

PALMS: we burn the old palms you have to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday, 2/10. Please bring the old, dried palms and give them to BRIAN SWATEK.

WEDDING REQUESTS: If a couple wants Fr. Joe to celebrate their wedding, they should contact him as soon as possible. Fr. Joe is already getting requests for weddings in 2017!

The STATE of ILLINOIS is sending letters to all persons in Illinois who receive MEDICAID Health Care. The first letter is a form from the IRS. IF you file taxes, you MUST keep this form with your other tax documents. If you do NOT file taxes, you do not need to worry. However, do NOT throw out this letter! The second letter is for anyone in Illinois who used the MEDICAID "SPENDDOWN" in 2015. The letter is NOT to cancel your program. However, you can renew your program in 2016. KIM EISCHEN (CHS), SARITA PHADKE (Schaumburg) can help you with any of your questions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Sun, Jan 24: Mass, 10:30am. CCE Lunch and meeting.

Mass, 4pm, St. Mary of Vernon, Rt.45, Indian Creek. Refreshments

Thurs, Jan 28, 9am-2pm: Senior Citizen Social. St. Francis Borgia.

Sun, Jan 31: Mass, 10:30am. Coffee & rolls. BLESSING OF THROATS.

Sun, Feb 7: Mass, 10:30am. Coffee & rolls.

Wed, Feb 10: ASH WEDNESDAY. Mass & Ashes, NOON. NO evening Mass.

PRAY FOR... Evelyn Rzasas, Mark Kubey, Marie Volpentesta, Anthony Ariano, Balsitis sisters, Donna Taylor, Majka family, John & Sylvia Kolinek, Bob Healy, Phyllis Wozniak, Susan Postl, Sr. Rita Wigginton, Fidel Martinez, George & Laverne Lastrico. LINDA KRAVITZ, daughter of ANNIE BRESLIN, died 1/8; NANCY HAYES, daughter of deaf parents, died 1/10; GERALDINE BALSITIS (85) died 1/10.

READ YOUR BIBLE: learn about God's MERCY!

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

1/18: 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22

1/19: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Mark 2:23-28

1/20: 1 Samuel 17:32-51/ Mark 3:1-6. St. Fabian, Pope martyr, year 250; St. Sebastian, martyr, 288

1/21: 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7/ Mark 3:17-22. St. Agnes (12 year old girl martyred for her Catholic faith in the 3rd century)

*1/22: 1 Samuel 24:3-21/ Mark 3:13-19

1/23: 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19-27/ Mark 3:20-21. St. Vincent (Deacon martyr, 300); Sr. Marianne Cope (cared for people with leprosy; 1918)

1/24: Nehemiah 8:2-10, Psalm 19, 1 Corinth. 12:12-30, Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

*1/22 is the 43rd anniversary of the Supreme Court allowing abortions to be legal in the USA. Think about how many women had an abortion because a doctor said, "oh, this child may be deaf." Often, young women wanted to keep their babies, but their "boyfriends" or family forced them to have an abortion! Pray for all pregnant women; pray for all families; and especially pray for children who suffer neglect, abuse, violence, and death.

IMPORTANT: On Jan 12 Fr. Joe's e-mail got HACKED! No, I did NOT go to Turkey, I do NOT need emergency cash, I am NOT freaked out! Sorry for any stress or inconvenience. DO NOT REPLY!

SOME NOTES FROM FR. JOE:

THURSDAY, 1/28, IDHHC (Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission) will have its Board meeting open to the public. This will be held at the Swoboda Center, 7050 W. Belmont, Chgo.

IMPORTANT! The State of Illinois is no longer sending notices to renew your sticker. Check your license plate to see when your sticker expires. Go to www.ilsos.gov/greenmail to sign up for reminders and to buy a new sticker.

Many of you sent me wonderful cards and messages at Christmas. Many of you were also very generous. I am very grateful for ALL your kindnesses to me.

HOSPITALS do NOT let priests know who are patients in the hospital. If you are a patient, and you want Fr. Joe and/or the Deacons to visit you, please tell your family to contact us directly at the Catholic Office of the Deaf. If it is an emergency, you can text Fr. Joe at 312-685-7899.

CONGRATULATIONS to...GENE DAVIS who will become a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. This will happen at a ceremony at St. Peter's Church, 110 W. Madison, Chgo on 1/19.

“SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”. Sometimes you see something that happens with a child. You think/feel, “something is not right.” The child is not clean; the child is always hungry. The child is left alone often; no one seems to care about that child. Call 9-1-1.

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.

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

Excellent websites to strengthen our faith:

- ❖ www.frmd.org - wonderful teachings about our Catholic Faith.
- ❖ www.jubileemercy.org - learn about our “Year of Mercy”.
- ❖ www.dcyia.net - learn about working with deaf young people.
- ❖ www.archdioceseofchicago.org - events in our Archdiocese.
- ❖ www.iubilaeummisericordiae.va - the Vatican website.
- ❖ www.ada25Chicago - lots of good information.

Remember, when the snow comes, keeping sidewalks ice-free is an important way to protect yourself and passersby from injury. It's also the law in Chicago, and many suburban municipalities. According to Chicago's code, “Every owner, lessee, tenant, occupant or other person having charge of any building or lot of ground abutting upon any public way or public space shall remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk.” Residents & businesses who do not follow this rule could face fines of \$50 to \$500. Chicago has a Snow Corps for helping seniors and people with disabilities. To volunteer or request help, go to:
www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/mayor/snowportal/snow_corps.html