

## Media Coverage Advisory - Recording Devices Restricted

**To:** News Editors and Assignment Desks

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**Liturgy Required Following Desecration of Worship Space**

**RE: Mass of Repentance and Reparation at St. Paul Albanian Church**

**Date:** Friday, April 4, 2003, at 6:30 p.m.

Bishop Leonard Blair, auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Detroit, will celebrate a ***Mass of Repentance and Reparation at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 4***, at St. Paul Albanian Catholic Church, 525 W. Auburn (east of M-59) in Rochester Hills. Father Anton Kcira (pronounced *Cheer-ah*), administrator of St. Paul Albanian, will lead the Stations of the Cross at 6 p.m., a half-hour prior to the Mass.

This *Mass of Repentance and Reparation* is required by Church law (Canon 1211) after a worship space has been desecrated. (St. Paul Albanian Catholic Church was the site of a fatal shooting that occurred during the Offertory at 12:30 p.m. Mass on Sunday, March 30. A gunman opened fire, shooting and killing a man seated in one of the pews. The gunman was subdued by parishioners and is in police custody.)

**At the request of the pastor and parish leadership, no recording devices--video, audio, or still photography—will be allowed inside the church building prior to or during the Stations of the Cross or the Mass. Because of the large number of people expected to attend, media vehicles will have to be parked around the back of the church building (follow the directions of on site security personnel.) Also, members of the media are asked to respect the rights of parishioners as they enter and depart the church building.**

At the beginning of the *Mass of Repentance and Reparation*, the altar will not be dressed, lit, or revered. Bishop Blair will bless water and sprinkle it first on the altar, then on the walls of the church, and then on the people. The altar will be dressed at the Offertory, during the presentation of the gifts.

St. Paul Albanian Catholic Church was founded in 1981 and is made up of 900 households. Originally located in Warren, the parish moved to Rochester Hills in July of 2003.

Media organizations with questions regarding this advisory or its directives should contact the Department of Communications of the Archdiocese of Detroit at 313-237-5943.

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