

St. Vincent 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**

♦ **Dennis Rivera**

Ministers of Music

♦ **JoAnn O'Connor**

Bookkeeper, Ext. #229

♦ **EveLyn Rogers**

Parish Social Ministry

215-438-1514

♦ **Corbin Gardner & Grace Yi**

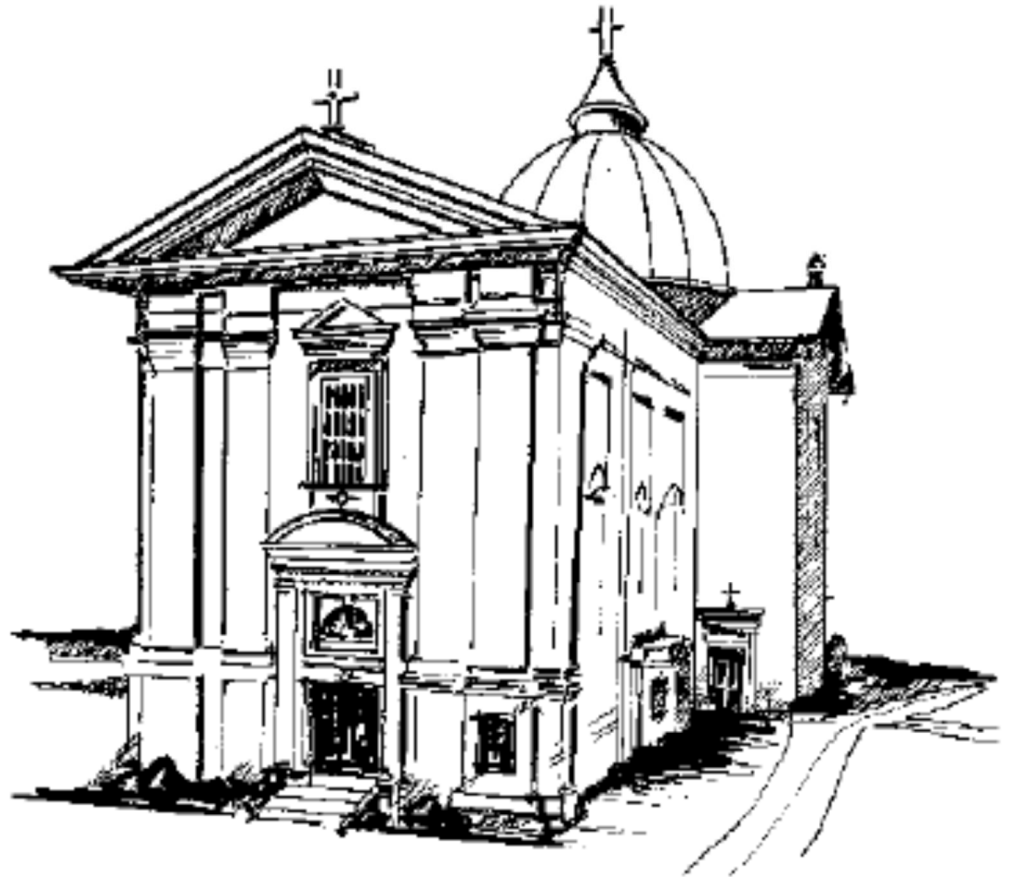
Directors of Religious Education

♦ **DeLia Landers & 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. Rosemarie Jefferson
Administrator
Alfred J. Smith, C.M.
Director
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.

May 21, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK

SUN	05/21	Miraculous Medal	9:00 am
		Miraculous Medal	11:00 am
MON	05/22	NO MASS	
TUE	05/23	Miraculous Medal	7:00 am
WED	05/24	Miraculous Medal	7:00 am
THU	05/25	Miraculous Medal	7:00 am
FRI	05/26	Miraculous Medal	7:00 am
SAT	05/27	John Fox	4:00pm

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SUN	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Sacrament of
SAT	Penance	3-3:30 pm

FOR THIS WE PRAY

Parishioners

Muriel Ancrum, Patricia Banmiller, Bernadette Barry, Katherine Elliott, Anoa 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, Mary Ann Delaplane.

Friends of St. Vincent's

Maryann Hunsicker, Steven David Aslow, Mary Fazzini DeCanelo, Laura Alfonse, Nancy Tooker, C'Arone & 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 Margatech, Johnny Hilferty, Diane McCabe, Judy Spearmint, Millie Kribel, Kathleen Lawson, Dorothy Heimlich, Connie Bronson, Joseph Simmons, Amy Natkins, Terri Jackson, Samuel Gonzalez, Mary Elizabeth Unterfofner, Ana Esquilin Santos, Ann Rainsford & Family, Rayan Bouso, Richard Lipton, Palmina Rucker, Martha King Cox, Anna Satchell, Steve Damville, Jessica Jara, Joe Hagan, Ned Dugery, Vincent Owens, Barbara Rothenbach, Diane Harris, Siobhan Barrett, Mary Corini, Robert Glasgow, Alys Smith, Joanne Gerney, Diane Dugan, Mary Hunter Gibbs, Joey Gavin.

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.

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	3,821.65
Electronic	3,250.00.
Total	7,071.65
Tithe	353.58

Today's Readings

First Reading:	Acts 8:5-8, 14-17
Psalm:	Psalm 66
Second Reading:	I Peter 3:15-18
Gospel:	John 14:15-21

Readings for Next Week

First Reading:	Acts 1:12-14
Psalm:	Psalm 27
Second Reading:	I Peter 4:13-16
Gospel:	John 17:1-11a

Monday:	Acts 16:11-15; Ps 149:1b-6a, 9b; Jn 15:26-16:4a
Tuesday:	Acts 16:22-34; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Jn 16:5-11
Wednesday:	Acts 17:15, 22-18:1; Ps 148:1-2, 11-14; Jn 16:12-15
Thursday:	Acts 1:1-11; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Eph 1:17-23; Mt 28:16-20
Friday:	Acts 18:9-18; Ps 47:2-7; Jn 16:20-23
Saturday:	Acts 18:23-28; Ps 47:2-3, 8-10; Jn 16:23b-28

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.

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 & Ministry, (Including each group's Art & Culture) and by... Supporting actions for justice.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - May 21-27, 2017

LECTORS

We are blessed with parishioners who clearly, boldly and reverently proclaim God's Word at Mass! We are especially seeking more men and young adults to join us. For info, contact Mary Laver (610-324-9388)

HOSPITALITY

Please join us for hospitality provided by the community after the 9am Mass in the Hospitality center. To volunteer, sign up on the bulletin board by the side entrance. Questions? Call Jack DiFeo 215 287-5682.

NEW SANCTUARY MOVEMENT

New Sanctuary Movement is seeking more supporters to accompany undocumented immigrants in court. An NSM staff member guides the group in prayer and then into court where they sit and witness the proceedings without comment. This quiet presence means a great deal to frightened immigrants. An email message comes from NSM telling date, time, and place, and supporters go when they can. To volunteer email: blanca@sanctuaryphiladelphia.org. For more details, call Gene Cleaver at 610-360-3496 or Mary Regan at 215-848-9489.

CALLING ALL ST. VINCENT'S PARISHIONERS!

As most of you know, St. Vincent's has a website <<http://saint-vincent-church.org/>> where you can download the latest bulletin, check Mass times, and get contact information for parish staff. However, did you know that you can also find:

- schedules for lectors and altar servers?
- a calendar of events?
- news and writings from your fellow parishioners?
- ministries, staff bios, announcements, and more?

Well, the parish website ministry has been working hard to make our site both engaging and useful. But we can't do it alone – we need your help! Here's what you can do:

- If you're a ministry, please send us whatever you'd like for us to put on your ministry page, be it photos, an updated schedule, anything.

-If you're a shutterbug, please send us your photos! We'd like to have a gallery showing the vibrancy of our parish life!

-If you're coordinating an event at St. V's or elsewhere, then please let us know the details so we can include it on the calendar.

-If you just have something you'd like to share with the parish, perhaps a reflection or a poem, then send it along.

To make it easier, email anything you have to web@saint-vincent-church.org. And finally, we are always looking for people to join the ranks of the web ministry. If nothing else, your feedback and encouragement are essential, so let us know how we could serve you better.

ART EXHIBITION

Parishioner, Lynne Horoschak, will exhibit her works of art on Saturday, June 3 from 5-7:30pm at Cellini Studio, 113 Poplar Street in Ambler. She has just recovered from surgery and would love to see and talk with you. All are welcome.

CELEBRATING TOGETHER FOR ONE MASS AT 10AM

1. Sunday of the July 4th weekend. (We would also celebrate Juneteenth at this time, usually the 1st Sunday of July.)
2. Sunday when we celebrate the feast of St. Vincent DePaul (September 27th).
3. Last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, "Feast of Christ the King", usually late November. It would be Ministry Sunday.
4. Black History Month Sunday, celebrated with potluck, after 2nd Sunday, in February.

*POWER UPDATES

St Vincent's is a member of this vibrant interfaith community organization that works on eco-nomic dignity, criminal justice reform, fair school funding, and more. Contact Terri Burgin (215-651-0100) or Mary Laver (610-324-9388) for more info, or for rides to these events:

*GREEN ENERGY & JOBS MARCH: **Mon May 22, 12 to 2pm:** Caring for God's creation means making sure our electricity comes from sources like solar power that do not cause pollution that causes illness in children and seniors in many of our neighborhoods. On May 22, meet at noon at City Hall to march with POWER and Earth Quaker Action Team to PECO headquarters at 23rd & Market. Famed environmental activist Bill McKibben will speak.

*HARRISBURG TRIP to press for FAIR EDUCATION FUNDING: **Wed June 21:** Buses provided. Watch for signup sheets!

VINCENTIAN FAMILY SYMPOSIUM IN ROME

The trip is from October 11th through the 18th. The symposium is October 13th through the 15th. Brochures are available. There should be around 5,000 people from the Vincentian family, from around the world. Pope Francis is scheduled to come and speak with us on October 14th. For a brochure, see Father Sy. If you have a brochure, please sign up at www.learningjourneys.com or call (855) 784-7687. Also sign up for the symposium, at www.famvin.org. (Father Sy can help you with this, it is easy.) There will be a meeting on **Thursday, June 8th at 1:00 pm**, at St. Vincent's Seminary. Use the Shrine parking lot.

FR. SY'S AFRICAN APPEAL

Every year, I ask friends and family to help me make a difference in VINCENTIAN AFRICA. I don't "mail" my appeal letters to my St. Vincent's family, but they are in the back of the church. I hope that you would take one and read it. Pray about it. You have been so wonderful in your support and in bringing Hope to so many. Thank you. There is no time when this must be done. You will not receive endless requests for more. This is a once a year appeal with several great projects that you can help with like:

- The St. Vincent Youth Center in Mekelle, Ethiopia offering a library, tutoring, and other activities + HIV/AIDS awareness for impoverished youth.
- Building a house for an impoverished family in Tunisia.
- Purchase of a vehicle for the Vincentian parish and agrarian school in Magube, Mozambique, a very poor rural area.
- Supply tanks and pipes to bring clean water to the impoverished village of Changrawe, Tanzania.

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 _____ Envelope number _____

Name _____

last

first

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Date of Birth _____ Home Phone _____

Cell _____

Email _____

Full name and relationship of all resident family members

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

_____ DOB _____ Relationship _____

Have you received the Sacraments?

() 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 Joannet 215-438-2925x229

Date_____ Envelope Number_____
Electronic Type: New____ Change____

Name_____ last first

Address_____

City_____ State__ Zip_____

Telephone #_____

Cell #_____

Email_____

Date of 1st Donation_____

Amount of Donation_____

Frequency:

Monthly on the **1st** _____

Monthly on the **15th** _____

Weekly (**every Monday**) _____

Weekly (**every other Monday**)_____

Bank Routing Number_____

Account Number_____

Please debit my checking account per **attached voided check**. (If you wish to debit your savings account, please contact your bank for routing and account number.) **I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my bank account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.**
Authorized signature and Date:

General Intercessions
Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ May 21, 2017
4:00 & 9:00 Masses

For our parish conversations around Black Lives Matter—
May we grow closer to one another,
and more authentic as a faith community.

Sung response

For those who are passionate advocates for justice—
May their gentleness and reverence
touch the hearts of those they seek to persuade.

For the teachers at DePaul Catholic,
and all who educate young children—
May they be blessed with patience, creativity, and support.

For those who are experiencing a transition in their lives—
May they keep their eyes fixed on God,
the source of all good.

For those who are going home to God,
and those who accompany them—
May they be surrounded and sustained by love.

Christine Eberle

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 20TH AND 21ST, 2017

ALL YOUNG ADULTS, AGES 20-45: Join us for dinner this Sunday at 6:30 pm, in the Hospitality Center. Feel free to invite your friends.

CELEBRATION FOR GRACE AND CORBIN: On July 30th, there will be one Mass, at 10 am, to celebrate and say goodbye to Grace and Corbin. There will be a picnic type party afterwards.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: We have pledged about \$777,000 and in less than a year have over \$440,000 raised thus far. This will be used for:

- Roof, if needed
- Handicap Bathroom
- Handicap Parking and Drop off
- Handicap Entrance to Rectory and Chapel
- Refurbish Present Bathroom
- Fix Chapel, for Handicap Accessibility
- Repair Sacristy, with Handicap Ramp and New Cabinets
- Bring Choir Risers and Altar to Code
- Replace Floor in Church
- Air Conditioning in Church
- Touchup Interior of Church

If you haven't pledged, please do so. See Father Sy.

ROOF: Our Roofing Committee accepted a bid to replace all lower church roofs. Projected date of completion is the end of September.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION ON RACISM: St. Athanasius will the "Racism and Prejudice within our Parishes", at their school hall (Limekiln Pike & Middleton Avenue, use Cedar Park Avenue entrance), on Monday, May 22nd, at 7 p.m. This session will also focus on prejudice in the areas of class and ethnicity; and is a follow-up to the "A Dream in Black and White: Growing in Understanding as Catholics" event held on Martin Luther King Day.

Teacher Appreciation Day is Wednesday. Today's second collection is for the DePaul Catholic School teachers.

Father Joe is dealing with a cancer issue, please keep him in prayer.



Face to Face

hospitality • mutuality • transformation

is partnering with a *high quality* local pre-school provider with a Keystone 4 Star rating!

COME AND LEARN
MORE

6:30pm-8pm

Thursday, June 1st

at St. Vincent's Rectory Office -109 E.
Price St.

*Refreshments and Incentives Will Be
Provided*

RSVP to Mary Kay at (267) 566-8402

Save The Date!



Saturday
July 29, 2017



Join the Metuchen Comitium for
LEGION OF MARY DAY
at

The NATIONAL BLUE ARMY SHRINE
OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

674 Mountain View Road
Washington, NJ 08802

10:00 am: Welcome, Legion Prayers and Rosary

10:30 am to 11:30am: Confessions

11:00 am: Conference

12:00 pm: The Holy Mass and Catena

1:30 pm: Lunch (Snack Bar will be open)

Bring Food for yourself and to share.

3:00 pm: Conference, Exposition and Adoration of the
Blessed Sacrament, Benediction

{ More Details To Follow }

Contact: Michael White

Phone: 732-910-2070

Email: queenshipofmary.michael@gmail.com

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Many thanks,

The St. Vincent's Web Ministry Team



The New Sanctuary
Movement of
Philadelphia

JOIN US in canvas-
Sing Germantown
and Mt. Airy to talk
with residents about
matters the New
Sanctuary Move-
ment is promoting.

**Sunday, May 21st
at 1:00 p.m.**

Meet at Germantown
Mennonite Church, 21 W
Washington Ln, just off
Germantown Ave. There will
be a light lunch and
orientation until 1:30. We will
return at 3:30.

We will canvas parts
of Mt. Airy just north of
Germantown Mennonite.
Depending on turn out and
weather, we might add some
street canvassing outside
Weaver's Way. This is a
chance to have good
conversations with each other
and with our neighbors about
our values.

If you need a ride to
get to Germantown Mennonite
Church, call Paul at 267-237-
6683. Call also if you have
questions.

THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

Shrine

NOVENA
of
HOPE



EVERY MONDAY
for
NINE WEEKS:

JUNE 5
to
JULY 31

MIRACULOUS MEDAL SHRINE - NOVENA OF HOPE

PREACHER: REV. MICHAEL J. SHEA, CM

THEME: "THE NEW EVANGELIZATION"

DATES IN JUNE

MONDAY, JUNE 5

"It Pays to Advertise"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JUNE 12

"What is Evangelization?"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JUNE 19

"What is the New Evangelization?"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JUNE 26

"The New Evangelization and Saint John XXIII"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

JOIN US IN PERSON OR ONLINE!

To send us your intentions or watch the live broadcast or recording, visit

MiraculousMedal.org/Novena

DATES IN JULY

MONDAY, JULY 3

"The New Evangelization and Blessed Paul VI"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JULY 10

"The New Evangelization and Saint John Paul II"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JULY 17

"The New Evangelization and Pope Benedict XVI"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JULY 24

"The New Evangelization and Pope Francis"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction

MONDAY, JULY 31

"Summary - The New Evangelization"

7am Novena Prayers and Mass

9am, 12:05pm & 7:30pm Novena Prayers, Mass, and Sermon

2pm, 3:30pm, 5pm & 6:30pm Novena Prayers, Sermon, and Benediction



THESE NOVENAS ARE OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THESE SPECIAL GROUPS:

MONDAY, June 5: Priests, Seminarians, Deacons, and Religious Men and Women

MONDAY, June 12: Public Servants: Police, Firefighters, and EMTs

MONDAY, June 19: US Veterans and Military Personnel

MONDAY, June 26: Catholic Educators

MONDAY, July 3: Catholic Medical Professionals: Doctors, Nurses, and Technicians

MONDAY, July 10: Seniors (each service has "Anointing of the Sick")

MONDAY, July 17: Catholic Lawyers and Business Professionals

MONDAY, July 24: Catholic Societies and Organizations: Knights of Columbus, Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Legion of Mary, and many more

MONDAY, July 31: Vincentian and Novena Families: All Who Attend Vincentian Parishes and the Monday Novenas (Past & Present Devotees)

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Monday, July 10, at all Services

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Monday - 7:30am to 7:30pm

CONFESSION

Every Monday - Starts 15 minutes before all Services

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

will be served July 31, following the 9am and 12:05pm Masses



Miraculous Medal Shrine

500 E. Cheltenham Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19144
215-848-1010 • www.MiraculousMedal.org

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !

**FOR A CASUAL EVENING OF FUN, LAUGHTER AND A CHANCE
TO SHOW OFF WHAT YOU KNOW (OR DON'T KNOW!)**

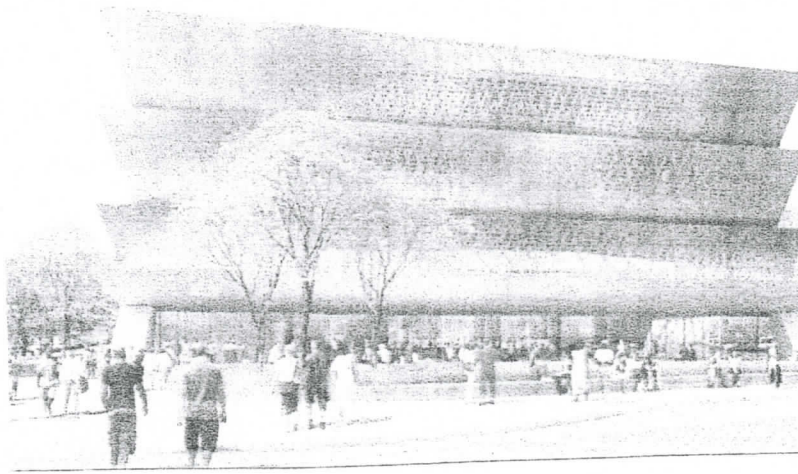
.....

MY PLACE GERMANTOWN'S TRIVIA NIGHT

**SATURDAY EVENING,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2017**

**THE BROSSMAN CENTER
LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, GERMANTOWN**

**COMPLETE DETAILS ON MPG'S FUNDRAISER TO FOLLOW IN
MID-SUMMER**



**Come join us on an exciting Trip
to the
National Museum of African and Culture in Washington D.C.
on Saturday December 9, 2017.**

The cost of the trip is **\$65.00** per person with a non-refundable deposit of \$25.00. All deposits must be paid by Sunday **June 11, 2017** to hold your seat. Please don't wait until the deadline, seats are limited.

Second payment - August 13, 2017

Final payment - October 22, 2017

The bus will depart from St. Vincent Depaul Church - 109 E. Price St. @ **6:00 A.M.** We will also be making a short stop at the Martin Luther King Memorial.

We will be returning to the church by 8:30 P.M.

If you are interest in going on this trip please contact:

Barbara Adams @ 215 -849- 6139 or Carol Chavis 215- 722-3568

Black Lives Matter at St. Vincent's

"What does it mean to be Black and Catholic? It means that I come to my church fully functioning. That doesn't frighten you, does it? I come to my church fully functioning. I bring myself, my Black self, all that I am, all that I have, all that I hope to become. I bring my whole history, my tradition, my experience, my culture....."

-Sr. Thea Bowman of Canton, Mississippi (1990)

"Bear one another's burdens and in doing so you will fulfill the law of Jesus Christ."

-Galatians 6:2

At St. Vincent's Parish, our support for Black Lives Matter is rooted in our deep Catholic understanding of the fundamental dignity of **all life** and our understanding that God is *always on the side of justice for the oppressed* in the human story (Matthew 25:35-40).

A multi-racial group led by some of our black parishioners has been meeting for months to study Black Lives Matter and discern a way forward for discussion and the possible creation and display of a parish banner as a communal demonstration of support.

The origins of Black Lives Matter is described in the following excerpt found on the Black Lives Matter website:

"#BlackLivesMatter-was created in 2012 by three women of African descent, two of whom are queer identified. After the murder of Trayvon Martin, Trayvon's killer, George Zimmerman, was acquitted for his crime, and the dead 17-year old was posthumously placed on trial for his own murder. Rooted in the experiences of Black people in this country who actively resist our dehumanization, #BlackLivesMatter is a call to action and a response to the virulent anti-Black racism that permeates our society. Black Lives Matter is a unique contribution that goes beyond extrajudicial killings of Black people by police and vigilantes."

(Paraphrased from the blacklivesmatter.com/herstory/)

#BlackLivesMatter is working for a world where Black lives are no longer systematically and intentionally targeted for demise. Black Lives Matter affirms the humanity, resilience in the face of deadly oppression, and innumerable contributions of black folks to this society. It recognizes and celebrates the sweat equity and love for Black people now put into creating a political project—"taking the hashtag off of social media and into the streets. The call for Black lives to matter is a rallying cry for ALL Black lives striving for liberation."

Black Lives Matter is committed to:

Collectively, lovingly and courageously working vigorously for freedom and justice for Black people and, by extension all people.

intentionally building and nurturing a beloved community that is bonded together through a beautiful struggle that is restorative, not depleting.

- *acknowledging, respecting and celebrating difference(s) and commonalities.*
- *embodying and practicing justice, liberation, and peace in engagements with one another.*
- *practicing empathy*

While we at St. Vincent's recognize the intersection of multiple forms of oppression, **the statement "Black Lives Matter"** follows the long legacy of Black liberation movements that has always ultimately supported and benefitted the liberation movements of all oppressed people.

"Black Lives Matter at St. Vincent's", therefore, is a statement of love for Black folks. It is a challenge to us all to live the love we proclaim as we build relationships across race and heal America's historical narrative. As Catholics of all ethnicities, "Black Live Matters at St. Vincent" also calls us to recognize the historic role of our **Catholic Church** in creating and maintaining systems of racial injustice-**even** as we have continued to work against oppression. This work will require us to struggle together across a difficult terrain but to do so trusting God and holding on to one another in hope.

During this Resurrection season, we are challenged to make closer connections across race, gender and age and sexual orientation. We are mindful that we have **all** been affected, *particularly white folks*, by the participation in unjust systems since the beginning of our nation, which have made us **all** blind to the ways we help sustain them. St. Vincent's Black Lives Matter study group invites you to our upcoming reflections and community conversations to be announced this Easter and Pentecost season. Is God calling you to help move the stone of racism in our church and world, this Easter season? For more information please see below.

Some Upcoming Black Lives Matter Events at St. Vincent's

21 May at all three Liturgies: Solemn reading of the names of Black Philadelphians who died from violence

June 18 (location at Church to be announced): St. Vincent's All-Parish facilitated conversation on *Black Lives Matter* from a Catholic view

For more information, see the following people:

4 pm Mass- Chris Newsome, 267-584-8732

9 am Mass- Doug Copeland & Jeanna Murat

11 am Mass- Bemnet Melaku & Chris Newsome



LET US PRAY...

O Lord our God, in the name of our Daughters and Sisters of Nigeria we come to you on bended knee in prayer. In the heat of this day, suffering and hardship has visited young ones and we beg you, almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit to bring forth release and mercy on those who have been captured, sold and raped. Reverse O Lord, the spirit of the captors. Restore O Lord, the hope of these young innocent girls and bring Recovery to them and their families. Relieve the injured and Redeem O Lord, this situation and drench it with Your love and mercy. We remember O Lord, how You set the captives free in Egypt and how You carved a way to freedom by splitting the waters of the Red Sea. We remember, O Lord how Your mighty hand brought David out of the lion's den and we ask You, O Lord to do the same for our dear young Sisters and Daughters. We come to You this day, knowing the fullness of Your amazing grace which makes a way out of no way. We thank You O Lord for what You can do and will do in Jesus' name- Amen



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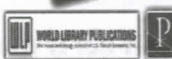
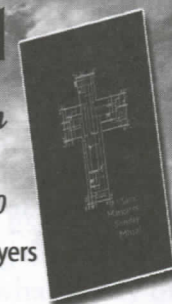
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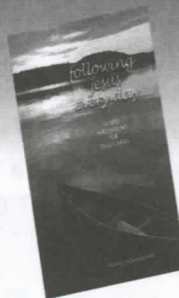
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