

CELEBRATE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR VIEWERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY TV MASS

**SPRING/
SUMMER
2022**

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The Sunday TV Mass airs every Sunday morning on WDCW-50 at 10:30 a.m.

Production Crew

Producer & Director:
John Capobianco

Technical Director:
Stefano Flori

Audio: Nathan Bark

Cameras: John Landers,
Karin Öhlund and Mark Irons

Engineer: Chris Vazquez

Editor: Brian Burgess

Floor Director:
Bob Hemmerich



The Roman Catholic
Archdiocese of
Washington

After 30+ years of TV Masses, a regular celebrant knows how to be brief



Father Thomas Kalita celebrates the March 20, 2022 Sunday TV Mass, at the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

With more than 30 years' experience with regularly celebrating the local Sunday TV Mass, Father Thomas Kalita has finely honed certain necessary skills.

For example, it's no mean feat to synthesize a single important lesson from three Sunday Scripture readings into a homily that takes no longer than two and a half minutes.

"If you've only got two and a half minutes on which to preach you have to stick to one point and bring it home quickly," Father Kalita said. "It forces me to consider that, having heard these Scriptures, particularly the Gospel, what single question or concern jumps out of those readings which might be touching the lives of folks who

are in some way restricted in their ability to be a part of general society?"

Father Kalita, pastor of St. Peter's Parish in Olney, Maryland, has been celebrating six or eight liturgies a year for the Sunday broadcast since he was chaplain at the University of Maryland Catholic Student Center beginning in the mid-1980s. He became pastor of St. Peter's in 1994 and continued the cycle of regularly going in to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, where the Masses are recorded in the Crypt Church.

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Synod process continues, with an option to participate online now open so all can be heard



At right, Hector Reynoso of St. Francis Deaf Catholic Church uses American Sign Language as he makes a point during the March 19, 2022 Regional Synod Session for Prince George's County held at St. Joseph Parish in Largo, Maryland. Standing nearby is Abby Lockhart, a sign language interpreter at the event who shared his comments during that small group discussion. (CS photo/Andrew Biraj)

It's not too late to offer your thoughts for the worldwide Synod of Bishops launched last fall by Pope Francis for 2021-2023. An online portal for submitting thoughts about the Church is open, so you can participate from home.

Titled "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission," the goal of the Synod is to gather the Church's many communities in "prayer, listening, dialogue and discernment," as Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory put it in opening the synodal process in October 2021.

He encouraged people of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington to take the opportunity the Synod presents to re-engage with each other as the pandemic wanes.

For the last few months, parishes and communities such as religious orders, schools, or particular ethnic or country-of-origin groups have been holding listening sessions in-person and online to simply hear each others' hopes and concerns for the church. While parish-based listening sessions have concluded and the process has moved to its next phase, it is still possible to participate online.

A form on the website, adw.org/synod, provides a place to submit thoughts about the Church, its structures and how well it hears people, both those who are active and who no longer participate. For example, one set of questions asks: "How are you able to participate in the mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel? What hinders you from being active in your parish?

How is authority or governance exercised in your local parish and in the Church?"

Such wide-open questions reflect the guidance that was given for the listening sessions at parishes. In recent weeks, regional listening sessions with representatives from parishes and other communities have begun to collate the feedback gathered at parishes.

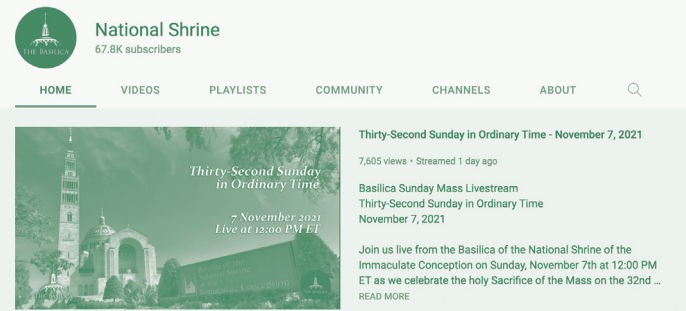
In reporting in the *Catholic Standard* about the Montgomery County regional listening session, participants talked about themes raised in their parishes – people appreciated the opportunity to be heard; they worry about some people feeling abandoned by the Church, and want better outreach to various groups such as youth, young adults and those who feel marginalized for various reasons.

Suggestions as simple as making phone calls to keep in touch with parishioners were among ideas shared.

According to the timeline for the Synod, Archdiocese-level listening sessions are due to continue into mid-May, 2022. From late May to June 15, Cardinal Gregory and the archdiocesan Synod team will review the results and compile them into a 10 page synthesis report to submit to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops on June 30, 2022. The USCCB will in turn compile a national report to present to the Vatican. The final steps in the Synod process will take place on a global level in the latter months of 2022 and into 2023.

Watch the TV Mass Online

The Mass is available to watch online on the National Shrine's YouTube channel:
www.youtube.com/user/marysshine



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

Easter Sunday TV Mass

Celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord with The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington.

This special edition of the Sunday TV Mass will be broadcast Easter morning, April 17, 2022
 10:30-11:30 a.m. on WDCW-TV50.

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Contact us to learn more about how you can easily donate to the TV Mass, the Annual Appeal (which provides financial support for the TV Mass) and other archdiocesan programs through a distribution from your IRA and enjoy valuable tax savings this year.

For more information, contact
 Joanne Pipkin
 Director of Donor Relations and Gift Planning
 (301) 853-4486 | pipkinj@adw.org

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is produced by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

Produced by
 Patricia Zapor and
 Georgina Wilkinson

For information, contact:
 Office of Media and
 Public Relations
 The Roman Catholic
 Archdiocese of Washington
 P.O. Box 29260
 Washington, DC 20017
 301-853-4516

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He explained that in planning a homily for the TV Mass “congregation,” the need to be extremely brief “causes me to not approach the Scriptures as a teacher of theology, but looking simply at how the words of Jesus affect the lives of people who need God’s mercy.”

Besides needing to write a homily that packs a punch in under three minutes, Father Kalita said there are other particular skills that a regular celebrant of the TV Mass needs. For instance, it takes “finding a priest who is comfortable in front of a TV camera and who is willing to celebrate while someone is holding up signs saying ‘you have 30 seconds’ to wrap up a homily, or ‘seven minutes’ to conclude the Mass.”

Traditionally, a Mass broadcast on local television was intended for “shut-ins,” typically elderly people with no way to get to a church in person. The need to cancel Sunday Masses because of a major snowstorm might draw in other viewers periodically, he noted, but that was an exception to the usual. Father Kalita said he originally volunteered to celebrate the TV Mass as a way of reaching out to a different set of people than he encountered through the university community.

“I began to see how the ministry of the Mass is meeting a need beyond that traditional idea of ‘shut-ins.’”

Then he moved to St. Peter’s, where the pastoral staff members serve as chaplains for Montgomery General Hospital and several nearby nursing, assisted living or retirement homes. “I began to see how the ministry of the Mass is meeting a need beyond that traditional idea of ‘shut-ins.’”

The global experience of the COVID 19 pandemic proved that there are many reasons why people rely on Masses they can watch on television or the internet, Father Kalita said. While the TV Mass continues to be broadcast over local television weekly, it also is posted on the Basilica’s YouTube channel. Most weeks recently 50,000 to 70,000 viewers watched.

For comparison, in 2018, prior to the pandemic, perhaps 5,000 to 9,000 viewers watched on YouTube each week.

One Sunday this January, more than 155,000 people logged onto the Mass, a liturgy Father Kalita celebrated. He thought that high a number might be a fluke. And certainly, he said, “it’s not a factor of who is the celebrant. Viewers don’t know in advance who will be the celebrant.” Instead, he mused that the fact that tens of thousands of people watch weekly “is an indication that for whatever reason, people need the service, they need that ministry.”

WDCW-50 local station guide

The TV Mass airs every Sunday at 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. on WDCW-50.



Use the chart below to determine the channel on you television.

TV Provider	Channel
Antenna/no cable	50
Comcast	
DC and Montgomery	23
PG and Southern MD	3
Dish or Direct TV	50
Cox	
Northern VA	3
Fredericksburg	15
RCN	15
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