On May 21, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory was installed as the seventh archbishop of Washington. Since then, the archbishop has been visiting many of the 139 parishes and 93 Catholic schools of the archdiocese to get to know his new flock. One of those visits was to the community of St. Francis of Assisi Deaf Catholic Church in Landover Hills, Maryland for a celebration of the Mass in American Sign Language.

Those in attendance included those who are deaf or hard of hearing, those who are deaf and blind, those who speak other languages as their first language, persons with physical, developmental, intellectual or sensory disabilities, students from Gallaudet University – the liberal arts university in Washington, D.C., that serves deaf and hard-of-hearing students – and the many other people who make up the Deaf Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Washington. The Mass was celebrated orally and in sign language.

During his homily, the archbishop spoke of that day’s Gospel reading from St. Luke, in which Christ warns the listeners, “You cannot serve both God and mammon,” the greedy pursuit of wealth or material gain. While money can indeed be helpful when used wisely, the Gospel is so hard on money, the archbishop said, in order to teach us real fulfillment comes from a loving relationship with God, not from any material addiction.

“Our human heart is made for love,” he said. “We are people who will only be perfectly happy when we are engaged in a loving relationship, and the ultimate loving relationship that we long for is with God.”

“Did you learn any signs this morning, Archbishop?,” Pauline Spanbauer, a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Deaf Catholic Church in Landover Hills, asked the Archbishop in American Sign Language, which was then interpreted by O’Meara. He then raised his hands and rotated his wrists - the sign for applause.

To view videos and for more articles and photos from these events, visit www.cathstan.org or the archdiocesan YouTube page www.youtube.com/user/WashArchdiocese.

Article adapted from the Catholic Standard.
In this issue's Women of the Crypt series, we continue to explore the lives of the female saints whose mosaics and altars line the basilica’s Crypt Church, where the TV Mass is filmed.

St. Anne is one of the great female saints because she was a matriarch in a family of saints – wife to St. Joachim, mother of our Mother Mary, and the grandmother of Jesus! Though there is no certain knowledge of the life of St. Anne – she is only mentioned in the early apocryphal text the Gospel of James, and in Catholic legend – tradition holds she and St. Joachim were childless until a later age, until the birth of Mary (similar to the Old Testament figure Hannah, from which the name “Anne” derives). We can only assume St. Anne was a virtuous, God-fearing woman, wife, and mother who taught the Virgin Mary and raised her up in the way of holiness.

St. John Damascene, sixth-century Doctor of the Church, said of St. Anne in his Second Oration on the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary: “Blessed, thrice blessed art thou, O St. Anne, who didst receive from God and bring forth the blessed child from whom proceeded Christ, the Flower of life! We congratulate thee, O blessed Anne, on the dignity of being the mother of Mary, for thou hast brought forth our common hope, the germ of Promise! All pious lips bless thee in thy daughter, all languages glorify thy child! Worthy art thou above all praise, worthy of the praise of all who are redeemed, for thou hast given life to her who brought forth our Savior, Jesus Christ” (from Good St. Anne by TAN Books & Publishers, Inc.).

The mosaic of St. Anne in the Crypt Church depicts the saint holding her daughter Mary in her arms, along with an open book of the Scriptures, which reads: Ecce virgo concepiet et pariet filium [Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son]. This verse comes from the book of the prophet Isaiah (7:14), and is taken to be an early prophecy of Jesus’ birth from the Virgin Mary.

The text on the mosaic reads, in Latin, “Saint Anne, Mother of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” The background text is again from the above quote by St. John Damascene - “All pious lips bless thee in thy daughter, all languages glorify thy child!” - which refers to St. Anne in context of her daughter Mary. The mosaic also depicts a vase with lilies, a traditional flower of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and two doves surrounding a cross, possibly signifying St. Anne and Mary centered on Christ.

St. Anne is the patron saint of mothers, housewives, and women in labor, and she is often depicted with Mary and with the infant Jesus. Her chapel is located next to the St. John the Evangelist Chapel behind the crypt altar. We celebrate Saint Anne’s feast day on July 26.

“We beseech Thee, O Lord our God, that through the intercession of blessed Anne, whom Thou didst choose to be the mother of her who brought forth Thy Son, we may become worthy to win eternal salvation. Through Jesus Christ Our Lord” (from the Postcommunion Mass for the Feast of St. Anne).

TEN NEW PRIESTS ORDAINED

This past June, 10 men were ordained as priests for the Archdiocese of Washington. Father Michael Russo is one of these new priests, assigned to St. Bernadette in Silver Spring. Born in Massachusetts, Father Russo moved to Washington, D.C. for college. The thought of joining the priesthood never crossed his mind as a child, he said, but his studies in history and classical studies gradually drew him to early Christian history and a love for the rich intellectual tradition of the Catholic Church. He describes his vocation as a slow process: “Looking back, it was definitely the Holy Spirit, slowly planting, letting the seed grow,” he said. Read an in-depth profile of Father Russo and of the nine other new priests at www.cathstan.org. Please pray for our priests.
Watch the TV Mass Online

The TV Mass is available online for those viewers who are unable to watch on TV. Many already watch the Mass online, with Masses during Ordinary Time gaining more than 15,000 views. Last year’s Christmas Mass had more than 25,000 views.

Watch the Masses at the National Shrine’s YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/marysshrine

Make sure to like, share, and subscribe to the channel to never miss another TV Mass!

Christmas Day Mass
December 25, 2019
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

On Christmas morning, Washington Archbishop Wilton Gregory will celebrate a special hour-long Mass that will air on December 25 at 8:00-9:00 a.m.

Know, Love and Live the Mass with a 2020 St. Joseph Sunday Missal

The 2020 Saint Joseph Sunday Missal is now available to order! It begins on the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1, 2019, for the entire liturgical year.

This pocket-sized missal is a wonderful tool to help TV Mass viewers understand the Mass and actively participate in it.

The missal provides each Sunday’s prayers, readings and responses so viewers can unite with the prayers of the priest and recite or sing their parts with understanding and devotion. It includes the Order of Mass in two colors and large type with the People’s Parts in bold type for quick identification and an updated hymnal section with over 90 popular hymns as well as many prayers.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taping</th>
<th>Air dates</th>
<th>Liturgy (30 minutes each)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 14</td>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>Presentation of the Lord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 16</td>
<td>6th Sunday in Ord Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 21</td>
<td>February 9</td>
<td>5th Sunday in Ord Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>7th Sunday in Ord Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 11</td>
<td>December 25</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, January 30</td>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 15</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 6</td>
<td>March 8</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March 29</td>
<td>5th Sunday of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, February 20</td>
<td>March 22</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Lent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 5</td>
<td>Palm Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, March 5</td>
<td>April 19</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, March 22</td>
<td>April 12</td>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning: 10:30 am on WDCW Channel 50, Washington, DC.

**How to order a DVD copy of the TV Mass**

Watch the TV Mass whenever you like by ordering a particular Mass on DVD!

Parish and school choirs who were part of the TV Mass congregation may also want to order a DVD as a keepsake of their experience.

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