

SAINT PAUL'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

209 Washington St., Delaware City, DE 19706

St. Paul's Official Website is: <http://www.StPaulsRCChurch.org>.

Pastor: Father Philip L. Siry

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Sister Mary Vincent, O.S.F.S.

(410) 398-3699

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Secretary: Mrs. Toni Hebert

Fourth Sunday of Advent



WORD OF GOD FOR A SUNDAY:

The tiny village of Bethlehem holds the hope of Israel in the Old Testament and ultimately in the world. From there came both David the King and Jesus the Messiah. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, John the Precursor recognizes his savior, even in the womb.

THE READINGS:

Micah 5: -1-4

From Bethlehem will come a king who will "be" peace. All peoples will then live secure and with justice.

Hebrews 10:5-10

The Incarnation, the Christmas joy of God made human, finds its ultimate meaning in Easter. It was for his death and resurrection that Jesus came to live among us.

Luke 1:39-45

John the Baptist and Jesus, Emmanuel, meet for the first time in their mother's wombs. The Precursor and the Messiah exchange recognition at this very early meeting.

Offertory Collection

December 14, 2003

\$917.00

Religious Retirement

\$416.00

Eternal rest grant to Fr. Patrick Shaules, S.J., and Stanley Bachmura, Sr., father of Stan Bachmura, and all the souls of the faithful departed.

Lectors for the Christmas Masses are: 12/24 – 5 p.m. – Thomas Kaczmarczyk, 7 p.m. – Linda Michel, 12/25 – 9 a.m. – Susan Walker. Lectors for next weekend's Masses are: 5 p.m. – Linda Michel, 9 a.m. – Jacob Schmitt.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday,	December 20,	5:00 PM MASS FOR THE PEOPLE (living & deceased)
Sunday,	December 21,	9:00 AM (rip) Joseph Plunkett, Sr. by the Family
Monday,	December 22,	8:00 AM (rip) Sr. Mary Paul, OSFS, by Mary Smith
Tuesday,	December 23,	8:00 AM (rip) Ernest Mathieu by the Hebert Family
Wednesday,	December 24,	5:00 PM (rip) William Smith by Mary Smith 7:00 PM Plunkett Family (living & deceased)
Thursday,	December 25,	9:00 AM MASS FOR THE PEOPLE (living & deceased)
Friday,	December 26,	NO MASS OR COMMUNION SERVICE
Saturday,	December 27,	5:00 PM (rip) Richard & Rose Meli by Louise Meli
Sunday,	December 28,	9:00 AM MASS FOR THE PEOPLE (living & deceased)

The next **available dates** for **Mass Intentions** are: February 23, 24, and 25, 2004. **Mass stipends** are **\$10 per Mass** per Diocesan changes as of January 1, 2003.

The **Sanctuary Candle** is lit from December 13th – December 27th in memory of Albert Gondek by Charles Gondek.

Confessions will be heard on Monday, December 22nd, at 6:30 p.m. in preparation for Christmas.

Catholic Forum – Tune in to Catholic Forum each Sunday morning at 10:05 on AM 1150 WDEL or www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, December 28th, Milwaukee Brewers third-base coach, Rich Donnelly, will be interviewed. Catholic Forum is a production of the Diocese of Wilmington's Office of Communications.

Vocations – In today's first reading, the Lord promises to send One "who will shepherd his flock." God has kept that promise throughout the centuries and continues to call shepherds for His people. Is he calling you to serve as a shepherd – to minister to His people as a priest? If you think so, call Father Joe Cocucci, Diocesan Director of Vocations at (302) 573-3113.

Join our **CCD children** this Sunday at 10 a.m. in the Parish Hall as they present a Christmas pageant. Refreshments will follow. All are invited!



Dear Parishioners,

I would like to wish you a very blessed Christmas. A Christmas filled with peace, joy, and love that the Christ Child brought that first Christmas. I will remember all of you and your families in the three Christmas Masses. May the Christ Child, born this day in Bethlehem, bless and protect you always. I wish a Merry Christmas to you all.

*Sincerely in the Christ Child,
Father Philip Siry*