

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING Via ZOOM JANUARY 7th @7:00PM

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St. Thomas Aquinas  
Catholic Church

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Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
892-1511

St. Vincent de Paul  
Monday-Friday (10-1)  
892-0526  
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Phone Visits- 44  
Walk-ins- 1

## DEACON'S ADVENT REFLECTION

Joseph receives little attention these days, even in Advent, but Joseph stands right beside Mary at the center of the stage. Joseph stands, with eager expectation, at the threshold of transcendence. From the darkness of his own limited understanding, he is continually peering into the mystery of God. Surely he cannot fathom the virginal conception of Jesus that the angel announces, but with loving compassion he bows in reverence to God's incomprehensible ways. Surely, he does not understand how this child, who seems like any other, could be "God with us", but he abandons himself, in faith, to the task of loving the child and educating him.

There is something incredibly beautiful about Joseph's contact with the transcendent mystery of God. He was a carpenter and in the midst of his daily manu-



al labor and family life, Joseph was surrounded by the mystery of God and he penetrated it with faith. He trusted in God's daily providence.

"Imagine how Joseph felt as the birth of his

mysterious son approached: puzzled, excited, awed. Deep faith was his light in the darkness. It enabled him to see the presence of God even where suffering, privation, and violence appeared to reign. Joseph knew the pain and embarrassment of poverty when there was no room in the inn. He witnessed violence when Herod unleashed his wrath against the children in Bethlehem. He felt persecution when he fled to Egypt. Yet he believed. He believed that God walked with him, that God is faithful to promises, that God is alive, and we can find God not only in the light but also in the darkness. He lived on the edge of mystery and was not afraid to gaze into it with courage in order to find God."

( Maloney, *Seasons of Spirituality*, p.53 & 54)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance- \$72,595.97  
After Collection- \$108,654.28  
Distributions- \$25,709.07  
Ending balance- \$82,945.21

*This information is provided to you on a monthly basis by our treasurer, Paul La Pierre. This is an overall monthly summary. For more information, you may contact Paul at our office by calling 892-0526.*





## December Birthdays

*Louise Ball  
Corina Chavez  
Debby Estvanko  
Paul La Pierre*



*Amen,  
I say  
to you,  
whatever you  
did for the least  
of my brothers,  
you did  
for me*

## SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Our conference was overjoyed that the parish, not only gave us permission, but fully supported the idea of our annual Thanksgiving food distribution. Yes, it was different than previous years but it was still held in the spirit of God's love for the people we serve. No, there wasn't as much physical contact with those who came out to visit us but it was still joyous and special. Our volunteers did an amazing job with the drive-up style distribution. We had volunteers start at 6:30AM to begin lining up the cars in two rows to receive food and gift cards. The parking lot was filled with cars 7 rows deep at the height of

the distribution. The parking lot volunteers kept order in the parking lot and kept the cars flowing. The four teams of registration people were the BEST! The information they provided was neat and accurate. Amanda Manno gave out all the hats, gloves and scarves we had donated. She made people happy and warm. Our teams of volunteers at the freezer trailer site, gave out turkeys, pies and gift cards. Our visitors were so excited and some were so touched they cried. Joe had bags of coloring and activity books plus crayons to give to the kids in the cars. Dallas Virchow

made sure that the traffic kept flowing when everyone was finished at the end of the parking lot. In all, we had about 40 volunteers handle this year's distribution. It's not what we are used to but we made it work for the good of the community. God provided all the food and money we needed to complete our mission. It is God that gives us our talents to accomplish His work and God we glorify when we carry out His plans. Thank you to all the volunteers for your hard work. I know there were some of you who couldn't volunteer this year due to the circumstances. We did miss you. Please consider volunteering next year.

## THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent begins the church year in which we anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ on earth. After Advent, we celebrate Christmas, the celebration of Jesus' birth. Advent focuses on Jesus' earthly com-

ing or birth. The coming of Jesus can be viewed in our lives three ways; past, present and future. In the past, we were all lost in sin with no hope of a life with God until Jesus' birth and death for us. In the

present, Jesus is with us every day to support our spiritual journey to heaven. In the future, there will be a second coming. All that is wrong with the world will end. Jesus' faithful will follow Him to heaven.

## ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING

The board will be meeting in January for their annual planning meeting. This is where they plan out the year's events and take a good look at the financial health of the conference. It will be difficult to plan

events since COVID is still a factor. Our conference is in a much better financial position than ever before. We ask for your patience when it comes to the events calendar. It may be later in the year when

events can be scheduled, such as, the annual Home Visitor meeting, a retreat, Ozanam Orientation, or new Home Visitor training. Information will be provided as soon as it's available.

## THE RULE

**6.3 The Adoption of Practical Initiatives-** Conferences and Councils should establish a dialogue with their counterparts in other Christian churches or ecclesial communities, and other faiths, with regard to cooperation in charitable work, wherever this is appropriate.



# December Vincentian Prayer List

Your prayers are being requested for these special intentions:

**Mike Jerome**– For healing from Parkinson's– Barb Jerome

**Fred Richardson**– Progression from Parkinson's & compression fractures–  
Louise Richardson

**Connie Shingleton**– Recovery from breast cancer– Candace Hintenach

**Mabel Romero**– Successful kidney treatment– Jill Lythgoe

**Jane Romero**– Fighting the return of cancer– Laura Greico

**Our firstborn son, Matthew** - who passed away 30 years ago on Dec. 11, for us  
who miss him and for all parents who have lost their child - Anne Austin

**Ingrid Schumacher** – healing from severe muscle spasms caused by a fall on  
Thanksgiving Day and a good outcome on her MRI – Candace Hintenach

**For the soul of our good friend, Craig Maddox** - who passed away after a  
courageous battle with cancer – Louise Richardson

**Father Bill Young** – For recovery from a serious illness– Conference members

**For the people we serve** – praying for those who are experiencing illness,  
unemployment, or loss of a loved one

**Front Line Workers**– May the Lord protect them and keep them safe as they go  
out each day to help those in need– Gerri Martinez

# 2020 Thanksgiving Distribution

