

VERY GOOD INFORMATION re: Medicare 2016.
www.ageoptions.org/services-and-programs_ConsumerMaterials.html
www.ageoptions.org/services-and-programs_MMWBulletins.org

ALDA (Association of Late Deafened Adults) announces 2016 Conference: Sept 14-18, Milwaukee, WI. INFO: <http://www.alda.org/aldas-2015-convention/>

PARENTS of Children who are DEAF and/or DISABLED: The U.S. Government has established a new program, ABLE Accounts. If your child has a disability and is younger than 26 years old, parents can create an ABLE (Savings) Account. Parents can put money aside for their child's future. In the past if a parent/guardian did this, the government would cut SSI, SSD, etc.

Now a parent can create such an account, and the government will NOT reduce the child's monthly benefits. <https://www.irs.gov/Government-Entities/Federal,-State-&-Local-Governments/Tax-Benefit-for-Disability-IRC-Section-529A>

Also.....

MANY Families and Individuals can save paying taxes because of the EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit) and the Child Tax Credit programs. Make sure you ask the person who prepares your taxes to see if you are eligible for these programs.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sun, 1/17: Mass, 10:30 am. (Large church; interpreted). Coffee & rolls.

NO Mass, St. Julie Billiart.

Sun, 1/24: Mass, 10:30 am. Coffee & rolls. Mass, 4pm, St. Mary of Vernon.

Thurs, 1/29, 9 am-2 pm: Senior Citizen Social.

Sun, 1/31: Mass, 10:30 am. Blessing of Throats.

Sun, 2/7: Mass, 10:30 am. CCE Lunch & Meeting.

Pray for... Fidel Martinez, Phyllis Wozniak, Mark Kubey, Nathan Kucera, Anthony Ariano, Marie Volpentesta, Susan Postl, Evelyn Rzasa, Balsitis sisters, Donna Taylor, Bob Healy, John and Sylvia Kolinek, Majka family, George & Laverne Lastrico, Sr. Rita Wigginton.

READ YOUR BIBLE/PRAY YOUR BIBLE:

1/10: Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 104; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Luke 3:15-16

1/11: 1 Samuel 1:1-8; Mark 1:14-20

1/12: 1 Samuel 1:9-20; Mark 1:21-28

1/13: 1 Samuel 3:1-20; Mark 1:29-39. St. Hilary (367).

1/14: 1 Samuel 4:1-11; Mark 1:40-45

1/15: 1 Samuel 8:4-22; Mark 2:1-12

1/16: 1 Samuel 9:1-19; 10:1; Mark 2:13-17

1/17: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 96; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; John 2:1-11

BIBLE NOTES: Starting this week, we begin reading two "Books" of the Bible.

- 1 SAMUEL tells the story (true!) of the great Jewish prophet SAMUEL. This is the story of Israel about 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus. Samuel was a holy man who did everything possible to serve God.
- THE GOSPEL of MARK was written about the year 69-70 AD. MARK is the earliest of the four Gospels. MARK tells us the story of Jesus, His life, His care for people, His suffering and death. MARK gives us a wonderful "picture" of Jesus and His concern, especially for those who are suffering.

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

I hope that you are all planning to celebrate APRIL 22-23, 2016. This is the 50th anniversary of the MID-WEST ICDA. This will be a wonderful weekend. Excellent workshops, fun socials, Mass, banquet, seeing old friends. Please plan to join us. INFO: <http://www.icda-us.org/chicago-midwest-regional-conference-2016/> or see Patricia Slisz.

Hard to believe, but...LENT begins one month from today (Feb. 10). There will be some special ways for us to celebrate LENT this year combined with the YEAR of MERCY. Please bring your old PALMS to BRIAN SWATEK by 2/7.

SOME UPCOMING DATES:

- ❖ 2/29, 3-9pm. Fun Fundraiser to help a young man, NATHAN KUCERA, with his hospital bills. Party will be at Ascension Parish, 601 W. Van Buren, OAK PARK. Nathan's family has been very supportive of the Catholic Deaf community for many years. See the flyer – No MSing Around! (Nathan has MS)
- ❖ 3/5: Deaf Retreat Day with SR. PATRICIA FRANCIS, OP.
- ❖ 3/19, Noon-6pm: Hawthorne Race day to support Children of Peace/Holy Trinity Deaf Program. INFO: 312-243-8186.

NEXT SUNDAY, 1/17, I will attend the NCOD (National Catholic Office of the Deaf) Pastoral Week in New Orleans, LA. We will have coffee & rolls. Mass will be INTERPRETED in the large church at 10:30am. You will be amazed to see the new floor in the church!

The recent holidays seem like a blur with so much happening. I am very grateful to all those who....

....decorated the chapel (and collected the money for the flowers);
....our Choir who helped us pray;
....our ushers who managed to keep the chapel orderly;
....those workers, especially BRIAN SWATEK, who kept the hall clean;
....TOM SISK & the GLENNS for their work at St. Mary of Vernon;
....MEG LO, KATHY HIATT, JIM KREIS, COLEEN SWEENEY, the KULASA FAMILY for all they did at St. Julie Billiart;
....MRS. SWATEK & all the Religious Education volunteers for helping our children and families to understand the REAL meaning of Christmas;
... our DEACONS FRONCZEK & HINCH who visited sick people and those in nursing homes during these days;
....all those who did the readings at the Masses and helped us with Holy Communion;
....BARBARA PACOUREK & BEATRICE BARAJAS who served us coffee and Food;
....the IDLA (Illinois Deaf Latino Association) for all their help with the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe;
....MS COLLEEN CURRY, the Office Manager of the Catholic Office of the Deaf, for handling so many calls and interpreter requests during that time;
....T.K. HILL for keeping track of all our bills and payments;
....RICHARD KUSH & BRIAN SWATEK for working to make the people at the Mabley Center (Dixon, IL) enjoy their Christmas;
....FR. CHRIS KLUSMAN from Milwaukee who drove here to do Confessions;
....JIMMY SMITH who managed all our "technical" needs;
....FR. MIKE DEPCIK who came to celebrate Mass with us. Take a look at FR. MIKE's web-page, every week: www.frmd.org.

DEAF COFFEE SOCIALS this week: NEXT Sunday, Jan. 17, 2 pm at Starbucks, 519 Main Street, Evanston.