



RELIGIOUS ASL WEEK 2025 July 13–July 18

Rituals, Rites, Scripture and Frozen Text: Navigating the Catholic Mass

Bishop Lane Retreat Center
7708 E. McGregor Road
Rockford, IL 61102

This program is intended for all the below in helping them expand their skills in Religious ASL:

- **Priests, deacons and seminarians** who work with the Deaf Community
- **Working interpreters** who have been certified (or qualified in their state)
- **Deaf ASL lectors** -- members of the Deaf community who are **now** doing the readings for Sunday liturgies.

Participants will learn from very qualified instructors.

Instructors:

Msgr. Glenn Nelson- Director
Deacon Patrick Graybill
Joan Macy- ASL Interpreter Coordinator
for Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

Coordinator – Carolyn Brewster

Religious ASL Week

This week long program will focus on a variety of aspects of the Catholic Mass. This workshop should be very helpful.

We will explore the following:

- ✦ Analyzing scripture in order to enhance interpreting the Sunday readings
- ✦ Understanding and analyzing the prayers of the Catholic Mass i.e., Creed, Our Father, and the Eucharistic Prayer
- ✦ Developing better voicing techniques when interpreting for Deaf lectors, priests, and deacons at Mass
- ✦ Awareness of what Deaf Catholics want and need from the music portions of the Mass
- ✦ Religious sign vocabulary
Putting abstract terms into ASL

Participants will have an enhanced understanding in translating from English to ASL and the interpreting process required to achieve a successful and theologically sound interpretation for Mass.

Participants will learn interpreting techniques and strategies and apply them in their own interpreting work.

Biographies of instructors



Before he became a priest,



Monsignor Glenn Nelson received his Bachelor Degree from Northern Illinois University in 1987 in Deaf Education. He was a teacher and interpreter for the Deaf for 2 years before deciding to become a priest and enter the seminary. Monsignor Nelson was ordained a priest in 1993 for the Diocese of Rockford, Illinois and was appointed director of the Deaf Apostolate for the diocese.

Since Ordination, Msgr. Nelson has taught in a Catholic High School, served as Secretary to the Bishop, earned a License in Canon Law from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, served his diocese as Chancellor and as previous pastor of Christ the Teacher University Parish/Newman Catholic Student Center in DeKalb Illinois at the NIU Campus. In addition to the Deaf Apostolate he is currently serving his diocese as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia. He has served the Deaf Catholic Community as a priest for over 30 plus years.

In 2001, Msgr. Nelson was elected to the Board of the National Catholic Office of the Deaf (NCOD) where he represents Region IV (Great Lakes Region) and has been re-elected for several terms since. In 2013, he was elected President of the NCOD for a year and continues to offer his services as a member at large.

Deacon Patrick Graybill



received both his Bachelors and Masters Degree from Gallaudet University. After two years in Theological College at Catholic University, he joined the internationally acclaimed National Theater of the Deaf for 10 years. In Rochester, New

York, he enrolled in a permanent diaconate program and was ordained in 1982, while also working as a performing arts professor at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

From 1992 to 1996, he was producer and director for Sign Media, Inc. Then he returned to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf as Assistant Professor in the Department of Cultural and Creative Studies. He retired from the National Technical Institute for the Deaf on July 1, 2004. Deacon Graybill now travels the country to provide retreats for the Deaf Community in conjunction with ICDA.



Joan Macy In high school, Joan began taking American Sign Language classes and she has been involved with the deaf community ever since. Mrs. Macy received Bachelor's Degrees in Education and Psychology from Benedictine College, a Master's Degree in Deaf Education from the University of Kansas, and an endorsement in Educational Administration from Emporia State University. She has worked in the field of education for 28 years, 25 in deaf education, and is currently an administrator at a state school for the deaf.

Joan is also the ASL Interpreter Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and has served as the Interim Consultant for Deaf Ministry in the past. She is responsible for advocating for all programs to be fully accessible for the deaf as well as providing direct services and support to members of the community, including interpreting parish and diocesan events. She has provided workshops on interpreting, religious ASL, deaf education, and family workshops for parents with children who are deaf/hard of hearing. In addition, Joan is the editor of the Vision newsletter for the National Catholic Office for the Deaf (NCOD).

Travel is participants' responsibility

If flying, we highly suggest you use O'Hare Airport as there are Van Galder buses regularly that go to and from Rockford.

To view bus schedule and /or purchase your bus ticket online visit:

<http://www.govangalder.com> (a.s.a.p.)

We will need to know your flight times to arrange pick-up & return from bus stop at the Rockford Bus Terminal drop off in Rockford, Illinois, if needed!

_____ **Yes, Please**

_____ **No, thank you. I have my own arrangements.**

**Program begins on Sunday July 13th
with registration at 4 p.m.**

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

**Program ends after noon lunch on
Friday July 18th at 1:30 p.m.**

**The entire cost for RASL Week
is \$650, and includes accommodations,
linens, meals and program costs.**

**A deposit of \$275 is required with
registration**

**Registrations are taken now up to 2
weeks prior to program starting.**

Balance is due by June 30, 2025.

CEU is available

Please advise of any food allergies.

***To register for Religious ASL Week,
please fill in the application attached.
Send it along with \$275 deposit made
payable to Deaf Apostolate Office.***

Mail to:

**Deaf Apostolate Office
Diocese of Rockford
PO Box 7044
Rockford, IL 61125**

Or register online at:

**[http://www.rockforddiocese.org/
deafapostolate/raslweek](http://www.rockforddiocese.org/deafapostolate/raslweek)**

***Then mail in your deposit with a copy
of the e-mail confirmation you receive***

You will receive an e-mail of confirmation within three weeks of receipt for mailed paper registrations. If the program is full, we will add your name to the waiting list and return your deposit check.

- Religious ASL Week Registration Form- JULY 13-18, 2025

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE:(_____)_____

E-MAIL: _____
(please print. **MUST have contact e-mail!**)

CHECK ONE: Are you?

_____ **Beginner ASL Skills**

_____ **Intermediate ASL Skills**

_____ **Advanced ASL Skills**

CHECK ONE: Are you?

_____ **Hearing**

_____ **Hard of Hearing**

_____ **Deaf**

CHECK ONE: Will you?

_____ **Need 6ft. social distancing**

_____ **Do not need social distancing**

Total Cost: \$650—\$275 deposit (in US Funds, no credit cards) is required once registered to hold your reservation. FINAL full payment due June 30, 2025. If you must cancel, please e-mail Carolyn Brewster at once. See “*Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds*” information

Deposits, Cancellations and Refunds

Deposits are refundable as follows:

Cancel: 5 weeks before: \$175 refund

Cancel: 2-4 weeks before: \$150 refund

Cancel: less than 2 weeks: \$100 refund

No refund if you do not cancel.

E-mail: cbrewster@RockfordDiocese.org