

# 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**

♦ **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. 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.**

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THIS WEEK**

<b>SUN</b>	<b>12/18</b>	Miraculous Medal	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>MON</b>	<b>12/19</b>	Miraculous Medal	<b>11:00 am</b>
<b>TUE</b>	<b>12/20</b>	NO MASS	<b>7:00 am</b>
<b>WED</b>	<b>12/21</b>	Maria Meloni	<b>7:00 am</b>
<b>THU</b>	<b>12/22</b>	Miraculous Medal	<b>7:00 am</b>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>12/23</b>	Miraculous Medal	<b>7:00 am</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>12/24</b>	Francis John Ford	<b>4:00pm</b>
		Esther & Raymond Rigler	

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

<b>SUN</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>
<b>SAT</b>	<b>Sacrament of Penance 3-3:30 pm</b>

**FOR THIS WE PRAY**

**Parishioners**

Muriel Ancrum, Patricia Banmiller, Bernadette Barry, Katherine Elliott, Tom Weir, Anoaah 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.

**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 Margetch, 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.*

**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	4,136.95
Electronic	<u>2,972.00.</u>
Total	7,108.95
Tithe	355.44

**Today's Readings**

First Reading: Iuckj '7:10-14  
 Psalm: Psalm 24  
 Second Reading: Tqo cpu'3:1-7  
 Gospel: Mcwj gy "1:18-24

**Readings for Next Week**

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10  
 Psalm: Psalm 98  
 Second Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6  
 Gospel: John 1:1-18

Monday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25  
 Tuesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38  
 Wednesday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45  
 Thursday: I Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56  
 Friday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-34; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66  
 Saturday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Lk 1:67-79

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - December 18-24, 2016

### CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SCHEDULE

*4pm Choir 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass  
7pm Choir 7:30 Christmas Eve Mass  
11:30 Choir Midnight Mass  
Christmas Day Mass is at 10am*

### PRAYER & FASTING DURING ADVENT

We ask everyone who is able to join in prayer and fasting from December 19-23. Fasting means no meat, desserts, alcohol or eating between meals. We do this to grow in faith and love for our brothers and sisters living on the margins. If you cannot fast, please pray, come to morning Mass or Eucharistic devotion.

### MUSIC MINISTRY

Our new CD available for purchase at \$15 (a great Christmas gift! with proceeds supporting the ministry and capital campaign!). You can also sing with the choir during Advent/Christmas. Call the rectory office for times and dates and experience a special seasonal joy!

### THE "GIVING TREE"

Please don't forget our "giving tree". Bring your gifts for children and adults at Face to Face, My Place Germantown, Inn Dwelling and DePaul Catholic and placing it in the collection basket any time before Christmas.

### LECTORS

If you are a "seasoned" lector, please sign up for Christmas, January, February and Mar 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. Thanks to all who came to our Advent workshop!

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. Any questions, call Jerry Smith at (215) 508-0427.

### 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!

### DEPAUL CATHOLIC EVENTS

Students have made Christmas cards! A pack of 10 cards is \$20. Go to [depaulphila.org](http://depaulphila.org) to purchase or call Kelly Bielby at 215-842-1266.

### POWER UPDATE

POWER is Philadelphians Organized to Witness, Empower & Rebuild, a coalition of 50+ con-gregations 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. Watch for major POWER events the week of Martin Luther King Day! Contact Terri Burgin (215-651-0100) or Mary Laver (610-324-9388).

### WHAT is R.U.M.?

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 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 arises between meetings, to talk, plan or collaborate with members of other ministries or external groups about ideas raised in RUM. And we have a one-day retreat coming up on **Saturday, January 14** for all old and new RUM members, so save that date! Interested? Want to know more, and maybe join us? Please talk w/ Fr Sy or leave your name at the office and a RUM member will contact you.

### THANK YOU!

I would like to thank you everyone who donated a toy for the children of Buenaventura-Colombia. You brought happiness and smiles to these children's families who had received your toys. I really appreciate your support in this time of the year where they can celebrate and enjoy with others because of you.  
*Saamara Kaylor*

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Kitty at 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**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 18, 2016**  
**11:00 Mass**

O Wisdom of our God Most High,  
be born in the hearts of the preachers and teachers of every faith tradition,  
that they may guide all people in the way of compassion.  
We pray to the Lord . . .

O King of All Nations,  
rule in the hearts of all government and military leaders,  
that they may bring an end to the violent and long-standing conflicts  
that cause so much suffering for your people.  
We pray to the Lord . . .

O Radiant Dawn,  
bless and protect all expectant mothers;  
be with families who anticipate the birth or adoption of a child,  
and keep watch with all whose children are in danger.  
We pray to the Lord . . .

O Emmanuel, God with us,  
make your comforting presence known in the hearts of those  
who are separated from loved ones by distance or death during the holidays,  
and all who struggle to rejoice at Christmas.  
We pray to the Lord . . .

O Key of David,  
open the gates of paradise to all who have died,  
especially those close to our hearts,  
and those served by the many outreach ministries of St. Vincent DePaul.  
We pray to the Lord . . .

Christine Eberle

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> AND 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2016**

Wayne A. Smith, the brother of Jerry Smith, passed away last week. His funeral is Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at Enon Tabernacle Church, 230 W. Coulter Street, here in Germantown. The viewing is from 8am until 10am. The funeral will begin at 10am. Please pray for Wayne, and for Jerry and Robin and their family.

**GIVING TREE:** Thank you for all who gave so generously to those on our Giving Tree.

**CHRISTMAS EVANGELIZATION:** Please make an effort to invite and bring someone with you this coming Christmas Eve or Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS SECOND COLLECTION:** This Christmas our Second Collection will be to help our "Sister Parish", in El Salvador. Please be generous.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE (Christmas Eve Mass counts as your Christmas Obligation):**

4:00pm Choir. 4:30 Christmas Eve Mass

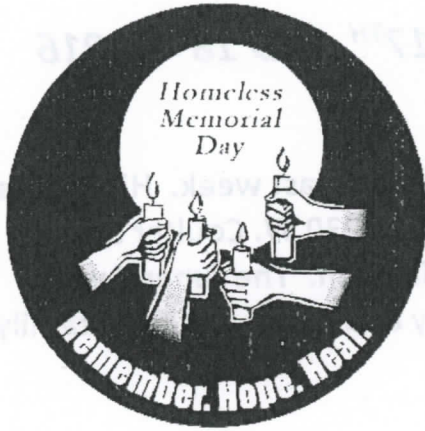
7:00pm Choir. 7:30 Christmas Eve Mass

11:30pm Choir. 12 Midnight Christmas Mass

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASS IS AT 10 AM.**

**\*\*\*THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM MONDAY, DECEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH MONDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>ND</sup>.** *If you have an emergency, please email Father Sy, at [frsy7@hotmail.com](mailto:frsy7@hotmail.com).\*\*\**





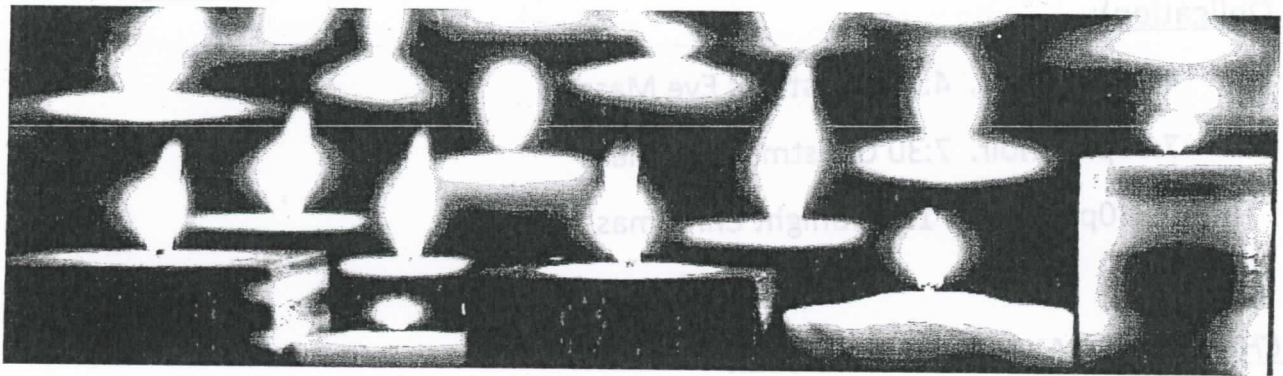
# Homeless Memorial Day

Wednesday, December 21

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Municipal Services Building - Thomas Paine Plaza  
1401 John F. Kennedy Boulevard

On the first day of winter, hundreds of Philadelphians will gather to remember those homeless and formerly homeless Philadelphians who died in 2016 and to call for an end to homelessness. **Join us.**



Like Homeless Memorial Day on Facebook  
[facebook.com/HomelessMemorialPhilly](https://facebook.com/HomelessMemorialPhilly)  
Talk about us with: #homelessmemorial



Follow HMD on Twitter: @HMDPhilly  
[twitter.com/HMDPhilly](https://twitter.com/HMDPhilly)  
Talk about us with: #homelessmemorial

*In case of severe weather, we will meet at Arch Street United Methodist Church at Broad and Arch Streets*

For information call, 215-232-7272 x 3047 or



## *Prayer and Fasting*

(December 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>)

We are praying for unity and acceptance of all people. We are praying that we become an even more welcoming parish to all, especially those on the "fringe".

1. Please pray this every day.
2. Any form of prayer you like.
  - a. Listening to God
  - b. Eucharistic Devotion
  - c. Mass
  - d. Rosary
  - e. Novena
  - f. Mantra (i.e. "God help me.")
  - g. Speaking from heart
  - h. Form prayers
3. There is Mass at 7am each morning.
4. There is a Holy Hour, with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, each evening from 6pm to 7pm.
5. At noon each day, join us to pray for our parish, by saying an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be.

## *Fasting*

We fast to grow deeper in prayer and to make sacrifices so that God can use us. There are many ways to fast, but all require some form of sacrifice to accompany our prayer. You must not fast so severely that you risk a medical issue.

The suggested fast is the Daniel Fast.

1. For those 5 days, eat only fruits, vegetables, water and pure fruit or vegetable juice. No caffeine, no alcohol, no meats, poultry or fish, no eggs or cheeses, no snacks or desserts. No eating between meals or snacks. Only one helping during meals.
2. If you cannot do this for 5 days in a row, skip a day; but avoid in between meal eating.
3. If you cannot do it for 3 days, then try 2 days or even 1.
4. If you cannot go the entire day without meat or poultry or fish, limit yourself to once a day.
5. If this is too much, do what you can. Give up snacks and desserts.

*Remember we are doing this to be willing to sacrifice for God and to see the face of God in all our brothers and sisters.*



**"Child Migrants: the Vulnerable and the Voiceless"**

Pope Francis' Letter to Us for the World Day of Migrants, January 15th, 2017 - Part 2



As a Latin American bishop, Pope Francis is familiar with the method of "seeing, judging, and acting." In "reading the signs of the times" he has placed world migration at the center of his pastoral work. His first trip out of Rome took him to the island of Lampedusa in the Mediterranean, where thousands of migrants from Africa and the Middle East arrive in a desperate search for shelter after risking their lives. In this letter he focuses on immigrant and refugee children. In the first part he reminded us of the love Jesus had for children, saying that to welcome them is to welcome God. *"For this reason," he remarks, "on the occasion of the annual World Day of Migrants and Refugees, I feel compelled to draw attention to the reality of child migrants, especially the ones who are alone. In doing so I ask everyone to take care of the young, who in a threefold way are defenseless: they are children, they are foreigners, and they have no means to protect themselves."* Look for Part 3, the last installment, in the December 25th Bulletin.

**PART TWO**

Childhood, given its fragile nature, has unique and inalienable needs. Above all else, there is the right to a healthy and secure family environment, where a child can grow under the guidance and example of a father and a mother; then there is the right and duty to receive adequate education, primarily in the family and also in the school, where children can grow as persons and agents of their own future and the future of their respective countries. Indeed, in many areas of the world, reading, writing and the most basic arithmetic is still the privilege of only a few. All children, furthermore, have the right to recreation; in a word, they have the right to be children.

And yet among migrants, children constitute the most vulnerable group, because as they face the life ahead of them, they are invisible and voiceless: their precarious situation deprives them of documentation, hiding them from the world's eyes; the absence of adults to accompany them prevents their voices from being raised and heard. In this way, migrant children easily end up at the lowest levels of human degradation, where illegality and violence destroy the future of too many innocents, while the network of child abuse is difficult to break up.

How should we respond to this reality?



Firstly, we need to become aware that the phenomenon of migration is not unrelated to salvation history, but rather a part of that history. One of God's commandments is connected to it: "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"; "Love the sojourner therefore; for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt". This phenomenon constitutes a sign of the times, a sign that speaks of the providential work of God in history and in the human community, with a view to universal communion. While appreciating the issues, and often the suffering and tragedy of migration, as too the difficulties connected with the demands of offering a dignified welcome to these persons, the Church nevertheless encourages us to recognize God's plan. She invites us to do this precisely amidst this phenomenon, with the certainty that no one is a stranger in the Christian community, which embraces "every nation, tribe, people and tongue". Each person is precious; persons are more important than things, and the worth of an institution is measured by the way it treats the life and dignity of human beings, particularly when they are vulnerable, as in the case of child migrants.

Furthermore, we need to work towards protection, integration and long-term solutions. We are primarily concerned with adopting every possible measure to guarantee the protection and safety of child migrants, because "these boys and girls often end up on the street abandoned to themselves and prey to unscrupulous exploiters who often transform them into the object of physical, moral and sexual violence".

Moreover, the dividing line between migration and trafficking can at times be very subtle. There are many factors which contribute to making migrants vulnerable, especially if they are children: poverty and the lack of means to survive – to which are added unrealistic expectations generated by the media; the low level of literacy; ignorance of the law, of the culture and frequently of the language of host countries. All of this renders children physically and psychologically dependent. But the most powerful force driving the exploitation and abuse of children is demand. If more rigorous and effective action is not taken against those who profit from such abuse, we will not be able to stop the multiple forms of slavery where children are the victims.

Prayer of Pope Francis for Refugees who Have Died at Sea  
Mytilene, Greece, April 2016

Merciful God, we pray to you  
for all the men, women and children  
who have died after leaving their homelands  
in search of a better life.

Though many of their graves bear no name,  
to you each one is known, loved and cherished.  
May we never forget them, but honor their sacrifice  
with deeds more than words.

We entrust to you all those who have made this journey,  
enduring fear, uncertainty and humiliation,  
in order to reach a place of safety and hope.

Just as you never abandoned your Son  
as he was brought to a safe place by Mary and Joseph,  
so now be close to these, your sons and daughters,  
through our tenderness and protection.

Merciful God and Father of all,  
wake us from the slumber of indifference,  
open our eyes to their suffering,  
and free us from the insensitivity  
born of worldly comfort and self-centeredness.

Inspire us, as nations, communities and individuals,  
to see that those who come to our shores  
are our brothers and sisters.  
May we share with them the blessings  
we have received from your hand,  
and recognize that together, as one human family,  
we are all migrants, journeying in hope to you,  
our true home,  
where every tear will be wiped away,  
where we will be at peace and safe in your embrace.

Immigration Matters # 6. December 18, 2016  
New Sanctuary Committee of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Germantown, Philadelphia



# ***SAVE THE DATE!***

*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 let us know if you are interested by writing your name on the Sign up sheet in the back of church before Christmas. 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 concert of hopeful folk/pop

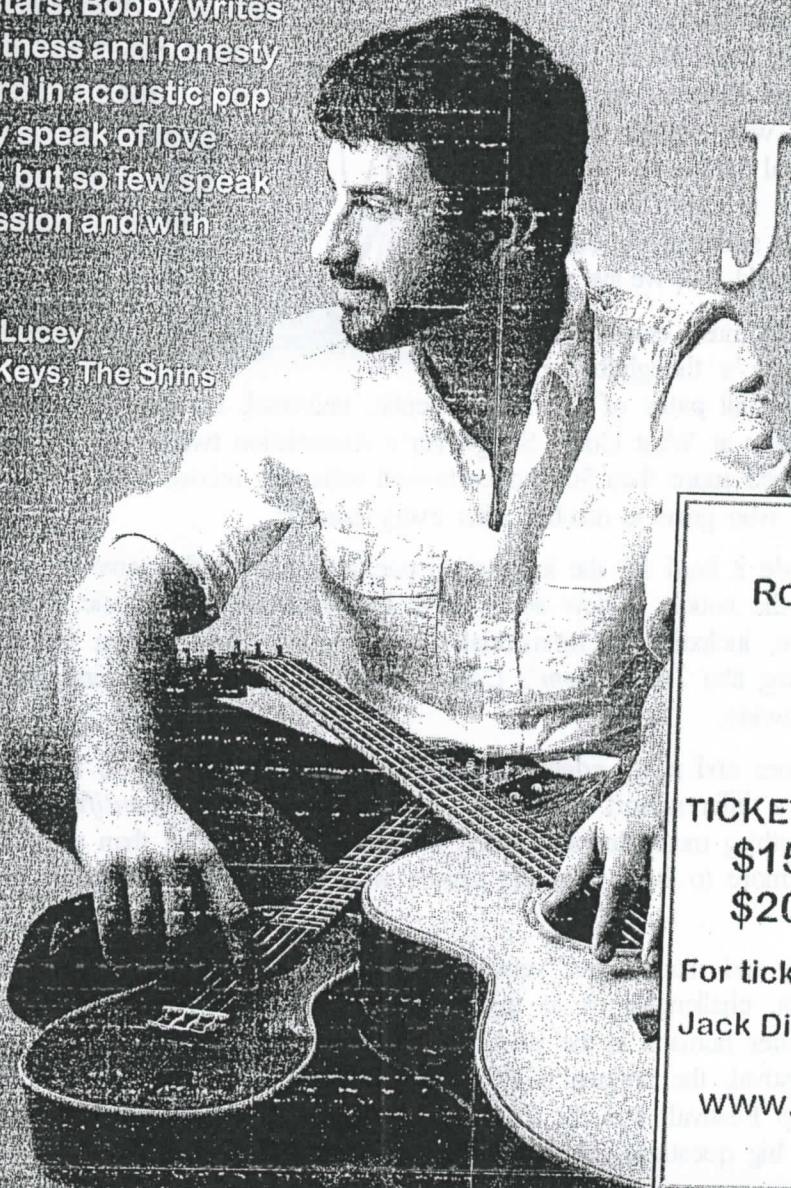
"5 out of 5 stars. Bobby writes with a sweetness and honesty seldom heard in acoustic pop music. Many speak of love and longing, but so few speak with compassion and with such hope."

-Brian Lucey  
Black Keys, The Shins

Saturday

# JAN 14

6 PM



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

For All Ages

TICKETS

\$15 (Advance)

\$20 (At the door)

For tickets or more info call:

Jack DiFeo 215 287-5682

[www.bobbyjovalentine.com](http://www.bobbyjovalentine.com)

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

—West Coast Songwriter's Association

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

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

—Indie Music



# St. Vincent de Paul Music Ministry

Presents:

## “All Are Welcome”

A CD featuring the music of our combined choirs and an original composition by our own, Darin Williams.



Now YOU can sing along with the choir!



**COST: \$15** - Available Dec. 4

\*This will make a GREAT Christmas gift!

\*\*\*There will be a **CONCERT** featuring the music from the CD on SUNDAY, DEC 4 at 3PM at St. Vincent's church (in the church).

*Please put the form below in an envelope CLEARLY marked “Music CD”.* You may place it in the collection basket or give it to a member of music ministry.

*ALL PROCEEDS WILL GO TO ST. V MUSIC MINISTRY AND THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN.*

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email or phone # \_\_\_\_\_

# of CD's ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$15 per CD)

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks made payable to St. Vincent de Paul Church