

# CELEBRATE!

A NEWSLETTER FOR VIEWERS AND FRIENDS OF THE SUNDAY TV MASS

**SPRING/  
SUMMER  
2023**

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- 3** Watch the Mass online
- 4** New Deacon joins TV Mass

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

## Production Crew

*Producer & Director:*  
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*Technical Director:*  
Stefano Flori

*Audio:* Nathan Bark

*Cameras:* John Landers,  
Karin Öhlund and Mark Irons

*Engineer:* Chris Vazquez

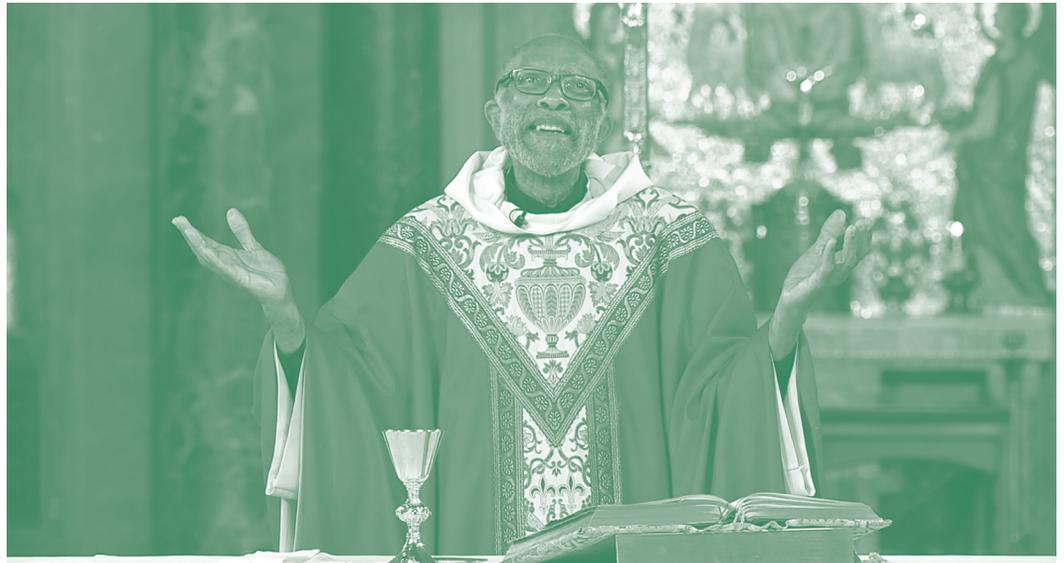
*Editor:* Brian Burgess

*Floor Director:*  
Bob Hemmerich



The Roman Catholic  
Archdiocese of  
Washington

## Regular Followers of Washington Mass Join The Celebration From Far and Wide



At a recent taping, Msgr. Ray East celebrates the Sunday TV Mass from the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Msgr. East has been a regular celebrant of the Mass whose homilies are enjoyed by local and national viewers.

**BY PATRICIA ZAPOR**

Some of the most enthusiastic fans of the weekly televised Mass hosted at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington tune in over the internet from far beyond the metropolitan Washington area.

Regular viewers who live in Washington state, Louisiana and Pennsylvania told Celebrate! about how they found the Mass produced for The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, and why they keep coming back to it.

Kathy Blinn of Scranton, Pennsylvania, remembers precisely when she first came across the Mass broadcast from the Basilica – Nov. 1, 2015. She was so taken with the simple yet reverent liturgy and the preaching by Father Patrick Smith that she ordered a copy of it on DVD. “I still watch it from time to time,” she said.

Blinn knows other regular celebrants of the TV Mass by name. Father Tom Kalita and Msgr. Ray East are also favorites. Blinn has kept up with technology and now downloads Masses that particularly touch her, so that she can go back and replay homilies that she found meaningful.

Post-pandemic, Blinn has returned to sometimes attending Masses in person near her home. But for various reasons, she regularly participates in the TV Mass.

“It’s the celebrants, and the cantors are beautiful, the lector is always so good,” she said. “I look forward to it every week.”

Blinn said she especially appreciates the preaching in the TV Mass. “I really look

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

forward to the homilies.”

In fact, the day she spoke to *Celebrate!* Blinn said she had replayed the homily from the previous Sunday several times. Father Kalita preached on the topic of fear, she explained.

“His homily came at a time when I needed to hear it,” she said, explaining that anxiety and panic attacks can be debilitating for her. The TV Mass, and that one in particular, help her feel at peace. “They just have such a sense of the sacred.”

Carol Rost of Bellingham, Washington, first found the Mass during the pandemic when churches were closed. “I googled online Masses in Washington and instead of Washington state near me I found this one,” she said. She also has returned to more regular in-person liturgies, but she continues to seek out the Mass on YouTube sometimes. That’s especially true now that she and her husband are traveling internationally. She spoke with *Celebrate!* from central Mexico.

Like Blinn, Rost said she appreciates the cantors and the priests who preside, but the quality of the production particularly appeals to her.

“For some other online Masses they just point a camera at the altar and let it run,” she explained. “I’m very impressed with the video editing. It makes you feel more like you’re there in the church.”

From Rayne, Louisiana, Madeline McCaleb said the Washington-based Mass is part of a rotation of online liturgies from around the world that she joins regularly.

“I probably googled ‘livestream Catholic Mass’ one particular day and you popped up,” she said. “During COVID it was my means of staying connected.” She explained that she participated in online Masses in English-speaking churches wherever she came across them each week.

**“It’s the celebrants, and the cantors are beautiful, the lector is always so good. I look forward to it every week.”**

McCaleb said she regularly comes back to The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington Mass largely because of the priests who celebrate it. “There’s really a sense of community there. They seem so warm and accepting.”

She also appreciates what she learns. “I grew up in the days when Catholics weren’t encouraged to read the Bible,” she said. “A lot of times, the priest online does a better job in the homily of explaining the readings and I really like that.”

McCaleb said that one Lent “I realized I needed to do some housekeeping in my faith. I started finding a Mass to watch online daily. I felt so much better about my faith and my relationship with God that I kept doing it.” Her routine has become to rise early each day and settle down with a Mass online before she goes to swim at 6 a.m.

“I’ve been so blessed in my life that I offer the Mass I’m viewing for friends,” she explained. “Some of them are dealing with cancer. One recently lost her husband. Or someone will have had an accident or be suffering from some horrific disease.”

While she tours the world online in her daily online Mass viewing, McCaleb also sometimes brings a friend. She’ll go to visit a homebound older friend whose household includes a large dog, which prevents Eucharistic ministers from visiting to bring her Communion.

“Whenever I see her we ‘go to Mass.’” McCaleb said. “She asks ‘where are we going to go today?’ She can travel the world.”

“That’s the beauty of the whole experience of the pandemic,” she said. “I know online Mass was there before, but it was the catalyst for going to Mass on tech. I can go to Mass in Ireland or the Philippines. The beauty of it is, no matter where you go, the Mass is the Mass.”

## Regular server goes on to seminary



Andrew Lewandowski, a regular altar server for the TV Mass over the last year and a half, has moved on to seminary studies at Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

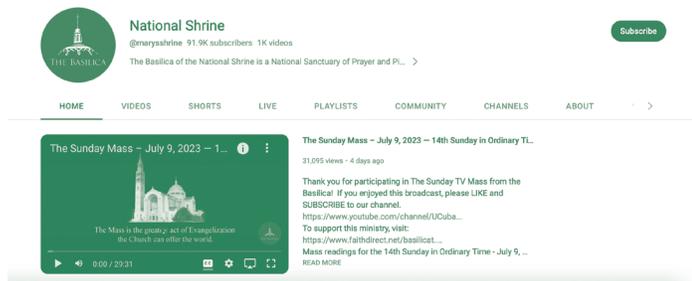
Andrew graduated from the Catholic University of America this spring with a BA in music and a minor in theology. He is from Middletown, New Jersey, where he graduated from Middletown High School North. His seminary studies are intended to lead him to the priesthood for his home Diocese of Trenton, New Jersey.

During his time at Catholic University he worked at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in a variety of jobs, including staffing the reception desk and assisting with the planning and execution of liturgies. That led him to begin serving at the altar during the TV Masses.

Sometimes seminarians at Mount Saint Mary’s are asked to serve at those Masses, so it’s possible he’ll be seen there again sometime in the coming years, he said.

## Watch the TV Mass Online

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



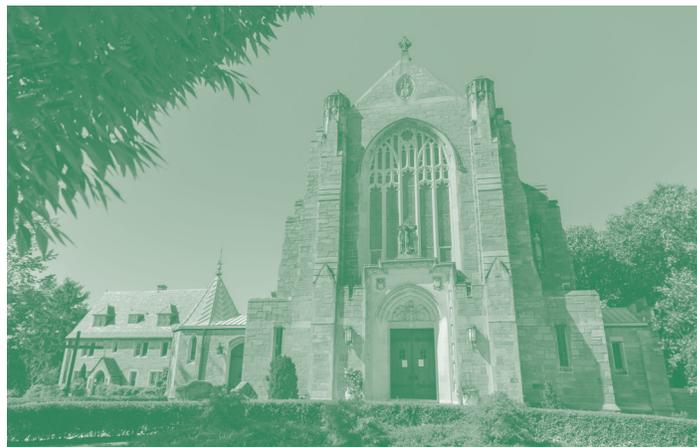
Make sure to like, share, and subscribe to the channel to never miss another TV Mass!

### DO YOU NEED A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER TO VISIT YOU ON SUNDAYS?

Please call your local parish to request that a Eucharistic Minister visit you at home.

If you live in The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington and are not sure which parish is closest to you, please call Claudia Cheek at 301-853-4516.

## Charitable Giving from Your IRA to the Church



The IRA charitable distribution permits individuals who are 70½ to gift up to \$100,000 from their IRA to charity free from federal income tax. If you are 72+ years old, then an IRA distribution may qualify for your required minimum distribution, permitting you to lower your income and taxes for this year while helping our Church.

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  
Joseph Gillmer  
(301) 853-5375 | [Gillmerj@adw.org](mailto:Gillmerj@adw.org)

## CELEBRATE!

is produced by The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington.

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The Roman Catholic  
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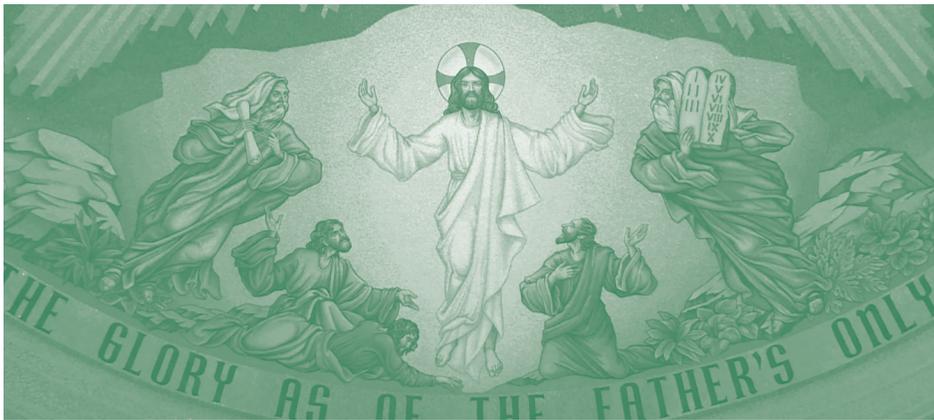
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# 4 NEWLY ORDAINED DEACON JOINS MASS

## Transfiguration feast has rare timing on a Sunday



Sunday Mass on Aug. 6 will be a bit more festive than usual summer Sundays in Ordinary Time. This year, the Feast of the Transfiguration falls on a Sunday, a rare occurrence, and Msgr. Kevin Hart will be the celebrant.

## Newly ordained deacon joins TV Mass

A regular participant in the Masses later this summer into the fall will be newly ordained Deacon Yannick Allepot.

Deacon Allepot is a Third Order Carmelite and a parishioner at Saint Camillus Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, where he started attending Mass in 2003.

Over the years, he has served as a lector and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. He has



served as an instructor for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is involved in couples' ministry, marriage preparation ministry, a charismatic prayer group, Bible study and a number of other ministries.

Deacon Allepot works as a financial analyst. He has been

married to his wife, Josy, for 19 years. They have three children.

## 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 your 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
Verizon	3

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