



The Society Scoop | Dec 2023 | Issue 12



The Society Scoop

1310 Papin St., St. Louis, MO 63103 | <https://svdpstlouis.org>

An Advent Message from Fr. Dan Thies -



Remember this Commercial?

The Advent season is filled with anticipation, preparation and expectation. Everyone is getting ready for Christmas — shopping and decorating, baking and cleaning. Too often, however, we are so busy with the material preparations that we lose sight of the real



reason for our activity: the Word made flesh coming to dwell among us. Christians are urged to preserve the spiritual focus of Christmas amidst the prevailingly secular and consumer-driven society.

In the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season, let us strive to keep Advent a season of waiting and longing, of conversion and hope, meditating often on the incredible love and humility of our God in taking on flesh of the Virgin Mary. In our shopping and baking, let us remember to purchase and prepare something for the poor. When we clean our homes, let us distribute some of our possessions to those who lack many necessities. While we are decking the halls of our homes, let us not forget to prepare a peaceful place in our hearts wherein our Savior may come to dwell.

Let us love God, but let it be with the strength of our arms and the sweat of our brows (XI:32).

~ Fr. Dan Thiess,
Council Spiritual Advisor

REFLECTION

“Proceed quietly, pray a great deal and act together.”

~ St. Vincent de Paul

Vincentian Meditation

The Beauty and Joy of Our Vincentian Vocation

by Tom Matoushek, Manager Conference Growth & Revitalization

In their ministry, Vincentians often witness “miracles” which causes me to be continually astounded by the spiritual beauty of our Vincentian vocation. The beauty of our vocation lies in its imitation of the life of Christ.

Jesus had a deep, personal relationship with his heavenly Father – he stole away and prayed fervently. Communally, He prayed with his disciples, teaching them to be always thankful and depend on the Father (and each other) for all their needs. Jesus went out to the people to spread the fire of His love and minister to the poor and afflicted. Sound familiar?

How are you doing with your Vincentian vocation? Are you growing ...



[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

Program Updates & Resources

Save the Date! - 2024 Spring Assembly

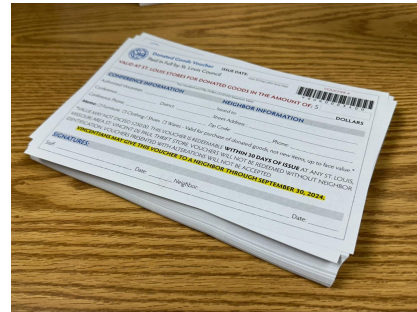
We hope to see YOU at Spring Assembly!

Saturday, April 27
8 AM – Noon.

Details and registration to follow.

New Voucher Updates

1. When providing vouchers to your Neighbors, please write out the name of your Conference and District. Do not use your Conference number.
2. Detailed instructions for the vouchers are available on our website at: **[SVdP St. Louis Program Handbook](#)**
3. If your Conference runs out of vouchers, please contact your District President. We have a large supply of donated goods vouchers to distribute. Bed and delivery vouchers are limited but may still be available.
4. If you have questions about enter voucher data in ServWare, please contact John Doyle at **johnd@svdpstl.org**
5. If you have general questions about vouchers, please contact Varrietta Anthony at **varriettaa@svdpstl.org** or Julie Komanetsky at **juliek@svdpstl.org**



Watch the Council Webinar on Vouchers on
Youtube

New Rolled-Bed Update

Our vendor has informed us that the new rolled beds and frames will not arrive until the end of December.

We will send an update to all Vincentians when the beds are available.

St. Louis Tax Assistance Program



Contact

Anne Skelton
314-602-8622

anneskelton@live.com

The St. Louis Tax Assistance Program, preparing 2023 tax returns, will be starting up in a few short weeks. The dates and locations have all been set and appointments can be made online starting in early January.

What the Tax Assistance Program needs now, is help getting the information to those who can use this FREE tax help!

Below is an informational flyer in English, and flyers are also available in Spanish for you to make available to all who might utilize this service. They also have English and Spanish 11x17 posters to display on a bulletin board or wherever would be most visible.

The flyers can be emailed to you to print and distribute, or they can drop off or mail any quantity that you request.

Email anneskelton@live.com or call 314-602-8622 to let TAP know how many posters/fliers you will need, and how you would like to receive them.

If you know of any other organizations that might benefit from this information please let Anne know so that she can contact them directly.

Best wishes for a blessed holiday season!



NO-COST Income Tax Services for individuals and families
with incomes up to **\$64,000**



SCAN FOR APPOINTMENT

SATURDAY TAX SERVICE LOCATIONS
January 27, February 3, 10, 17, 24, and March 2, 2024

GRAND CENTER Cardinal Ritter College Prep 701 North Spring Avenue St. Louis, MO 63108	SOUTH CITY St. Mary's High School 4701 S. Grand Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63111	NORTH COUNTY Believers Temple Word Fellowship 2115 Chambers Road St. Louis, MO 63136
ST. CHARLES Lewis & Clark Career Center 2400 Zumbel Road St. Charles, MO 63301		FLORISSANT Dr. Charles M. Roach Legacy Center 11015 Old Halls Ferry Road Florissant, MO 63136

WEEKDAY TAX SERVICE LOCATIONS
Check out stlouistap.org for dates of operation.

ST. CHARLES (Mondays) Kisker Road Branch Library 1000 Kisker Road St. Charles, MO 63304	OVERLAND (Tuesdays) Overland Community Center 9225 Lackland St. Louis, MO 63114	SOUTH CITY (Wednesdays) Thomas Dunn Learning Center 3113 Gasconade St. Louis, MO 63118
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Go to stlouistap.org to make your appointment.
Problems? Contact appointments@stlouistap.org or call 314-377-3076.

- What to bring to your appointment:
- Government-issued photo ID for taxpayer AND spouse (if joint return, both spouses must be present to sign.)
 - Social Security or ITIN cards for ALL family members
 - Direct deposit info
 - IP PIN letter if victim of identity theft
 - Copy of prior year return if possible
 - Income-relevant documents [W-2s (including W-2G for gambling winnings), SSA-1099, all 1099s (B, DIV, INT, K, MISC, NEC, R)
 - Form 1095-A (Health Insurance Marketplace Statement)
 - Form 1099-SA if distribution received from a Health Saving Account (HSA). If you see an amount labeled "W" in Box 12 of your W-2, you will need this document.
 - Form 1098-T and student's statement of account for the tax year
 - Proof of daycare expenses paid with daycare provider's name, address, and Tax ID Number
 - Gig workers need to bring a listing of business-related expenses and number of business miles driven.
 - Qualified (non-reimbursed, post-tax) Health Insurance or Long-Term Care premiums paid (Missouri residents could get a break on their state taxes)
- Applying for the Missouri Property Tax Credit (Circuit Breaker)?
- Bring completed and signed Form 5674, Verification of Rent Paid, or real estate taxes paid document
 - SSI Benefit verification letter
 - Non-taxable VA Benefit letter

TAP does not prepare income tax returns for taxpayers who have:
• Incomes over \$64,000 • Rental Property

SPONSORS: Believers Temple Word Fellowship, Cardinal Ritter College Prep, City of Overland, Conner Ash PC, MRV Banks, St. Charles City-County Library District, St. Charles School District Adult and Community Education, St. Louis Chapter MSCPA, St. Mary's Southside Catholic, Thomas Dunn Learning Center, Trinity Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, United Way of Greater St. Louis

[Click to Visit The St Louis TAP Website](http://stlouistap.org)

Help for Our Neighbors: Birth Certificates and Missouri ID's



If you meet a Neighbor who needs help obtaining a birth certificate or state ID, they may receive help through the Outreach Program at the College Church.

Birth Certificate & Missouri State ID Program

Do you need help paying for your Photo ID or Birth Certificate? Do you need help gathering your paperwork and navigating the process? We can help!

Assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Date: Weekly on Tuesday
Time: 9:00AM - While Assistance Lasts

Location: St. Francis Xavier College Church
Entrance on Grand - Lower Level Ballroom
3628 Lindell Blvd | Saint Louis, MO 63108

Contact: 314-266-9557 or outreach@sfxstl.org

If possible, please bring any of the following:

- Photo ID
- Proof of MO Residency
- Social Security Card
- Birth Certificate
- Documents with your name

Additional Information:

- Assistance is limited
- Assistance is available once per person every two years.
- Walk-in (first come, first served) or schedule an appointment
- Walk-ins should arrive by 8:45AM

We Can Help With:

- Payment for Birth Certificate and/or ID
- Guidance on the NEXT STEPS to secure your official identification
- Proof of Residency, if needed
- Address to receive approved Birth Certificate and/or ID at our office

We Can NOT Help With:

- Address to receive general mail
- Bus tickets
- Housing
- Gas Vouchers
- Any other services beyond Birth Certificate and ID assistance

[View MO ID Access Website](#)

The Birth Certificate and ID Program will be closed for upcoming holidays on the following days:

- Tuesday December 26, 2023
- Tuesday January 2, 2023

Rx Outreach: Free/Affordable Mailed Prescriptions

Prescription Assistance from St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis has been discontinued for the time being, however there are additional resources available to help our Neighbors!



Mark your calendars!

Know Your Resources: RX Outreach on January 10th & January 17th

Rx Outreach provides free and affordable medications to

uninsured and underinsured people in all 50 states. They mail medications directly to your home. Rx Outreach carries about 1,000 medications for over 60 chronic diseases. You can [search by brand/generic name or by health condition](#).

They are a fully licensed and accredited pharmacy and have helped people save over \$1B on their prescriptions since their founding in 2010. [All their prices are listed on their website](#) and prices include shipping. There are no other fees.

[For more Information on Enrollment Click Here](#)

For more information you can visit their website www.rxoutreach.org

2024.

There will be 2 presentations given to our Vincentians to ask questions to help our neighbors.

Register Above More information in events below!

SVdP News

SVdP eBay Store Nears \$10k in sales!



The new SVdP STL eBay store is continuing to grow and gain sales momentum!

In it's first 30 days of sales, we saw an amazing \$7,647.35 in gross revenues from the eBay store.

In the week and half since then, there have been an additional \$2300+ in sales, putting total revenues at almost \$10,000 in only the first 42 days!

We also had an amazing 2,109,930 eBay posting impressions as of December 4th!

[SHOP NOW](#)

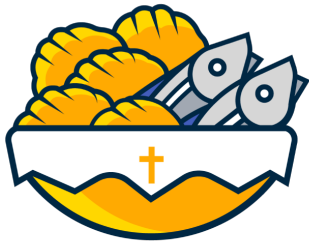
Vincentian Friendship and Fellowship

Vincentians from Most Sacred Heart Eureka enjoyed an Oratory Visit to St. Francis de Sales in South St. Louis City as a fun friendship outing organized by Jean

Bollinger. They were joined by Tim Massey from the Council Office.



Thanks to Our Donors!



#iGIVECATHOLIC

We are happy to announce we exceeded our fundraising goal of \$5000 for iGiveCatholic on this year's GivingTuesday.

Thank you to everyone who gave and shared our cause with friends. It is your support that makes our mission possible.

Give the Gift of A Meaningful Christmas



Are you searching for a special Christmas gift that not only eases the holiday frenzy but also represents the true spirit of Christmas?

With a donation to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP), you can receive copies of a custom created Christmas card, featuring a new painting by our Executive Director, John Foppe, who was born without arms and paints using his feet.

With a suggested minimum donation of \$250, you'll receive 5 cards with gift envelopes, making this both a convenient and heartwarming way to spread the holiday

spirit.

Your generous donations have a direct impact right here in St. Louis:

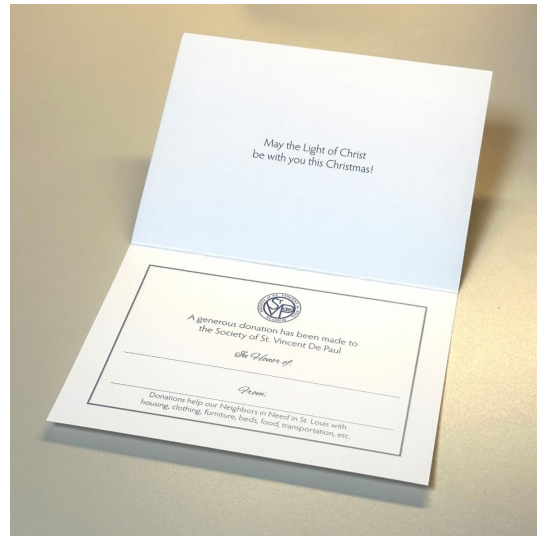
- \$250 can provide a week's worth of meals for a family of four.
- \$500 can help replace furniture for a family who has lost everything in a fire.
- \$1,000 can cover a month's rent, offering stability to a family in need.

Ordering these cards is simple:

- [Click here to order](#), or
- Call us at 314-881-6003 to place your order.

Supplies are limited, so don't delay, order now!

As Christmas draws near, may your holidays be filled with shared moments of warmth and kindness, knowing that your generosity is making a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve.



[Click Here to Order](#)

Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

Upcoming Formation Events

Dec 8 | All day
[Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception](#)

Dec 20 | 1:00 pm
[Pregnancy Care Partnership Zoom](#)

Jan 10 | 2:00 pm
[Council Webinar - Know Your Resources: RX Outreach](#)

Jan 17 | 6:00 pm
[Council Webinar - Know Your Resources: RX Outreach](#)

Jan 27 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
[Conference Presidents Training](#)

Upcoming Holiday Closings

- Dec 25, 2023 – Christmas holiday, Council office closed
- Jan 1, 2024 - New Year's holiday, Council office closed

12/8 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

The medal of the Immaculate Conception was manifested to Sister Catherine Laboure in the Motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity in Paris, France on November 27, 1830.

[Learn More](#)

12/20 - Pregnancy Care Partnership



December 20 at 1:00 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 883 4273 2618
Passcode: 301266

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

1/10 & 1/17 - Know Your Resources: RX Outreach

Prescription Assistance from St. Vincent de Paul St. Louis has been discontinued for the time being, however there are additional resources available to help our Neighbors!

Check out this Council Webinar to help you "Know Your Resources"!

Learn about how Rx Outreach provides free and affordable medications to uninsured and underinsured people in all 50 states.

There will be 2 opportunities for our Vincentians to ask questions and learn about how RX Outreach can help us to help our neighbors.

[Register for January 10](#)

[Register for January 17](#)

1/27 & 2/3 - Conference Presidents Training

Conference Presidents are the linchpin to a vibrant Conference!

The St. Louis Council is strengthening its support and development of Conference Presidents. **Whether you're a new president, or in your second term, plan to attend Conference President Training.**

This training will provide presidents with essential fundamentals and the ideas and actions they need to enhance Spirituality, Friendship and Service.

It will also cover practical aspects of the president's role. Importantly, we will have one or more experienced presidents as part of the presentation to give a seasoned perspective. This is the place to get all your tough questions answered.

This training is strongly encouraged for presidents who have been in office for less than 2 years (if they have not attended one previously). However, all presidents should consider attending as they can learn something to take their Conference to the next level and share their acquired experiences with others.

Plan on attending one of the two dates being offered – If January 27 doesn't work for you, check out our February 3 opportunity!

[Register for January 27](#)

[Register for February 3](#)

All Things New

To support Conferences, the Council has prepared a thorough compilation of Conference Merger Materials, which is available online to all Vincentians.

Click the link below to access the resources.

We continue to depend on you, our Vincentians, to let us know what is going on in your parishes and how we can better support you!



[Access Conference Merger Resources](#)

From the Voice of the Poor

Action Alert:

Remove the Penalties for Work

During the last session of the Missouri General Assembly, Vincentians rallied in support of benefits cliff legislation, and SB 45/90 and SB 106 were passed subject to appropriation. If funded, these bills will allow recipients of TANF and SNAP to receive reduced benefits as their income increases, rather than being cut off altogether. Without the threat of a complete loss of benefits, low-income workers will be encouraged to accept a promotion or pay raise or to work longer hours.

But for this to happen, the General Assembly must include funding in the FY 2025 budget. That process starts with the Governor, who is currently working on the budget he will submit to the General Assembly for consideration in January.

Please contact Governor Parson's office and ask him to include funding for the benefits cliff legislation in his proposed budget.

[Click Here to Contact the Governor](#)

Helping Neighbors Trapped in High-Interest Loans

The St. Louis Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) and Midwest BankCentre have teamed up to launch the Credit Empowerment Pilot Program to assist Neighbors who are trapped in high-interest loans from payday, car title, or other high-cost lenders.

The program will replace up to \$3,000 in high-interest loans with a Credit Empowerment loan from Midwest BankCentre at 6.43%. Midwest BankCentre will also provide periodic financial coaching during the term of the Credit Empowerment loan.

To be eligible, a Neighbor must be capable of paying back the Credit Empowerment loan in 6-24 months. An SVDP Credit Empowerment Team member will meet with the Neighbor to prepare a budget and verify that the Neighbor's monthly income exceeds monthly expenses, once the high-interest payment is replaced by the low-interest payment.

Thus far, the high-interest rates encountered by this program have ranged from 148% to 690%. Neighbors have saved an average of \$270 a month by converting to a Credit Empowerment loan.

If you are a Neighbor with a high-interest loan, please contact your local SVDP Conference, which you can locate by visiting bit.ly/SVDPhelp and following the instructions. Please note that loan closing must be in person. Midwest BankCentre has branches in St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Jefferson County, and St. Charles County.

If you are a Vincentian and would like your Conference to participate in the program, or if you are an individual interested in becoming a Credit Empowerment Team member (i.e., meeting with Neighbors to prepare budgets and help assess eligibility), please contact credit@svdpstl.org, and a Zoom training session will be scheduled at your convenience.

Reminder... Rosary Every Wednesday Night

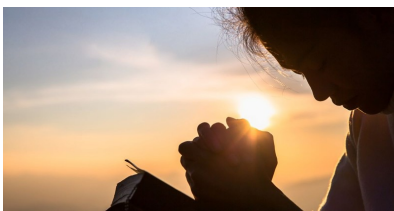


Join us --
**SVdP St. Louis
Rosary Wednesday**
8 PM via Zoom

[Click Here to Join](#)

Meeting ID: 989 8066 7271
Passcode: Vincent
or dial in: (312) 626-6799

Please Keep in Your Prayers



Please Pray for The Sick:
Marty Bligh, Holy Name of Jesus

Please Pray for The Deceased:
Debbie Rupp, wife of Steve Rupp, Council office

To add a name to the list, please contact Steve Rupp at stever@svdpstl.org or (314) 881-6018.

Click the icons below to follow us on social media
and stay up-to-date with what's happening at SVdP!



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