St. Víncent De Paul Church

109 East Price Street +Philadelphia, PA 19144-2145 +215-438-2925 www.facebook.com/StVincentDePaulCatholicCommunity +www.saint-vincent-church.org

Mission Statement

St. Vincent de Paul is a faith community striving to live Jesus' gospel message of love, peace and justice for all peoples. In the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul, our inclusive community welcomes, affirms and serves both the poorest of the poor and those who are alienated and most vulnerable among us. Our individual faith journeys join together in the celebration of the Eucharist. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we will continue to nurture the gifts of all our members. Our parish family will draw strength and unity from diversity. We will foster an atmosphere of warmth, hospitality and prayerfulness. We pray that our commitment to these efforts will further the mission of being one with our God and one with each other.

> The DePaul Catholic School, An Independent Mission School 44 W. Logan Street + Philadelphia, PA 19144 + 215-842-1266 + www.thedepaulcatholicschool.org

Parish Staff

Sylvester Peterka, C.M.
Pastor, Ext. #218
Joseph Cummins, C.M.
Parochial Vicar, Ext #220

Valerie Lee-Jeter
Darin P. Williams
Ministers of Music

◆ JoAnn O'Connor
 Bookkeeper, Ext. #229
 ◆ Evelyn Rogers
 Parish Social Ministry
 215-438-1514

Corbin Gardner &
 Grace Yi
 Directors of Religious
 Education

♦Dan Kraning & Katie Crump

Directors of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

◆*PAR-Recycle Works Prison Ministry* Timothy Lyons,C.M. & Laura Ford 267-335-5455 Par-recycleworks.org



Partners in Ministry

◆ Inn Dwelling Sr. RosemarieJefferson Administrator Alfred J. Smith, C.M. Director
215-438-2195

215-438-2195 inndwelling.org ◆*Face to Face* Mary Kay Meeks-Hank Exec. Director

215-849-0179 267-566-8402 facetofacegermantown.org ♦ My Place Germantown Jeffrey Williamson Executive Director js@myplacegermantown.org

215-763-6387

Eucharistic Celebration Saturday 4pm, Sunday 9 & 11am Sacrament of Reconciliation Please call for an appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

SUN	12/25 ¹ Talk & Maria Meloli	10:00 am
MON	12/26 NO MASS	
TUE	12/27 John Meloni	7:00 am
WED	12/28 Sr. Miriam Fidelis Tobin	7:00 am
THU	12/29 Wayne Smith	7:00 am
FRI	12/30 Wayne Smith	7:00 am
SAT	12/31 Miraculous Medal	4:00pm

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUN FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

OTINI

SAT Sacrament of Penance 3-3:30 pm

FOR THIS WE PRAY Parishioners

Muriel Ancrum, Patricia Banmiller, Bernadette Barry, Katherine Elliott, Tom Weir, Anoah Curtis, Myles McDonald, William Drinker, Judith Di Battista, Ruby Tyer, Donna Jean Cocchia, Leo Johnson, Patricia Judge, Pat Burton, Thomas Baumann, Dick Taylor, Ginny Witte, Edna Poole, Nan Wade, Betsy Moore, Vince Morgan, Gerry Widmann, Kay Harty, Mary Lynn Kraft, Darryl Carroll, Natalie Gianetti, Arlene Myers, Betty Barnett, Annie Serious, Mark Rogers, Mary Ellen Graham.

Friends of St. Vincent's

Maryann Hunsicker, Steven David Aslow, Mary Fazzini DeCanelo, Laura Alfonse, Nancy Tooker, C'Aron & Wynter Marie Hamilton, Tim McCabe, Harrison Harper, Claude Harper, Jaedon Anthony Horton, Arturo Magana Herrera, Lisa Kineke, John Brennan, Ashley Kiker, The Carey Family, Monique & Joseph Phillips, Dan Wuenschel, Ashley Margetech, Johnny Hilferty, Diane McCabe, Judy Spearmint, Millie Kribel, Kathleen Lawson, Dorothy Heimlich, Connie Bronson, Joseph Simmons, Amy Natkins, Terri Jackson, Alice Penderghest, Samuel Gonzalez, Mary Elizabeth Unterfofler, Ana Esquilin Santos, Ann Rainsford & Family, Rayan Bousso, Richard Lipton, Palmina Rucker, Martha King Cox, Anna Satchell, Steve Damville, Jessica Jara, Joe Hagan, Ned Dugery, Fred Ludwig, Marie Anderson, Vincent Owens, , Barbara Rothenbach, Diane Harris, Siobhan Barrett, Mary Corini, Robert Glasgow. Our Sister Parish of Las Anonas de Santa Cruz, El Salvador. Those who fight in wars, those who are victims of war, and those who seek peace and justice.

Please pray for the soul of **Wayne Smith**, *brother of Jerry Smith, and for Jerry, Robin, and their family.*

PASTORAL CARE

We will bring the Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass regularly because of sickness or infirmity. Please call the Rectory, at 215-438-2925.

Last Week's Collection	3,981.75
Electronic	2,972.00.
Total	6,753.75
Tithe	337.70

Today's Readings

First Reading: Psalm: Second Reading: Gospel:

Iuckcj '52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-6 John''1:1-18

Readings for Next Week

First Reading:Numbers 6:22-27Psalm:Psalm 67Second Reading:Galatians 4:4-7Gospel:Luke 2:16-21

Monday:	Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps
	31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc, 17;
	Mt 10:17-22
Tuesday:	1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6,
	11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8
Wednesday:	1 Jn 1:5 — 2:2; Ps 124:2-5,
2	7b-8; Mt 2:13-18
Thursday:	1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6;
	Lk 2:36-40
Friday:	Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Col
5	3:12-21 [12-17]; Ps 128:1-5;
	Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Saturday:	1 Jn 2:18-21; Ps 96:1-2,
	11-13; Jn 1:1-18

BAPTISM OF OUR CHILDREN

Call Fr. Sy Peterka, Pastor, at 215-438-2925, ext. 218, for available dates and additional information.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

The RCIA is the process through which adults become members of the Catholic Church. If you are interested in exploring whether the Catholic Church is where you want to begin or continue your Christian faith journey, please contact the Rectory at 215-438-2925.

THOSE IN NEED OF THE SACRAMENTS

Please contact Fr. Sy Peterka, at 215-438-2925 ext.218, to make arrangements.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

If you are interested in becoming involved in one or more of our Parish ministries, call the Church office, at 215-438-2925. PARISH OUTREACH

Non-perishable food donations may be made Monday, Tuesday and Friday between 9am and Noon. To make an appointment for any other time, please call Evelyn Rogers at 215-438-1514.

RESERVATIONS FOR MEETINGS/EVENTS Please call the Church office, 215-438-2925.

RACIAL HEALING STATEMENT

To foster a community in which people of all races and cultures are treated as equals and fully participate in the life of the church. We hope to achieve this by... Deepening Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural relationships; Developing each person's gifts for Leadership & Min-istry, (Including each group's Art & Culture) and by... Supporting actions for justice.



WE WISH EVERYONE A CHRISTMAS FILLED WITH JOY, HAPPINESS, AND PEACE

MUSIC MINISTRY

Our new CD available for purchase at \$15 with proceeds supporting the ministry and capital campaign.

THE "GIVING TREE"

Thank you for your gifts for children and adults at Face to Face, My Place Germantown, Inn Dwelling and DePaul Catholic. We are so grateful for your generosity and loving support.

LECTORS

If you are a "seasoned" lector, please sign up for January, February and March Masses in the Liturgy Prep Room near the main church door (to the left as you enter). If you are an aspiring lector, please contact the rectory and we will reach out to train you. We are especially eager to have more youth (postconfirmation) and young adult lectors! Additional "At Home with the Word" books—with all the readings for each week of the liturgical year—are being ordered for parishioners to purchase in coming weeks after Mass. Thanks for helping us "sell out" and for your patience if you still want a book to enhance your prayer life!

LEGION OF MARY

Legion of Mary meets Wednesdays at 1:30pm in the rectory.

SENIORS MINISTRY

We are meeting for fun, food and fellowship in the Hospitality Center on Wednesdays at 11:00am.

HOSPITALITY

Please join us for hospitality provided by the community after the 9am Mass in the Hospitality center. You can sign up to help as an individual, family or group on the bulletin board by the side entrance. Volunteers buy donuts, OJ and milk and are reimbursed. All other items are provided in the Center's cabinet. Please arrive early to make coffee prior to Mass. All items are sold for fifty cents. Questions? Call Jack DiFeo 215 287-5682.

HONORING DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

St. Philip Neri Church, 437 Ridge Pike in Lafayette Hill will host a prayer and conversation gathering on **Monday**, **January 16 with a choir prelude at 6:30 and prayer service at 7pm** called *A Dream in Black and White: Growing in Understanding as Catholics.* All are welcome!

POWER UPDATE

Come celebrate MLK Day (**Monday, January 16**) at a city-wide march convening at 12 noon at Mother Bethel AME Church (6th & Lombard Sts), a church that symbolizes the continual recommitment to justice we are called to make, and pass along to our children. Watch for more details in early January.

POWER will also sponsor a series of trainings for the serious work we need to do in 2017 and beyond. The first training will be on Sun Jan 15 (MLK's actual birthday), 5 to 8 PM at 2nd Baptist Church of Germantown. This will be dedicated to Non-Violent Direct Action, in the spirit of MLK's own work. There will be a break-out group just for young people (high school age). This march is sponsored by a coalition of organizations including POWER, of which St Vincent's is a member.

POWER/ Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower & Rebuild is a interfaith coalition of 50+ congregations in the city and suburbs working together to change policies that exclude and harm people of color, people of low income, and immigrants in our communities! We work to increase the minimum wage, improve public school funding, and reform criminal justice practices. For more info, contact parish POWER co-chairs Terri Burgin (215-651-0100) or Mary Laver (610-324-9388)

RECONCILIATION UNITY MINISTRY INVITATION

The mission of the Reconciliation & Unity Ministry (RUM) is to foster our "becoming One Body of Christ" as a parish community where all are welcome - across races, generations, sexual orientations, countries of origin, and Mass preferences - to encounter Christ's loving presence in each other.

RUM began in the aftermath of the national trauma generated by the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson in 2014, when Fr Sy invited a diverse group of parishioners to come together to reflect on what our times called us to be and do as a parish community. In its first two years, RUM initiated the Pew Conversations to encourage dialogue among parishioners about the meaning of the Gospel for our lives. RUM also launched Movie Nights, bringing us together to think about pressing and potentially divisive issues like racism, homophobia, and immigration. RUM's main purpose is not to start new programs but to encourage our many ministries - from liturgy to social justice - to use "becoming One" as a central guide for their work.

RUM members commit to meeting together monthly, and following up on "homework" that aris-es between meetings, to talk, plan or collaborate with members of other ministries or external groups about ideas raised in RUM. And we have a oneday retreat coming up on **Saturday**, **January 14** for all old and new RUM members, so **save that date**!

CONCERT AT ST. VINCENT'S

This is NOT a religious concert, nor is it a fundraiser. It is being given by an out man, Bobby Jo Valentine, who has a real gift for songwriting and singing, on **Saturday, January 14 at 6pm** in the church. Tickets are only \$15. Bobby will also perform a song at the 4pm Mass; there will be hospitality from 5 to 6 and the concert at 6. Jack DiFeo and others will be selling tickets after the Masses or you can contact him directly. It would make a nice Chanukah or Christmas gift for friends or family or for yourself.

Saint Vincent de Paul Parish Registration Form

Thanks for being here! If you would like to become an ACTIVE member of St. Vincent De Paul Parish (full-time or part-time), we invite you to **complete the Parish Registration form below.**

Date	Envelo	ope number
Name		
last		first
Address		
City	State_	Zip
Date of Birth	Home	Phone
Cell		
Email		
Full name and rel	ationship of a	ll resident family members
	DOB	Relationship
Have you receive	d the Sacrame	ents?

()Baptism ()Confirmation ()First Communion Are you interested in ()Liturgical Ministry ()Service Ministry

(Can you sing, lector, teach....)

Please place completed form in the Offeratory basket or send to the Parish Office and we will contact you.

Bulletin Deadline: Mondays by noon. Email to secretary@saint-vincent-church.org

St. Vincent de Paul Church Electronic Donation Authorization ES6255

Thank you for considering donations to St. Vincent de Paul electronically via your bank account. Please complete this form so that we can set things up for you. If you have questions, call Kitty at 215-438-2925x229

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zation to process debit entries to my bank acccount. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization. Authorized signature and Date:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL, CHRISTMAS 2016

WONDER-COUNSELOR, BLESS THE CHURCH, AND REMIND HER LEADERS THAT YOU DWELL WITHIN EACH OF US. MAY THEY FOSTER THE DIGNITY OF ALL, OF EVERY RACE, CLASS, AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION.(LET US PRAY TO THE LORD)

THIS BLESSED DAY, WHEN WE ARE REMINDED THAT THE INFANT IN THE MANGER IS THE SPLENDOR OF GOD MADE MANIFEST, IS ALSO A DAY WHEN MANY PARTS OF OUR WORLD ARE IN CHAOS AND CONFLICT. MAY WORLD LEADERS DRAW INSPIRATION FROM THE PRINCE OF PEACE AND WORK TO MAKE THIS A SAFER, MORE JUST WORLD. (LET US PRAY TO THE LORD)

WE GREET THE WORD MADE FLESH WHO PITCHED HIS TENT AMONG US. MAY WE KNOW HIM IN THIS GATHERED ASSEMBLY, OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS, IN OUR FEASTING AND GIFTING, AND THE LOVE WE HAVE FOR EACH OTHER. (LET US PRAY TO THE LORD)

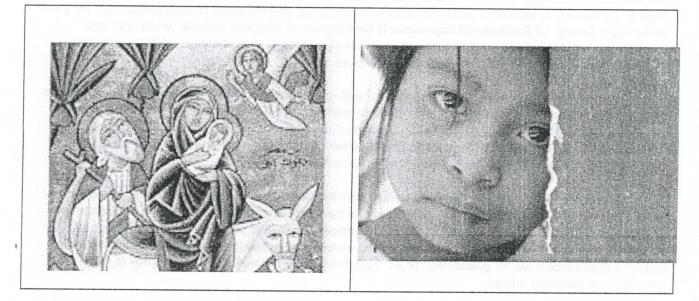
AS WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS PROCLAIMED TO THE SHEPHERDS MAY WE REMEMBER GOD'S SPECIAL PREFERENCE FOR THE POOR AND DO ALL WE CAN TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY IN OUR MIDST. (LET US PRAY TO THE LORD)

O ONLY JOY OF HUMAN HEARTS, HEAL THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING ANXIETY FROM THE BURDENS OF POOR HEALTH, UNEMPLOYMENT, ECONOMIC CONCERNS AND LONELINESS. MAY THOSE WHO HAVE DIED ENJOY THE FULLNESS OF DESIRE. (WE PRAY TO THE LORD)

BERNADETTE MARIE CRONIN-GELLER

Preparing the Way for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees # 3

"Child Migrants: the Vulnerable and the Voiceless" Pope Francis' Letter to Us for the World Day of Migrants, January 15th, 2017 - Part 3



As we celebrate the mystery of Christ's birth as the most awesome gift of God to the people, we remember that he and his parents would soon become refugees in Egypt. With this in mind, we read the last third of Pope Francis' letter on refugee children and the risks their parents and themselves must face to save their lives. From last week's second part, we emphasize his ardent request that we "become aware that the phenomenon of migration is not unrelated to salvation history, but rather a part of that history." This, Francis says, is the first part of our response to the reality of the vulnerability of refugee children. In this third part he will discuss two more points, and finish by entrusting refugees and immigrants and each and all of us "who are close to them" to the family of Nazareth. Today we pray for thousands of Central American children who came looking for survival in the United States in the last few years, only to face detention or deportation and the denial of valid asylum claims.

PART THREE

It is necessary, therefore, for immigrants to cooperate ever more closely with the communities that welcome them, for the good of their own children. We are deeply grateful to organizations and institutions, both ecclesial and civil, which commit time and resources to protect minors from various forms of abuse. It is important to implement more effective and incisive cooperation, based not only on the exchange of information, but also on the reinforcement of networks capable of assuring timely and specific intervention; and this, without underestimating the strength that ecclesial communities reveal especially when they are united in prayer and fraternal communion.

Secondly, we need to work for the integration of children and adolescents who are migrants. They depend totally on the adult community. Very often the scarcity of financial resources prevents the adoption of adequate policies aimed at assistance and inclusion. As a result, instead of favoring the social integration of child migrants, or sponsoring programs for safe and assisted repatriation, there is simply an attempt to curb the entrance of immigrants, which in turn fosters illegal networks; or else immigrants are repatriated to their country of origin without any concern for their wellbeing.

The condition of child migrants is worsened when their status is not regularized or when they are recruited by criminal organizations. In such cases they are usually sent to detention centers. It is not unusual for them to be arrested, and because they have no money to pay the fine or for the return journey, they can be incarcerated for long periods, exposed to various kinds of abuse and violence. In these instances, the right of states to control migratory movements and to protect the common good of the nation must be seen in conjunction with the duty to resolve and regularize the situation of child migrants, fully respecting their dignity and seeking to meet their needs when they are alone, but also the needs of their parents, for the good of the entire family. Of fundamental importance is the adoption of adequate national procedures and mutually agreed plans of cooperation between countries of origin and of destination, with the intention of eliminating the causes of the forced emigration of minors.

Thirdly, to all I address a heartfelt appeal to seek and implement long-term solutions. Since this is a complex phenomenon, the question of child migrants must be tackled at its source. Wars, human rights violations, corruption, poverty, environmental imbalance and disasters, are all causes of this problem. Children are the first to suffer, at times undergoing torture and other physical violence, in addition to moral and psychological aggression, which almost always leave indelible scars.

It is absolutely necessary, therefore, to deal with the causes that trigger migrations in the countries of origin. This requires, as a first step, the commitment of the whole international community to eliminate the conflicts and violence that force people to flee. Furthermore, far-sighted perspectives are called for, capable of offering adequate programs for areas struck by the worst injustice and instability, in order that access to authentic development can be guaranteed for all. This development should promote the good of boys and girls, who are humanity's hope.

Lastly, I wish to address a word to you, who walk alongside migrant children and young people: they need your precious help. The Church too needs you and supports you in the generous service you offer. Do not tire of courageously living the Gospel, which calls you to recognize and welcome the Lord Jesus among the smallest and most vulnerable. I entrust all child migrants, their families, their communities, and you who are close to them, to the protection of the Holy Family of Nazareth; may they watch over and accompany each one on their journey. With my prayers, I gladly impart my Apostolic Blessing.

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Loving Father:	Padre amoroso,
in your infinite compassion	en tu infinita compasión,
we search for your protection for refugee children	buscamos tu divina protección para los niños refugiados
who so often are lonely and afraid.	que muchas veces están solos y con temor.
Please console those who have witnessed	Brinda consuelo a los que han sido
violence and destruction, '	testigos de violencia y destrucción,
who have lost parents, relatives, friends, home,	que han perdido padres, familiares, amigos, hogar,
and all they cherished because of war	y todo lo que apreciaban,debido a la guerra o la
or persecution.	persecución.
Open our hearts	Abre nuestros corazones
to the refugee and migrant children in need,	a los niños migrantes y refugiados necesitados,
so that we may see in them	para que podamos ver en ellos
your own migrant Son.	a tu propio Hijo migrante.

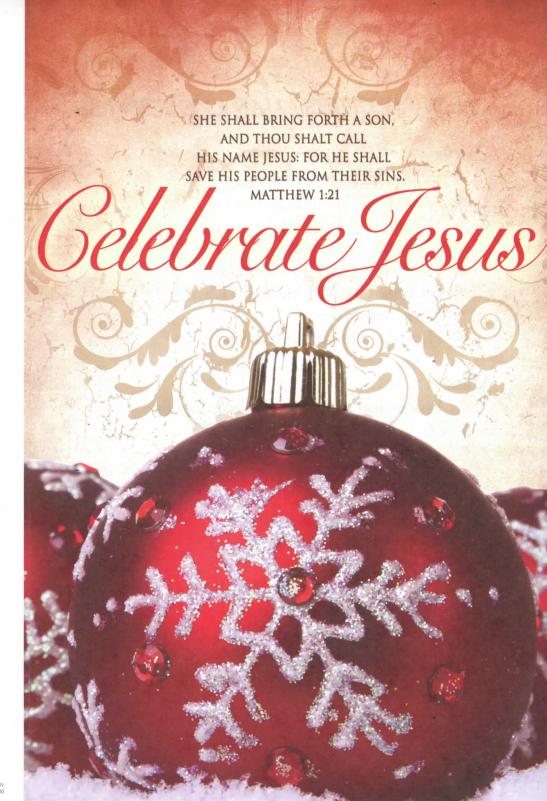
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Immigration Matters # 7. Christmas Day, 2016 New Sanctuary Committee of Saint Vincent de Paul Germantown, Philadelphia MERRY CHRISTMAS! Christmas can be a most wonderful time of the year, when we recognize God's great love for each and every one of us. Also when we see the great gifts of Love, Mercy, Family and Faith that God blesses us with.

So to all our St. Vincent's Church Family, may God continue to fill you with His Love & Joy so that we can continue to see the face of God in everyone.

To our visitors: Thank you for coming to Adore Him. Be assured of our prayers for you. If you don't have a "church home" or are looking for one, know that we would love to have you. St. Vincent's is a community where truly <u>ALL</u> <u>ARE WELCOME</u>, into the Beloved Community where no one is excluded.

Father Sy



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Scripture from KJV 081407007830

11:30 PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Carols

Rejoice Rejoice Jerusalem
Angels We Have Heard
What Child Is This
Child Of The Light
Go Tell It On The Mountain
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear
Christmas Hymn
Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Mass

Procession with Baby Jesus & Family "O Come all Ye Faithful" (Choir & Congregation) Blessing of the Manger Opening Rites Gloria: Christmas Gloria (Choir & Congregation) Readings Old Testament: Isaiah 9:1-6 Responsorial: Sung New Testament: Titus 2:11-14 Song: Alleluia Gospel: Luke 2:1-14 Christmas Sermon: Father Sy Peterka Prayers of Petition: "O God Hear Our Prayer" Offertory

> The Second Collection is for our Sister Parish of Las Anonas de Santa Cruz, El Salvador. Please be generous. Make checks payable to St. Vincent's.

Offertory Song: "Silent Night" Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Creation Our Father: Sung Sign of Christmas Peace Lamb of God: Mass of Hope Communion "Nativity Carol" "The First Noel" Song of Praise: Shepherd's Carol Closing Prayer Announcements Recognition of Visitors Recessional "Joy to the World"

SAVE THE DATE I Monday, January 16, 2017

The Thirty-fourth Annual Archdiocesan Gathering In honor of

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



A Dream in Black and White

Growing in Understanding as Catholics

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap., Presider People of every race & color are invited to join in prayer and conversation.

Saint Philip Neri Catholic Church 437 Ridge Pike Lafayette Hill, PA 19444 (just 12 miles from Center City) Convenient to the Route "L" bus Choir Prelude: 6:30 PM Prayer Service: 7:00 PM Light refreshments to follow All are welcome! Invite family, friends to the conversation!

What is the Reconciliation & Unity Ministry (RUM)? Are you called to join us? An Advent Invitation...

RUM was formed in 2014 following the death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, and the Ministry was tasked with exploring ways of facilitating dialogue and the development of relationships here at St. Vincent's so that "we may become One."

The ministry has sponsored several initiatives, including Pew Conversations and Movie Nights, and is now hoping to work with other parish Ministries and Committees throughout the parish to encourage everyone to incorporate this theme of "Becoming One" in their planning and work.

During this holy season of Advent, as we prepare the Way of the Lord in our lives, our parish, our city, our nation, and our world, we ask that you prayerfully consider joining in this essential work of reconciliation and unity. We now find ourselves in a time of unprecedented judgment and fear, but also, therefore, of an extraordinary opportunity to live our Gospel values more fully. More than ever, we must join together to birth God's love into our suffering nation and world.

Our faith tradition has always incorporated periods of prayer and fasting before major feast days, and so we are asking everyone to consider participating in a time of pre-Christmas Fasting and Prayer, from Sunday December 19 through Thursday December 23. During this time we will pray for the healing of all divisions among us, and for the healing and unity of our parish, our city, our nation, and our world. Fr. Sy and Fr. Joe will be providing more detail on this.

We also ask that you discern your call to the ministry of Reconciliation and Unity, and <u>let us know if you are interested by writing your name on the Sign up sheet in the</u> <u>back of church before Christmas</u>. We will begin our work in 2017 with a day-long retreat on Saturday January 14.

For more information, please contact any of the RUM members who will make announcements during Advent. Or Fr Sy.

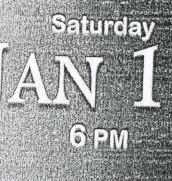
May all of us experience ongoing reconciliation and healing so that we may be ambassadors of Christ's peace to each other and the world! ST. VINCENT'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH PROUDLY PRESENTS

BOBBY JO VALENTINE

An intimate, acoustic concertor hopeful folk/pop

"5 out of 5 stars. Bobby writes with a sweetness and honesty seldom heard in acoustic pop music. Many speak of love and longing, but so few speak with compassion and with such hope."

> -Brian Lucey Black Keys, The Shins



ST VINCENT'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 109 E Price Street Philadelphia, PA

For All Ages

\$15	(Advance)
\$20	(At the door

For tickets or more info call: Jack DiFeo 215 287-5682

www.bobbyjovalentine.com

SONGWRITTER OF THE YEAR

West Coast Songwriter's Association

"... The nicest guy to ever pick up an acoustic guitar."

Los Angeles Weekly

"10 out of 10. A world-class singer/songwriter,"

-Indiee Music



HOUSEHOLD TABLE PRAYER FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

We glory in your light, O Christ. May this meal strengthen us to be light for others.

Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

With the angels we sing of your birth. May the food of this table nourish us to proclaim the good news.

Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

In your lowly manger we see God's love. May this be a time of grace, so others will see your love

in us.

Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

We adore you, O Christ, Word-made-flesh. Bless this meal, bless our lives during these joyful Christmas days. Amen.

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EPIPHANY HOUSE BLESSING

Materials: A piece of chalk and a small container of holy water. Gather with family, friends, and neighbors at the front door.

Leader: In the (+) name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Let us pray: *Christus mansionem benedicat*. May Christ bless this house! ALL: Amen.

We sign this doorway with four crosses and the numerals of the new year.

[20 + C + M + B + 17]

Leader (or other Reader): A reading from the Second Letter of Peter. We look forward to the new heavens and the new earth God has promised, a dwelling place of righteousness. The Word of the Lord

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Each room of the house is sprinkled with holy water. Living room: You are present where two or three are gathered. Bless this room, O Lord. ALL: Amen!

Kitchen: Give us this day our daily bread. Bless this room, O Lord. ALL: Amen!

Dining room: May we be seated at the heavenly banquet. Bless this room, O Lord. ALL: Amen!

Bedrooms: Protect us, stay with us through the night. Bless this room, O Lord. ALL: Amen!

Bathroom: You cleanse us always from sin. Bless this room, O Lord. ALL: Amen!

All return to the front door to pray together.

Leader: Let us pray as Jesus taught us: Our Father . . .

The leader sprinkles all present with holy water and concludes:

Bless this household through all days to come, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, forever and ever. ALL: Amen!

THAT KEEP ON GIVING

e've just wrapped up a season focused on the accumulation of presents under a tree. Chances are, you found at least one person on your list impossible to shop for—they already have everything! As you contemplate gift giving in the coming year, consider rethinking the whole proposition. What if giving gifts could be an expression of our love for Christ present in others? Here are a few ideas:

Donate to microfinancing organizations in honor of a loved one. Organizations such as Kiva and Opportunity International allow people to fund a portion of a loan for a person or nonprofit in the developing world—or even for people in need within the United States. These loans are used by the recipients to help create an income-sustaining business. When the loans are repaid, the funds can be returned to the investor or reinvested in another loan.

Purchase "fair trade." In many cases, the low prices we enjoy for goods are achieved at the expense of living wage and safe working conditions for workers in factories overseas. Businesses that offer fair trade goods are guaranteeing that the items, whether food, clothing, or skin care or household items, were made while offering the workers just compensation. Often, they facilitate better living, working, and social conditions for the artisans. Some local stores carry fair trade items, or look online at sites such as Fair Trade USA or Servv.org.

Homemade "acts of service" coupon books. This is an especially good idea for children, who have limited funds but unlimited love, but it's a great way for adults in a household to refocus on the primary relationship in the family, too. Coupons can be for help around



the house, a hug, a promise to stop fighting with a sibling, and so on. Adults can include items as simple as an electronics-free evening of chatting on the deck. If you need inspiration, Pinterest offers many ideas both for physical format and for content, but this doesn't need to be complicated or fancy. The thought—and the followthrough—is what counts.

Donate to a charity in the name of a loved one.

Give the gift of child care for a date night or weekend away for friends or family members.

Wrap up a sheaf of blank paper for an elderly family member. This serves as a promise to write one letter every week or month for the coming year.

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YOU SHALL CALL

Jesus

The Hebrew form of the name is often translated as "Joshua" or "Yeshua," which itself comes from Hebrew words meaning "Yaweh saves."

Emmanuel

This name means "God with us;" it originated in Isaiah 7:14, and was used in Matthew 1:23 to show the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Christ

A Greek translation of the Hebrew word for "Messiah," meaning "anointed;" this is why when Peter first uses this word (Matthew 16:16), it is preceded by "the."

King of the Jews

In Matthew 2:2, the magi spoke of Jesus this way; it was also inscribed on the cross.

Rabbi

A title of respect for a spiritual teacher, used by the apostles, by Mary Magdalene, and by Bartimaeus, but also used by Judas Iscariot in the midst of his betrayal of Jesus.

Lord

A translation of the Greek *Kyrios*, signifying Jesus' divinity and power over the world.

Logos

The first chapter of John's Gospel focuses on the Word of God become incarnate, or enfleshed, emphasizing that Jesus has existed alongside the Father since the dawn of time.

A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM SAINT THOMAS BECKET

My brothers and sisters in Christ,

When I think back on my life, I am reminded of our Lord standing before Herod at the beginning of his passion: the King of heaven, his presence a challenge to the authority of an earthly king. If Christ himself was sent to his death, how could I—Christ's servant—expect otherwise?

As a young man, I worked in the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury, who eventually recommended me to his majesty, Henry II of England, for the post of chancellor. The king and I became fast friends, but when the archbishop died, Henry asked me to take over the highest position in the Church in England.

We clashed over taxes, over the authority to try and punish clerics, and over the king's insistence that priests must have permission to leave England. He charged me with dishonesty in financial transactions dating back to my time as chancellor. The conflict between my former friend and me went on for years, and although we tried to reconcile, eventually the king whether he meant it or not—gave his followers to understand that my existence was a threat to his authority. And so a group of knights came to Canterbury Cathedral, and within its walls gave me the crown of martyrdom.

I was far from a perfect follower of our Lord, but perhaps my story demonstrates that each of us will, at some point in our lives, be called upon to choose between the authority of rulers and country, or that of heaven.

Be strong in the service of Christ.

Thomas, Archbishop of Canterbury

Born around 1118 in London, Thomas Becket was a shrewd businessman and politician before being ordained. But he took his responsibility to the Church seriously, and his sensational murder in Canterbury Cathedral just after Christmas in the year 1170 made him a model for all who work with earthly authorities. His feast day is December 29.

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