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The Society Scoop | Jan 2024 | Issue 1

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# The Society Scoop

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

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## Happy "All Things New" Year - Another Way

by Fr. Dan Thiess, Council Spiritual Advisor



Read the Gospel: [Matthew 2: 1-12](#)

As we hear in Matthew's gospel, the three kings: Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar **departed in another way.**

**How are we being called as Vincentians to arrive in another way this New Year with All Things New?**

Change can be difficult and the paths we have taken to visit the poor may change our road maps on this faith journey. We too can be greatly troubled and wonder. Or we can approach each encounter with the poor in wonderment.

The term "Epiphany" originates from the Greek "epiphaneia." It means "appearance" or "manifestation," expressing how Jesus Christ was revealed to the world.

Herod wanted to meet the Christ but for other reasons. **How do we as Vincentians encounter and meet Christ as messengers of Epiphany this New Year? We bring gifts and receive the gifts of our neighbors in our lives as we encounter Christ.**

Let the light of the star guide us to, and with, our neighbors as Christ revealed.  
Happy New Year!

## Vincentian Meditation: New Year, New Resolve



### New Year, New Resolve

by Steve Rupp, Manager of Member Support

#### Top 10 New Years Resolutions (According to Google)

1. Exercise more
2. Lose weight
3. Get organized
4. Learn a new skill or hobby
5. Live life to the fullest
6. Save more money/spend less money
7. Quit smoking
8. Spend more time with family & friends
9. Travel more
10. Read more

The Google list are things we have to do **by ourselves**.

#### Top 10 Catholic New Years Resolutions (According to me)

1. Pray more alone
2. Pray more with others
3. Go to adoration more
4. Go to Mass at least one weekday every week
5. Go to Confession once a month
6. Talk about my faith with others
7. Find a spiritual advisor
8. Go on more home visits
9. Volunteer at my parish
10. Learn more about pro-life issues

The Catholic list are things we do **with God's help**.

**Which list has the greater chance to succeed? Which list is more important?**

Admittedly, we rarely keep our New Years Resolutions...

[Read the Full Meditation!](#)

## Program Updates & Resources

**Attention Conference Presidents! Register NOW!**

**Conference Presidents are the linchpin to a vibrant Conference!**

**Whether you're a new president, or in your second term, plan to attend Conference President Training.**

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.

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

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Rise and Shine for Heat Up STL - Sign Up Before Feb. 1

## Volunteers Needed for 2024 Heat Up St. Louis Campaign

Your help gets funds for SVdP!

The 24th Annual Hardee's "Rise and Shine® for Heat," to benefit Heat Up St. Louis is set for **Friday, February 9, 2024**, during breakfast hours.



Each year, volunteers come out as **Official Greeters** at various local Hardee's units for at least 1 hour, (they can and do volunteer longer) and welcome customers at the drive-thrus, menu board, and parking lots.

Hardee's offers a Sausage biscuit or Egg Biscuit Sandwich for the special price of \$1.00, and 100% of all sales proceeds go to Heat-Up St. Louis and its partners. **Option: Show your support by contacting your local Hardee's for the pre-sale of sandwiches and pick-up an order!**

As an official "greeter," it is quite rewarding to see a warm glow on the faces of the Hardee's customers, and neighbors making a difference. In addition, the Official Greeters are the key to succeeding in obtaining additional donations from the customers.

SVdP participation is part of our collaborative partnership with Heat Up St. Louis and contributes to funds that serve our Neighbors in Need.

**All VOLUNTEERS receive a souvenir apron and a free breakfast.**

Please return a completed list of volunteers from your Conference, request your location and time. Greeters can work any time between 6 a.m. and 10:30 am for a one-hour minimum.

We'll be happy to assign you to a restaurant. YOU MAY BE REQUESTED TO BE MOVED, WITH NOTICE, TO COVER EACH RESTAURANT WITH A

**Deadline to submit sign-up form is Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Volunteer requests submitted after that date may not be accommodated.

For Questions and Form Submissions,  
Email: Timothy Massey [timothym@svdpstl.org](mailto:timothym@svdpstl.org)  
OR Fax forms to: (314) 881-6078.

Below is a "Simple" version of the Sign-Up form with NO pre-filled dropdowns, which you can enter into and save to send to Tim.

[Click Here to Download the Simple Sign-Up Form](#)

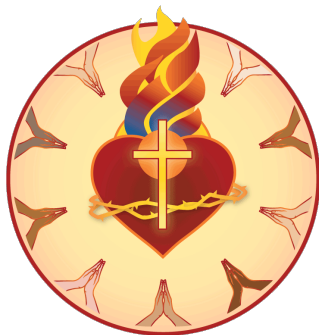
[Click Here to View Locations](#)

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## Save the Date! - 2024 Spring Assembly

Save the date for Spring Assembly!  
"Vincentian Hearts Ablaze:  
Igniting Hope and Joy"

Saturday, April 27  
8 AM – Noon



**Vincentian Hearts Ablaze**  
Igniting Hope and Joy

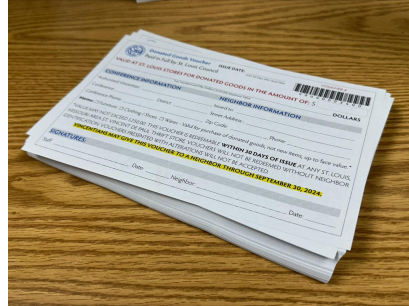
- Location: **SLU High School**
- Mass Celebrant & Homilist:  
**Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski**
- Keynote Address:  
**John Foppe, Executive Director**
- 2 Table Discussions
- Friendship & Spirituality
- Sharing great ideas to take back to your conference!

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## Helpful Voucher Tips

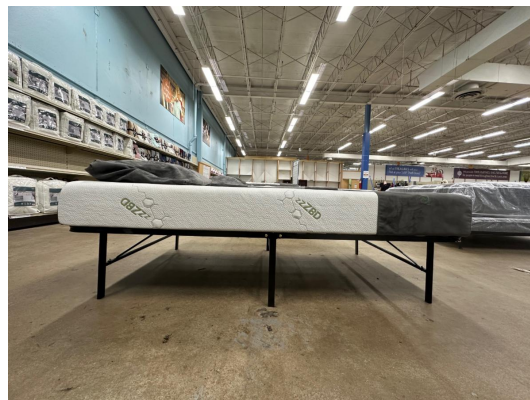
1. When providing vouchers to your Neighbors, please write out the name of your Conference and District. Do not use

- your Conference number.
- Detailed instructions for the vouchers are available on our website at: **SVdP St. Louis Program Handbook**
  - 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.
  - If you have questions about entering voucher data in ServWare, please contact John Doyle at **johnhd@svdpstl.org**
  - 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! Available Now!



The new Tanda Rolled Beds are available now at all St. Louis store locations, and displays can be viewed at most store locations.

The two exceptions are Ballwin and Creve Coeur, where limited inventory will still be available, but not on display.

Stores each received between 5-15 sets of the “new” beds to start with and will begin receiving inventory weekly on Monday, 1/8.

The picture above shows the compact size of the rolled bed with a person for scale. **One person can easily lift and carry this mattress alone!**

Because they come tightly rolled and are relatively light weight, many neighbors will now be able to pick up these new beds without the need for

delivery!

The bedframes also fold down small enough to fit in many vehicles.

Click Here for Rolled Bed Pricing

Click Here for Bed Program Voucher Instructions

If you have general questions about the bed program, please contact Varrietta Anthony at [varriettaa@sudpstl.org](mailto:varriettaa@sudpstl.org).



Very limited inventory of Promo Plus beds remaining!

If you want to get the former bed for a neighbor, please call the store ahead for availability.

## Ascension Conference - Morning of Reflection

THE ASCENSION CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL  
INVITES PARISHIONERS & GUESTS TO

*a Morning of Reflection*

Featuring Robert Ernst, PhD.  
"Racism in our Society,  
A Catholic Perspective"

**FEB | 10<sup>TH</sup> | 2024**

Mass 8:00am in the Main Church  
Social with light refreshments in the Multi-Purpose Room immediately following Mass  
Presentation and Discussion: 9:00am  
Session will end at noon.

The Ascension Conference of St. Vincent de Paul invites parishioners and guests to:

*A Morning of Reflection*

Featuring Robert Ernst, PhD.  
"Racism in our Society, A Catholic Perspective"

**February 10, 2024 | 8am - 12pm**

Mass at 8am in the Main Church followed by social with light refreshments in the multi-purpose room.

Presentation with discussion from 9am - 12pm.

# Car Repair and Car Purchase Programs

New information for the [Car Purchase](#) and [Car Repair](#) programs is now available on the website, and can be accessed from the [St. Louis Program Handbook](#) page.

These programs are temporarily paused in St. Louis City and County, but assistance is still available for neighbors outside of St. Louis.

## SVdP in the News

### SVdP Creve Coeur featured on Show Me St. Louis!



The Show Me St. Louis team visited our Creve Coeur store for a bit of holiday shopping and a friendly ugly holiday sweater competition!

They even gave us a little runway show!

Who wore it best? [Cast your vote on Facebook!](#)



[View the Article and Video!](#)

## Upcoming SVdP Events At A Glance

### Upcoming Formation Events

Jan 10 | 2:00 pm

[Council Webinar - Know Your Resources: RX Outreach](#)

Jan 15 | 6:30 pm

[Council Webinar - Serware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 17 | 1:00 pm

[Pregnancy Care Partnership Zoom](#)

Jan 17 | 6:00 pm

[Council Webinar - Know Your Resources: RX Outreach](#)

Jan 18 | 3:30 pm

[Council Webinar - Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 22 | 6:30 pm

[Council Webinar - Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 25 | 3:30 pm

[Council Webinar - Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 27 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Conference Presidents Training](#)

Jan 29 | 6:30 pm

[Council Webinar - Servware Instructional Session](#)

Feb 3 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

[Conference Presidents Training](#)

Feb 27 | 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

[Home Visit 101 Workshop at Our Lady of Lourdes, University City](#)

Apr 10 | 9:30 am - 12:00 pm

[Home Visit 101 Workshop at St. Vincent de Paul , Perryville](#)

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## 1/17 - Pregnancy Care Partnership



**EVERY 3rd WEDNESDAY at 1:00 PM**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

**Meeting ID: 892 1537 1248**

**Passcode: 874686**

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

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## 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.



Get a link for today's Zoom  
@ 2:00PM

Register for January 17

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## Monday & Thursday - Servware Instructional Sessions

### Starting Next Week -

January 15 @ 6:30 pm & January 18 @ 3:30 pm

Have questions about ServWare? Do you want to know more about best practices, key features, useful reports, and much more?

The council office is now offering a new bi-weekly, open-forum style Zoom meeting to discuss all things ServWare. These meetings are open to all Vincentians, and the topics of discussion will be directed by you, the ServWare user.

In an effort to accommodate as many people as possible, we will initially offer two weekly opportunities to join:

- Monday evenings at 6:30PM and
- Thursday afternoons at 3:30PM.

Jan 15 | 6:30 pm | [Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 18 | 3:30 pm | [Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 22 | 6:30 pm | [Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 25 | 3:30 pm | [Servware Instructional Session](#)

Jan 29 | 6:30 pm | [Servware Instructional Session](#)

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## 1/27 & 2/3 - Conference Presidents Training

**Conference Presidents are the linchpin to a vibrant Conference!**

**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 practical aspects of the president's role.

Experienced presidents will also share their experience. 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.

**Plan on attending one of the two dates being offered –**

[Register for January 27](#)

[Register for February 3](#)

## 2/27 & 4/10 - Home Visit 101 Workshops

**February 27 | 6:00 - 8:30 PM**

Our Lady of Lourdes  
University City, MO

Please eat dinner before. Desserts and beverages will be provided.

[Register for February 27](#)

**April 10 | 9:30am - Noon**

St. Vincent de Paul  
Perryville, MO

A light breakfast will be provided.

[Register for April 10](#)

## 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!**



**ALL THINGS NEW**  
STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

[Access Conference Merger Resources](#)

## From the Voice of the Poor

**VOICE**  
*of the* **POOR**

**Help Neighbors Escape  
Predatory Lending**

*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 132% to 690%. A Neighbor with a 12-month \$2,500 loan at 330% could save more than \$500 a month and \$6,000 in total 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](http://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](mailto:credit@svdpstl.org), and a Zoom training session will be scheduled at your convenience. For more information, please see the attached flier.

## 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  
Chris Fernandez, Seven Holy Founders  
Bruce Gallion, Our Lady Queen of Peace

Prayers for the Deceased:  
Bob Meyer, Ascension - [Obituary](#)

To add a name to the list, please contact Steve Rupp at [stever@svdpstl.org](mailto: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!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul--St. Louis | 1310 Papin Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

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