



The Catholic Community of

Saint Paul

LA IGLESIA CATÓLICA DE SAN PABLO
1010 West Fourth Street Wilmington, DE 19805
Tel: 302-655-6596

Website: <https://stpaulchurchde.org>

Email: saintpaulrectory@gmail.com

Donations/Donaciones

www.givecentral.org/cdowcovid19

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. John E. Olson, Pastor
Rev. Anthony M. Pileggi, Priest in residence
Felipe Almendarez, Deacon

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Damaris Hernández, ccdstpaulchurch@gmail.com

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Telephone: 302-576-4130 <http://www.sphelp.us>

St. Paul's Outreach / Food Pantry

Telephone: 443-606-3136

**OPEN Monday 10:00am - 11:00am and
by appointment, calling the number above!**

New Office Hours (Nuevo Horario de Oficina)

Monday - Thursday (lunes - jueves)
10:00 am. - 11:45a.m.; 1:30p.m. - 4:30p.m.

Closed on Holidays

BAPTISM OF CHILDREN
CALL THE RECTORY DURING
REGULAR OFFICE HOURS

MARRIAGE
CALL THE OFFICE AT LEAST
ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE

SWEET 15 & 16
BLESSINGS CALL THE OFFICE AT LEAST
ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE

MINISTRY TO THE SICK
PLEASE, CALL THE OFFICE!

MISAS / MASSES

Horario / Schedule

Domingos / Sundays

9:00 a.m. English (Church) / Inglés (Iglesia)
11:00 a.m. Spanish (Church) / Español (Iglesia)
1:00 p.m. Spanish (Church) / Español (Iglesia)
3:00 p.m. Spanish (Church) / Español (Iglesia)

Miércoles y Viernes / Wednesday & Friday:

5:00 p.m. Spanish (Chapel) / Español (Capilla)

Misa por los Enfermos / Mass for the Sick

Último martes (Last Tuesday) 5:00 p.m.
(Capilla/Chapel)

HORA SANTA/HOLY HOUR

CADA JUEVES/ EVERY THURSDAY 5:00 p.m.
(Capilla/Chapel)

RECONCILIATION/CONFESIONES

Wednesday/Miércoles & Friday/Viernes

4:30pm: Chapel/Capilla

Or by appointment: call the office
O por cita; llame a la oficina

BAUTISMO DE NIÑOS

LLAME A LA RECTORÍA DURANTE
HORAS DE OFICINA

MATRIMONIOS

LLAME A LA OFICINA CON AL MENOS
UN AÑO DE ANTICIPACIÓN

QUINCEAÑERAS

LLAME A LA OFICINA CON AL MENOS
UN AÑO DE ANTICIPACIÓN

MINISTERIO AL CUIDADO DE LOS ENFERMOS
FAVOR DE LLAMAR A LA OFICINA

IV DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

He aquí que la virgen concebirá y dará a luz un hijo, a quien pondrán el nombre de Emmanuel, que quiere decir Dios-con-nosotros. Mt 1, 23



21 diciembre 2025

Oración inicial: Señor Jesús, quiero ser humilde, justo y misericordioso como José. Veo que lo elegiste de antemano para que cumpliera tu voluntad y así se cumpliera tu plan de salvación. Ayúdame a comprender que yo también tengo un papel que desempeñar, y que mi “sí” te traiga mucha gloria.

Encuentro con Cristo:

Dios está en los detalles: Leemos: «Así fue el nacimiento de Jesucristo». Luego se desarrolla la historia del papel de José en el nacimiento de Cristo. El ángel lo llama «José, hijo de David» en el sueño, porque es a través de su linaje que Jesús será el legítimo heredero del trono de David. No fue una coincidencia que José fuera de la casa de Judá. Aunque este pequeño detalle pueda parecer insignificante, fue de suma importancia para el cumplimiento de las profecías del Antiguo Testamento. Incluso hoy, Dios usa los detalles más pequeños de nuestras vidas para seguir obrando la salvación. Quién soy, el momento de mi nacimiento, mi familia de origen, mis dones únicos, todo forma parte del plan de Dios para traer a Cristo al mundo hoy. Solo nosotros podemos cumplir el papel que Él nos ha encomendado, ahora, en este preciso momento.

Debemos elegir ser justos, incluso si...: «José, su esposo, como era un hombre justo y no quería exponerla a la vergüenza, decidió divorciarse de ella en secreto. Tal era su intención...» ¿Se sintió José traicionado y herido por lo que todos percibían como la infidelidad de María? ¡Qué admirable fue que hiciera lo correcto (divorciarse de María en secreto) en lugar de que la apedrearan, lo cual estaba permitido por la ley en ese momento! ¡Qué modelo a seguir debió haber sido para Jesús! Nosotros también debemos elegir ser «justos» incluso cuando nos hacen daño (o eso creemos) y dejar la reparación en manos de Dios.

Dios recompensa las buenas intenciones: Lo que el ángel le dijo a José debió haberle traído un gran alivio: «Porque por obra del Espíritu Santo ha concebido este niño...» Y entonces José hizo algo que pudo haber parecido muy extraño a cualquiera que supiera del embarazo de María: «Tomó a su esposa en su casa». ¡Nuestras buenas intenciones no pueden quedarse solo en buenas intenciones! Debemos llevarlas a cabo hasta el final. Al igual que a José, Dios nos dice: «No tengan miedo...» Podemos confiar en la ayuda de Dios para terminar todo lo que Él nos llama a hacer.

Conversando con Cristo: Oh Jesús, ayúdame a estar abierto a tus planes, incluso si parecen completamente diferentes a los míos. Dame la gracia de elegir la rectitud, de actuar según mis buenas intenciones y de ser misericordioso, porque, Señor, por mí mismo, seguramente fracasaré. Ayúdame a parecerme cada vez más a ti, quien ahora veo que aprendiste la rectitud no solo de Dios Padre, sino también de tu padre terrenal, José.

Propósito: Señor, hoy, por tu gracia, elegiré hacer lo correcto en las cosas grandes y pequeñas, incluso cuando duela, incluso si significa que mis planes se vean interrumpidos para cumplir tu plan.

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." Matthew 1:23



December 21, 2025

Opening Prayer: Lord Jesus, I want to be humble, righteous, and merciful like Joseph. I see that you chose him in advance to do your will in order to fulfill your plan of salvation. Help me to see that I have a part to play as well, and may my "yes" bring you much glory.

Encountering Christ:

1. **God Is in the Details:** We read: "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." Then unfolds the story of Joseph's role in the birth of Christ. He is called "Joseph, son of David" by the angel in the dream because it is through his lineage that Jesus will be the rightful heir to David's throne. It was no coincidence that Joseph was of the house of Judah. Although this small detail may seem insignificant, it was of utmost importance in order to fulfill the Old Testament prophecies. Even today, God uses the smallest details of our lives to continue to bring about salvation. Who I am, the timing of my birth, my family of origin, my unique giftedness are all part of God's plan to bring Christ into the world today. Only we can fulfill the role he has ordained for us, now, at this very moment in time.

1. **We Must Choose to Be Righteous Even If...:** "Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention..." Did Joseph feel betrayed and hurt by what everyone perceived as Mary's infidelity? How commendable it was of him to do the right thing (divorce Mary quietly) instead of having her stoned, which was permitted by law at that time. What a role model for Jesus he must have been! We, too, must choose to be "righteous" even when we are wronged (or so we think) and leave the restitution up to God.

1. **God Rewards Good Intentions:** What the angel told Joseph must have brought him great relief: "For it is through the *Holy Spirit* that this child has been conceived in her..." And then Joseph did something that may have seemed very odd to anyone who knew of Mary's pregnancy: "He took his wife into his home." Our good intentions cannot stop at good intentions! We must follow through—all the way to the end. Like Joseph, God says to us, "Do not be afraid..." We can count on God's help to finish whatever God calls us to do.

Conversing with Christ: O Jesus, help me to be open to your plans, even if they look completely different from my own. Give me the grace to choose to be righteous, to act on my good intentions, and to be merciful because Lord, on my own, I will surely fail. Help me to look and act more and more like you, who I now see learned righteousness not only from God the Father, but from your earthly father, Joseph, as well.

Resolution: Lord, today by your grace I will choose to do "the right thing" in big and small ways, even when it hurts, even if it means my plans are interrupted to fulfill your plan.

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

RETROUVAILLE: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program begins the weekend of February 6-8, 2026 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, call 215-766-3944 or visit www.MarriageHelpDeVal.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.



Year-End Giving: 2025 Tax Incentives Make This the Year to Give to the Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal:

Recent federal tax updates now allow *all taxpayers*—even those who take the standard deduction—to claim a deduction for charitable contributions. That means your gifts to the **Faith and Charity Catholic Appeal**, and the charities of your choice, may qualify for additional tax benefits this year.

It's also worth noting that new limits on charitable deductions are expected to take effect in **2026**, so **2025 is the ideal year to increase your giving** and make your generosity go further.

As always, we recommend consulting your financial or tax advisor for details on how these opportunities may benefit you.

Your generosity helps bring hope, healing, and faith to thousands across our Diocese - thank you for making it possible!

fourth SUNDAY OF ADVENT

■ LIGHT THE ADVENT WREATH

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit ... Come Lord Jesus, be our light! Help us to trust in you, as Joseph trusted in God.

■ READ THE GOSPEL for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (Cycle A) Matthew 1:18-24

“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him ...”

■ REFLECT WITH A STORY

Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married when Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. After hearing this news, Joseph decided to call off the marriage. But an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him to stay with Mary and take care of her. The angel said the baby was God’s son and should be named Jesus.

This was not at all what Joseph had planned! The angel’s message was so unusual, and would require so much from him, that it would have been easier for Joseph to pretend he didn’t hear it. Instead, he trusted God and did what the angel asked, even though it would change his life.

Like Joseph, a group of Dominican sisters in India had to change their plans in order to respond to God’s call. They arrived in India in 1954, intent on opening a new hospital. But at that time, many men were losing their factory jobs, which meant that many women were looking for work so they could take care of their families. The Dominican sisters saw this, and instead of founding a hospital, they started St. Mary’s, a sewing and embroidery center, where women could come and work, and be a part of a supportive community.

Because these nuns trusted in God’s plan rather than sticking to their own, they were able to help Keechi, an Indian woman whose husband and older daughter had passed away. With the money she makes through sewing and embroidery, she is able to send her daughter, Reena, to school.

The Dominican sisters’ example invites us to consider how God may be calling us—like he called Joseph—to trust in him enough to do things we wouldn’t have necessarily planned for ourselves.



Photo courtesy of SERRV

PRAY

Father God, we ask that, like Joseph, we will trust in you and do your will, even when it isn’t what we would have planned for ourselves. Amen

REFLECT

How is God calling you to trust in him?

ACT

This week, practice this simple prayer each night before bed: “Jesus I trust in you.”

GIVE

Help people like Keechi work in a safe place and provide for their families by purchasing items they’ve crafted, like accessories and gifts. Visit crsfairtrade.org.



Parish News

Información Parroquial

Actividades de ésta semana

Lunes 22: POSADAS

6:00 pm Misa
6:30 Posadas

Martes 23: 6:00 pm Misa

6:30 pm Posadas

Miércoles 24: 8:30 Villancicos

9:00 pm Misa de Nochebuena

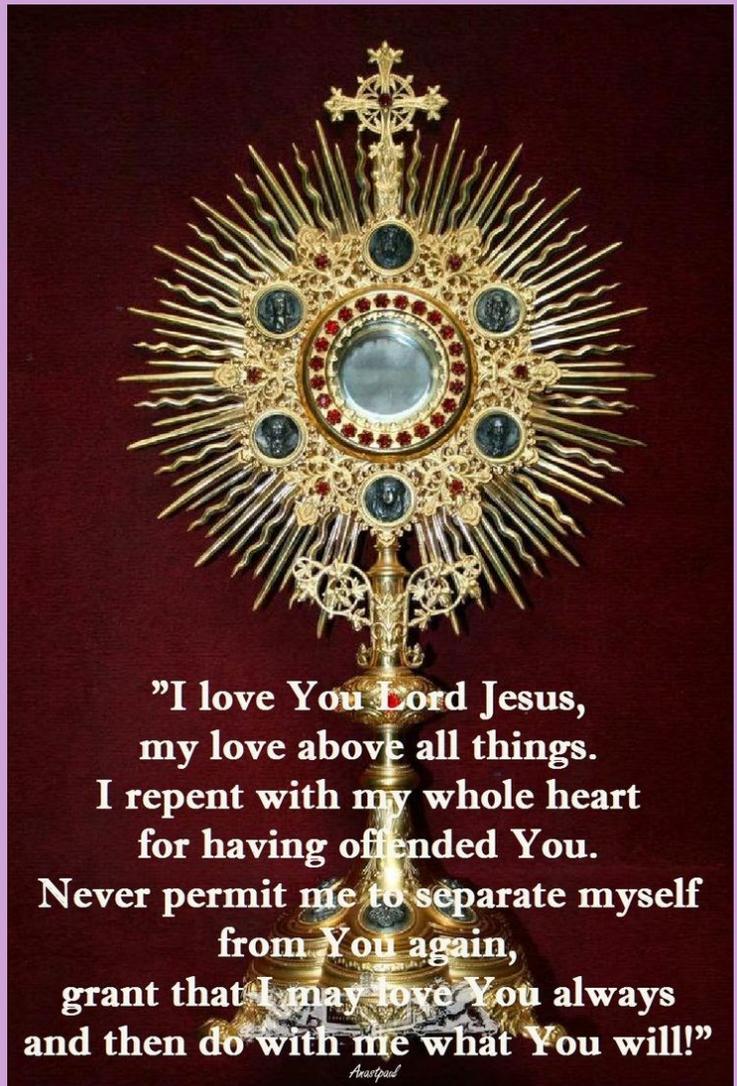
Jueves 25: NAVIDAD

9:00 am Mass (English)

10:00 am Misa (Español)

Viernes 26: 4:30 Confesiones

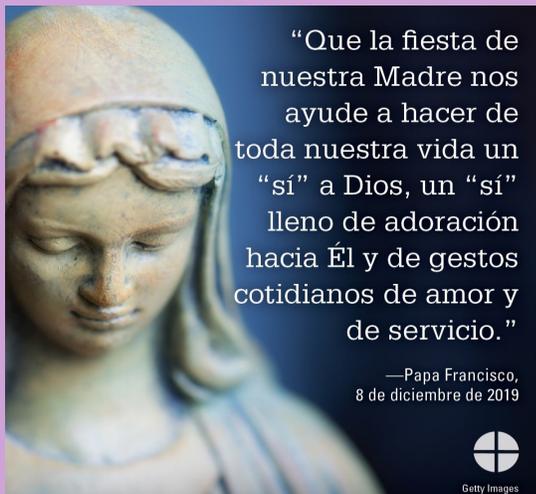
5:00 pm Misa



**Readings
To-Go!**

4th Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2025

Scan QR code to see
this week's readings!



25 diciembre 2025

No Habra Hora Santa

**Por los cristianos en contextos de
conflicto**

Oremos para que los cristianos que viven en contextos de guerra o conflicto, especialmente en Medio Oriente, sean semillas de paz, reconciliación y esperanza

Mass Intentions For The Week



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Sunday (12/21/25)

- 9:00a Feligreses
- 11:00a + Rosa Alejandro
- 1:00p + Amanda Hernandez
- 3:00p + Maria de Jesus Soria-Hernandez/
+ Benjamin Leyva Lara

Monday (12/23/25) Posadas

6:00 p

Tuesday (12/23/25) Posadas

6:00 p

Wednesday (12/24/25) Nochebuena

9:00 p + Ismael Prado

Thursday (12/25/25)

9:00 a + Pedro Cintron Nieves

10:00 a

Friday (12/26/25)

5:00 p + Alvaro Restrepo

Sunday (12/28/25)

9:00a + Antolin Gutierrez/ +Yomaris Ortiz

11:00a + Edwin Figueroa

1:00p + Amanda Hernandez

3:00p + Maria deJesus Soria-Hernandez
+Benjamin Leyva Lara



PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION COUNT
Please become a registered parishioner. Being a registered parishioner will help St. Paul's and help you in many ways. For example, many people ask for parish letters for immigration, sacraments sponsorship, or taxes. In order for us to write such a letter you need to be a registered parishioner for at least three months. This information is private and it is share with others only if you request it. **Please call the parish office (302) 655-6596 to complete the registration process**

TU DONACIÓN CUENTA

Por favor, sea un feligrés registrado. Al ser un feligrés registrado, ayuda a la Iglesia y se ayuda usted mismo. Si necesita alguna carta para inmigración, documentos legales, para ser padrinos de sacramentos, o para pro-pósitos de impuestos, debe estar registrado al menos por tres meses para poder recibir dicha carta. Esta información es privada y la compartimos solo si usted nos da la autorización. Encontrará un formulario pe-queño al final de esta nota. **Favor de llamar a la oficina parroquial (302) 655-6596 para completar el proceso de registra-cion.**

Register in Our Parish!!! ;Regístrate en Nuestra Parroquia!

Weekly Collections



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November 23, 2025 Offerings

Amount Needed 1st Collection	\$3,500.00
Actual Collection	\$2,427.00
*Amount UNDER	\$1,073.00
Postage Help	\$847.00
11/22 Retreat mass	\$1,002.00
Mother of Divine Providence	\$44.00



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