek, Carmen Reyes and all the Religious Education Teachers at St. Francis Borgia Deaf Center. Religious education classes start again on Dec. 7, we look forward to seeing you soon.

"[Migrants and refugees] are human people, I stress this, who are appealing for solidarity and assistance, who need urgent action but also and above all understanding and kindness. God is good, let us imitate God. Their condition cannot leave us indifferent." -Pope Francis

The Dream Act of 2017, S. 1615, was recently introduced in the Senate. If passed into law, this bipartisan bill would protect immigrant youth, including DACA beneficiaries. Similarly, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) allows individuals to remain and work lawfully in the U.S. during a period in which is deemed unsafe for nationals of that country to return home due to natural disaster, armed conflict, or other extraordinary conditions. This fall, the Administration will have to make decisions whether to extend TPS.

ACTION: Respond to the call of Pope Francis by asking your legislators to co-sponsor the Dream Act of 2017 and extend the TPS program. Visit the USCCB website: www.JusticeforImmigrants.org.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 24

Sun, Dec 24: 2 Sam 7:1-16; Psalm 89:2-5, 27-29; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

* Vigil of the Nativity of the Lord: Is 62:1-5; Psalm 89:4-5, 16-17, 27-29; Acts 13:16-25; Mt 1:1-25

* Nativity of the Lord: Is 9:1-6; Psalm 96:1-13; Ti 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14

Mon, Dec 25: Is 16:11-12; Psalm 97:1-12; Ti 3:4-7; Luke 2:1-14.

Tues, Dec 26: Acts 6:8-10, 7:54-59; Psalm 31:3-17; Mt 10:17-22. St. Stephen, 1st Martyr.

Weds, Dec 27: 1 John 1:1-4; Psalm 97:1-12; John 20:1-8. St. John, Apostle & Evangelist

Thurs, Dec 28: 1 John 1:5 to 2:2; Psalm 124:2-8; Mt 2:13-18. The Holy Innocents.

Fri, Dec 29: 1 John 2:3-11; Psalm 96:1-6; Luke 2:22-35. St. Thomas Becket.

Sat, Dec 30: 1 John 2:12-17; Psalm 96:7-10; Luke 2:36-40.

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