



American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreted Masses - Remembering Jesus's love for all people, our parish is working toward facilitating full and meaningful participation of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in our diocese. The Office of the Apostolate for People with Disabilities and St. Patrick Church in Providence has announced that ASL interpreted Masses will be regularly scheduled here for the 9 AM Sunday Mass. There have been many requests from Deaf Catholics to be able to assist at Mass in a more meaningful way. Currently, there is an ASL Mass every Sunday at St. Mary of the Bay, Warren, at 8 AM, and in a few other parishes through the diocese once a month.

The staff of the Diocesan Office of this Apostolate has been searching for ways to facilitate the full participation of the Deaf parishioners in our diocese... "When Father James Ruggieri of Saint Patrick in Providence heard of the need, he immediately opened the doors of his parish to welcome this wonderful addition to his Parish Eucharist Celebration." ...



ASL interpreted Masses will begin here at St. Patrick in Providence on August 19, 2018, at the 9am English Mass. The goal is to have an ASL interpreter every Sunday at 9 am. Currently we have confirmed ASL interpreters for **August 19 and 26; and September 2 thru Sep 23**. Updated schedules will be posted on the Diocesan website and in St. Patrick Church's bulletin and website when available.

We know that there are some critical social indicators to which we need to pay close attention. **Less than 4% of the Deaf community attend Church in the US due to lack of ASL interpreted Masses and events.** The Diocesan Apostolate for people with disabilities has purchased materials to help with Sacramental preparation in ASL.

In collaboration with Fr. Shawn Carey, Director of Deaf Apostolate in Archdiocese of Boston and President of NCOD (National Catholic Office for the Deaf) there will be website links on the Diocesan site to many resources for parishes, families and interpreters in ASL in the near future.

It is really important to ponder the fact that one family in three has a member with a disability in the US.

We are called as a family in Christ to accompany all parishioners and in a special way the most vulnerable-- those with disabilities, of any kind and age, and their families who support and fulfill their needs.

The creation of a fully accessible parish reaches beyond mere physical accommodation, elevators and ramps, it depends greatly in the attitudes of all parishioners toward persons with disabilities. All of us as a faith community have a role to play in the invitation, welcome, and inclusion of people with disabilities. We all belong.

For more information please contact Irma I. Rodríguez at irodriguez@dioceseofprovidence.org or call the Office of the Apostolate for Disabilities at 401-278-4578. The schedule will be posted as it becomes available on St. Patrick Church's website <http://saintpatrickchurch.net> and at <http://www.dioceseofprovidence.org/apostolate-for-people-with-disabilities/ministry-for-the-deaf/>