



# NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025



## Back to School

**Attention Drivers:  
Slow Down!!**

Catholic schools and other schools are back in session!  
Children are returning to school, and their safety depends on you.  
Please:

- Drive cautiously
- Obey school zone speed limits
- Stay alert for students crossing the street

Let's work together to protect God's children.  
Safety first—every child of God matters!





## CLERGY UPDATE:

### Fr. John Maria Abulag's New Assignment

We are happy to announce that Fr. John Maria Abulag has been assigned to St. Raphael Catholic Church in Naperville, IL. He transferred from his former parish at St. John the Baptist in Winfield, IL. on July 1.



Fr. John has been asked by his pastor to assist with Saturday confessions at St. Raphael. Due to this new commitment, there is a slight change in his schedule.

#### Schedule Update:

-  **Deaf Faith Formation at St. Raymond:**  Now on the 2nd Saturday of each month (formerly the 1st Saturday Vigil Mass)
-  **Deaf Faith Formation at St. Margaret Mary:**  Remains on the 3rd Sunday of each month — no changes.

#### Office Availability:

Fr. John also maintains an office at the Blanchette Catholic Center, 16555 Weber Rd, Crest Hill, IL.

 He is available for visits or meetings on Wednesdays and Thursdays.   
Please email Fr. John to schedule an appointment.

Let us keep Fr. John Maria in our prayers as he begins this new chapter of ministry at St. Raphael. May God continue to bless his service to our Deaf Catholic community.

## Monthly Dedications

August: The Immaculate Heart of Mary

September: Our Lady of Sorrows

October: Month of the Rosary

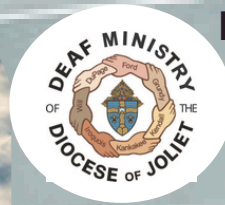
November: All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day

## INSIDE NEWS

THERE ARE A FEW EVENTS INSIDE.  
BE SURE TO MARK  
DOWN ON YOUR CALENDAR.



FALL 2025



We are saddened to share that Xavier Mario Vaccaro, age 32, son of our Deaf Catholic community member Sherry Smith, passed away on May 29, 2025.

Please keep Xavier and the Smith/Vaccaro family in your thoughts and prayers. May his soul rest in peace.



The Board of the Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet welcomes Susan Elizabeth Rangel as our newest board member. The board is grateful for her commitment and looks forward to the gifts she will bring to our Deaf Catholic Community.



**Happy 90th Birthday, Richard Kush!**

Richard Kush, a beloved member of the Deaf Catholic Community and resident of Naperville, IL, turned 90 years old on April 19.

Congratulations, Richard! Your life is a blessing and an inspiration to us all.

## Deaf Picnic 2025



We welcome volunteers! If you would like to volunteer for Deaf Ministry or to help at any of our events, please let us know. All volunteers for the Diocese of Joliet must take Virtus Training on the computer. Contact Martha Torres at [mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org)



# The Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet

FALL 2025



## MOVIE NIGHT !!

COME AND JOIN US  
TO WATCH THE DEAF MISSION FILM IN ASL!!

ADMISSION for the Movie is FREE

Dinner: \$10.00 PER PERSON

AGES 18 AND UP

PIZZA, POPCORN, AND POP WILL BE SERVED.  
RAFFLE FOR GIFT BASKETS DURING MOVIE INTERMISSION.

**REGISTER AND PAY ONLINE**  
**DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 1, 2025**

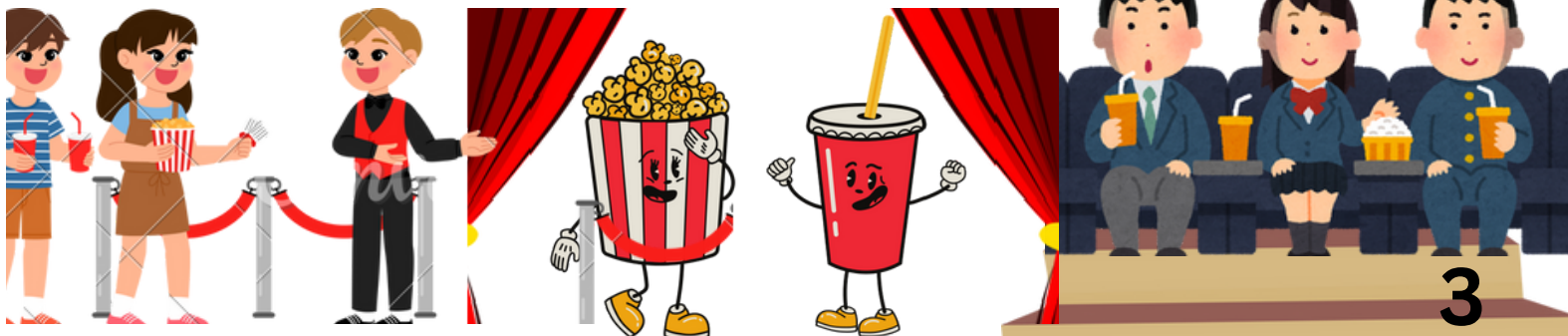
**WHEN:** THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025  
**DINNER:** 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM  
**MOVIE:** 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
**WHERE:** BLANCHETTE CATHOLIC CENTER  
16555 WEBER RD., CREST HILL, 60403

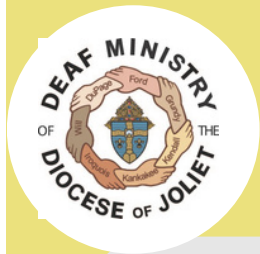
ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS: [mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:mtorres@dioceseofjoliet.org)



REGISTER HERE

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/g32m5eg>





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## MORE NEWS!

# DEAF NATION EXPO

### Visit our booth

(The Deaf Ministry of the Diocese of Joliet)  
at the Expo on November 1, 2025  
from 9 AM to 5 PM.

Location:  
Wintrust Sports Complex  
5499 W 65<sup>th</sup> St  
Bedford Park, IL 60638

Be sure you register online at:

<https://www.deafnation.com/expo/2025-chicago-il/>

### **A NOTE FROM JUSTIN REYES, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CATECHESIS AND EVANGELIZATION**

It is with sadness that I share that Reneta Cichowicz, Pastoral Outreach Lead, will not be able to return to her role at the Diocese of Joliet. We thank her for the incredible work over 2.5 years building support for those in need in our community, and our prayers continue to be with her. Regarding the position of Office of Pastoral Outreach Lead, is now on the website: <http://www.diojoliet.org/officers/careers/diocesan-opportunities>

Please encourage those that you believe may be a good fit to apply and hold the position in prayer. In the interim, I will continue to be your support, with the assistance of Martha Torres, Coordinator.

May God be with us in this season of change and thank you for all that you do to support this very important ministry. God Bless.







FALL 2025



## MASS SCHEDULE FOR FALL 2025 - WINTER 2025

Fr. John Maria Abulag



### CATHEDRAL OF ST. RAYMOND NONNATUS

604 N. RAYNOR AVENUE  
JOLIET, IL 60435

**INTERPRETED MASS**  
10:30AM  
1st, 3rd, & 4th Sunday

**Faith Formation**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday**  
Confession: 2 PM  
Faith Formation: 2:30 PM  
Interpreted Mass: 4 PM  
Ended: 5 PM

Bring light Meal to pass

<https://www.straymond.net/>



### ST. MARGARET MARY

1450 GREEN TRAILS DRIVE  
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

**INTERPRETED MASS**  
11:00 AM  
1st, 2nd, & 4th Sunday

**Faith Formation and Deaf Mass**  
**3rd Sunday**  
10 am Deaf Mass  
11 am Faith Formation/Fellowship  
Ended: Noon

Bring light meal to pass

<https://smmp.com/>



### ST. ISIDORE

427 W ARMYTRAIL ROAD  
BLOOMINGDALE, IL 60108

**INTERPRETED MASS**  
10:30 AM  
Every Sunday

<https://stisidoreparish.org/>

**All in ASL (American Sign Language)**

CONTACT FR. JOHN MARIA ABULAG IF ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:  
[JAbulag@rcdoj.org](mailto:JAbulag@rcdoj.org)

<https://catechesis.diojoliet.org/doj-deaf-ministry>



FALL 2025

# SAVE THE DATES!

HOSTED BY THE DEAF MINISTRY OF THE DIOCESE OF JOLIET



## LENT 2026

GUEST SPEAKER: MONSIGNOR GLENN NELSON

WHEN: FEBRUARY 21-22, 2026  
2-DAY RETREAT

WHERE: CARMELITE SPIRITUAL CENTER  
8419 BAILEY ROAD  
DARIEN, IL 60561



## Learn About Mary's Apparitions: An Invitation to Discovery - "MARY CALLS US TO BECOME HOLY"



GUEST SPEAKER: Fr. Michael Depcik

WHEN: October 3, 2026  
One Day Retreat

WHERE: Blanchette Catholic Center (BCC)  
16555 Weber Road  
Crest Hill, IL. 60403

More details on both events are coming soon in the winter newsletter.



Save the date



# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE DEAF PEOPLE, ABUSE AND THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

## "Silent No More."

Deaf people, families and professionals come together to raise awareness and **stop** this hidden crime.



**WE WILL NO  
LONGER BE SILENT!**

**8 - 11 JULY  
2026**



**PANAMA CITY,  
PANAMA**

For more information, please contact DCYIA at

**[contact@dcyia.net](mailto:contact@dcyia.net)**

or log on to

**[www.dcyia.net](http://www.dcyia.net)**