



St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Luke’s Conference
General meeting. Friday, February 21, 2025

svdpstluke.org

Vision Statement:

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is a lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the gospel message by seeing Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice, hope and joy, and by working to shape a more compassionate society.

The members of the SVdP Society of the parish of St. Luke will maintain this vision as each member grows individually through a deeper sense of spirituality and friendship, with the common goal to help those less fortunate by respecting their needs and to share their burdens. We make a commitment to share our resources, our time, and ourselves as we live the virtue of a Christian life.

Spiritual advisor: Debbie Weingroff

- Meeting with open with our prayer
- Ash Wednesday (**March 5th**) the sign-up sheet for volunteers to help at the masses and services is available during the meeting
- The following is the overview of our upcoming retreat being held at St. Luke’s (**March 27th**). The presenter is Sr. Anita Constance of the Sisters of Charity. Sr. Anita is the author of several spiritual books and is experienced in giving retreats, workshops, and spiritual direction. She ministered as a Pastoral Associate in the Diocese of Paterson, NJ, as Director of Pastoral Care at St. Anne Villa (Convent Station, NJ), Director of Xavier Retreat Center. Sr. Anita is a certified Spiritual Director and offers Bereavement Support and retreats. Sr. received an M.S. from Fordham University where she focused on Spirituality and Pastoral Counseling. The retreat is from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM. The cost is \$10.00
 - *Please sign up for the retreat at your earliest convenience. If you cannot sign up in person, please email Debbie at: dmweingroff@gmail.com
- SVdP members will lead the Stations of the Cross on April 4th

Community Comfort and Fellowship:

Liaison Aurora Ormsby

- Please follow our yearly calendar for the correct dates for the dinners (usually the last Thursday of each month; during the holidays the dates are adjusted)
- Attendance has continued to be steady and the meals delicious.

Correspondence: A constant “Thank you” to **Colleen Kehler** for writing the letters of gratitude to the many people who send in large financial donations or donations in remembrance of a loved one.

County Updates:

Code Blue. Guest speaker Pastor Rhetta Jackson-Fair: Author of “Thy Kingdom Come”

- Code Blue updates
- Town Hall Meetings
- Future support needed

Food pantry: Mary Schwarz

- The number of adults and children served from the pantry beginning of our new fiscal year, October 1, 2024, until the end of January is 3,594 individuals; 911 families.!! Fiscal year ends September 30, 2025
- Items such as coffee, tea, toilet paper and toiletries are always needed – these items we do not get through Fulfill

Note from Frank Kelly (fjkellyeire@me.com): please stay in contact when you cannot make your designated time for volunteering at the pantry. We want to make sure all shifts are properly covered.

Fundraising: Barbara Neary (hellonwheels67@aol.com)

- Boscovs “Friends Helping Friends” always successful
- Brownstone Pancake Factory for dining -to-donate
- Bus trip to Branch Brook Park for the Cherry Blossom Festival. Followed by an informational session and tour of the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart and a lovely luncheon of authentic Portuguese cuisine at Don Pepe Restaurant
- Gathering information on other local dining-to-donate opportunities
- Entertaining the possibility of hosting a concert by Father Alphonse and the Orchestra by the Sea
- At any time, all members, please share other ideas

Furniture Ministry: Paul Capelli (pcapelli56@gmail.com)

- If you have any furniture donations, call 609-557-7837 or
- Rosa Garcia: Vincent’s Legacy 908-601-6512
- We are requesting for additional volunteer for this important ministry

Garden: Meg Otchy (megotchy2@gmail.com)

- All the soil from the poinsettias that were on the altar this Christmas has now been used for our vegetable beds
- 7 out the 8 vegetable beds have been rebuilt
- Help the garden by sharing your compost
- Water lines will be addressed in the early spring
- Help in our garden is always welcomed 😊

Helping Hands: Christine Cotgreave (BlueDevil1191@live.com)

- Totals for the beginning of the new fiscal year: October 1, 2024 – January 2025
Families served - 523 Adults 1,219, Children 889 Items 8,373
Value in kind \$50,055.60. Fiscal year ends September 30, 2025. The volunteers still have many razzle dazzle days with jewelry, lovely clothing and accessories. Thank you.
- Helping Hands will not be accepting any more winter clothing donations; taking inventory for the spring and summer.

**Please always call Christine if you cannot find a sub for your designated shift if you will not be able to cover your hours.

Home Visits and Intake volunteers: Joe Damato and Michelle Jones

- Our intake and home visit volunteers have been working “overtime” especially since the holidays. They are the first advocates in trying to help the guests who contact us for help and additional resources. There have been 22 home visits completed since October 1st
- We continuously receive updated information about local resources through the Toms River Housing and Homeless Coalition
- Thank you to all our home food delivery volunteers – it keeps a special connection with our community; a true act of kindness.

Pavers: Charlie Rott (crott2668@verizon.net)

- Please contact Charlie if you are interested in purchasing a paver for the Celebration Garden

Secretary: Jill Bradley (jillabradley@aol.com)

- Farro’s Tees (back online) for SVdP clothing. After meeting Jill will help with orders if you are interested in making a purchase
- Completed ministry list for our conference: 109 members filling 199 ministry positions
- All Board meeting notes and General meeting notes are on our website

Social Committee: Many thanks to **Annette Avena and Mary Jo Phillips** for ALWAYS doing the shopping, ordering and preparation for our meeting luncheons. The food is donated (never from our treasury), however we appreciate the time going into the preparation. Thank you.

Social Sunday: On Sunday, **February 16th** many of our members volunteered to help serve at the parish monthly Social Sunday! Their help was greatly appreciated!

On **March 4th** will be Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner. \$5.00 per person RSVP needed to attend lalimongello@stlukestomsriver.org>. If you wish to help cook or serve, please let Lisa know of your interest to help.

Sunshine Club: Karen Rott (karenrott@verizon.net)

- A sincere thank you to Karen for continuing to send get well cards and mass cards to our members and their families.

Technology: Kathy Minton (kcminton15@gmail.com)

- Please continue to visit our webpage: svdpstluke.org as the information changes often. Home visitor forms, new membership forms and other resources are located on the FORMS page, plus Board minutes, general meeting agendas, statistics and more about each ministry
- The ONLINE store is open and now offering a shipping option at an additional cost to you. The pickup option for our conference is still available at no charge. We will make arrangements to get your items and deliver to you.
- For general questions or issues with the website you can [email svdp.stluke@outlook.com](mailto:email_svdps@outlook.com). Your message will either be answered directly or forwarded to the right person.
- More than 50 certificates have been distributed to those individuals or clubs and organizations that have been supportive in many ways to our conference to help our guests.

Time Sheets: Sue DeBella(sdebella814@gmail.com)

- October 1, 2024- January 2025 3,465.95 hours 8,981.80 miles
- Time sheets may be emailed directly to Sue

Toy Drive: Susan De Millio

- The toy drive collected over 300 toys to share with our local families this Christmas
*The committee members worked diligently to make this a successful event
- On Tuesday, February 18th, Susan presented the Rotary Club a framed certificate of gratitude from our conference for their tremendous support (a second consecutive year).
- There will be a planning meeting in the spring to discuss next year's toy drive

Treasurer's report: Sharon Bianchi

- please see attached sheet for last year's fiscal report
- our treasury at this time is \$26,484.12
- Sharon will share any updated expenses at this time.

Many thanks for all you do, every day, for so many.

"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison you visited me... Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for the least brothers or sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25: 31-46)

A sign-up sheet for an additional fundraiser for Open Arms is available today during the meeting: proceeds to benefit Contact of Ocean and Monmouth County, and Harbor House. A copy will also be in the conference room. Thank you. St. Patrick's Day boxed lunch \$12.00.

GEMMA BRENNAN, President