

COLLECT: Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. AMEN

THE GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-56 (NKJV)

³⁹ Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, ⁴⁰ and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴² Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!" ⁴³ But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. ⁴⁵ blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord." ⁴⁶ And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷ And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. ⁴⁸ For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. ⁴⁹ For He who is mighty has done great things for me, And holy is His name. ⁵⁰ And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the lowly. ⁵³ He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty. ⁵⁴ He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, ⁵⁵ As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and to his seed forever."



ST. Paul's CEC

charismatic evangelical sacramental together



Sunday December 23rd, 2012 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Birthday: Today = Jessica Fritz,
Dec. 27th = Lilliana Palsgrove

Be persistent, don't give up, continue to pray for healing and good continued health for Ralph Kallan, Elton Blair, Jack Gilmour, Bill Ruth, Pat Bird, Kevin Helms, and Bettye Gilmour. Bettye is at home & on the mend from surgery.

*Hello and blessing to all! My name is Tamara, I am the mother of Tiyonna, the young lady at JoAnn's that was given a beautiful gift today. My daughter surprised me with a call this evening while on her break at work, stating that woman came by and blessed her with a gift and that we were going to have a Christmas after all. At first I couldn't believe what she was telling me and told her to stop joking around. She then continued to explain that a nice woman had told her that she (my daughter) and her family were in her thoughts and prayers and wanted to let us know that St. Paul's Church had adopted our family for the holidays. I wanted to let you know that you are now the ones being thought of and prayed for and I want to say a HUGE thank you! I can't express to you how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity, to help out a family in need, especially a family that you don't know. My family is truly going through some difficult times. So again, I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your thoughts and prayers. We send blessing your way and hope to meet you soon.
Sincerely, Your "Christmas Family"*

The 6th annual Christmas ornament exchange will be held on January 5th, 2013. Looking for someone to host this event, please see Clara if you are willing.

**TOMORROW NIGHT, CHRISTMAS EVE WE WILL
CELEBRATE WITH MUSIC AND MASS AT 7:00PM.
INVITE A FRIEND AND COME PREPARED TO WORSHIP.**

FIRST READING Micah 5:2-4 (NIV)

² "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." ³ Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. ⁴ He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

THE PSALM 80

Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

***You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth** before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might;

***come and save us. Restore us, O God;**

make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

How long, LORD God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people?

*** You have fed them with the bread of tears;**

you have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

***Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.**

You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

***You cleared the ground for it,**

and it took root and filled the land.

The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches.

***Its branches reached as far as the Sea,
its shoots as far as the River.**

Why have you broken down its walls
so that all who pass by pick its grapes?

***Boars from the forest ravage it,
and insects from the fields feed on it.**

Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see!

***Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted,
the son you have raised up for yourself.**

Your vine is cut down; it is burned with fire;
at your rebuke your people perish.

***Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.**

Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.

***Restore us, LORD God Almighty; make your face shine on
us, that we may be saved.**

SECOND READING Hebrews 10:5-10 (NIV)

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said:

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,
but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings
and sin offerings you were not pleased.

Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, my God.'" ⁸ First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them"—though they were offered in accordance with the law. ⁹ Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. ¹⁰ And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.