



Christmas



St. Vincent

Pictures (clockwise from upper left) Steve McDaniels, Laureen Brunelli, Colleen McCahill, Chris McCullough, Steve McDaniels

VISITORS WELCOME!

- Each week the Eucharist is offered as bread and wine.
- Instead of using missalettes, we read from our Altar Bible, following the Catholic tradition that the Word is to be heard.
- The music is in *Gather* (blue hymnal) and *Worship* (red). Hymns are in the weekly bulletin.
- Our weekend Mass celebrations have different moods. Our 9:30 Mass is lively with a full choir, while the 11:45 AM one has a cantor. The vigil at 7:15 is quiet and contemplative.
- All of St. Vincent is wheelchair accessible. We have listening devices available behind the last pew.
- At 9:30 Mass, we offer Liturgy of the Word for Children, an age-appropriate homily program, and American Sign Language interpretation. And after the 9:30 Mass, we have coffee and pastries downstairs in our undercroft. Join us!

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturdays: 7:15 PM

Sundays: 9:30 and 11:45 AM

Weekdays: 12 PM, Monday-Friday

Saturdays: 7:15 PM

120 North Front Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

410-962-5078

410-962- 8427 (fax)

stvchurch.org

facebook.com/stvchurch

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PEACE ON EARTH...GOOD WILL TO ALL!

As we celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ, we want to take a moment to welcome one another. We especially want to greet those who may be with us for the first time, or in a long time. We are glad you came!



NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE - This year Jan. 1 is both a holy day of obligation (Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God) and a Sunday. There will be a special Mass schedule next Sunday—7:15 PM Saturday and 10 AM on Sunday.

FR. DICK'S RETIREMENT - As was announced last weekend, Fr. Dick plans to retire in early 2017. He will come to celebrate Mass with us one more time as pastor. When we have confirmed his retirement date, we will set the day for that Mass and publicize it. After retirement, he plans to celebrate with us on an ongoing basis as he is able. For now, he continues to recuperate from his fall in October at Future Care Homewood (2700 N. Charles St. Baltimore MD 21218). He welcomes visitors and cards. See "St. V's Year in Review" on the back of the bulletin for more about Fr. Dick.

PRAYER WALK WITH BISHOP MADDEN - Each month Bishop Madden, Baltimore's Urban Vicar, leads a Prayer Walk for Peace through areas of Baltimore that have been affected by violence. Most months these are evening events that begin with a meal. In January, however, the Prayer Walk is at **12 PM, Monday, Jan. 16**, Martin Luther King Day. It begins at St. Bernardine Church (3812 Edmondson Ave, Baltimore, MD 21229).

FAITH FUN FELLOWSHIP classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8.

PARISH OFFICE will be closed Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. However, there will be a noon service.

CHESAPEAKE BAY TRUST GRANT

St. Vincent was awarded a \$50,000 Watershed Assistance Grant to design improvements to our campus's storm water runoff. The proposed design will include cisterns, rain gardens and sand filters for our park, buildings and parking lot. In addition to cleaning the water that runs from our property into the Chesapeake, these improvements will beautify and add functionality to our park. Many thanks to parishioner Ray Heil who wrote the grant for us! Look for more about this project in the coming months.

CHRISTMAS SEASON ANNOUNCEMENTS

In order to preserve that sacred space we try to create at the end of Mass, one person will make announcements. If you have a parish-centered announcement, email it by Wednesday at 10 PM to bulletin@stvchurch.org and request it be announced too. Regular announcements will resume on Jan. 15.

ST. V'S 2017 RETREATS

Lenten Half-Day Retreat on Saturday, March 18, at the Shrine of St. Anthony will delve into mysticism with retreat directors Gerry Fialkowski and Peggy Shouse.

St. Vincent's Family Retreat will be on May 19-21 at Camp Nawakwa near Gettysburg. Our retreat director, Dr. Monica Weis of the Sisters of St. Joseph, will use the work of Thomas Merton, a Catholic monk, writer and mystic, to guide the retreat.

PRAYER REQUESTS: Georgie and Tom English, Joseph Patek, Gloria Prietz, Margaret Conley, Shannon Hawkins, Roxie Brown, Daniel Ansorge, Laurie Sanchez, David Payne, Mamie Coleman, John Schaefer, Joan Raimondi, Kelly Magnum, Marsha Register, Ed Gerwin, Jennifer Talarico, Joseph Duffy, Olga Flaks, Fr. Terence Hoppenjans, Linda Pardee, Charles Houston, Pat Massey, Ginny Graf, Jody Foster, Patrick Cvetic, Joan Casey, Ava Bonacci, Mark Pepple, Vivian Gibson, Owen and Rosemary Soraghan, Thaddeus Stamps, Carol Henneman Spenser, Fran MacAvoy, Dennis Witowski, Sue Mason, Myrtle Radke, Arthur Jones, Jeffrey Keast, Josephine McCoy, Dick Lawrence, Ben Podowski, Jack Spence, Marie Rippey, Jim Butzow, John Helie.

PRAYERS FOR DECEASED: Florence Clinton-Simpson, Antron Muse, Jim O'Brien, Jamie Jameson, Helen Urban, Mary McEnry.

Our Mission:

*We the people of God
of St Vincent de Paul Church
respond to God's call to*

Reflect

*The light and love of God the Creator,
Mother and Father of us all,
The infinite mercy and compassion of Jesus Christ
The empowering grace of the Holy Spirit*

Support

*Our welcoming community
of diverse persons and families
Our active and full participation
in liturgies and celebrations
Our spiritual growth in scripture,
sacraments and community*

Commit

*To love, serve and challenge one another
To sustain the earth, our neighbors near and far,
the poor, the marginalized
To be healing instruments of justice and peace*

STAFF

Rev. Richard T. Lawrence, Pastor rlawrence@archbalt.org

Colleen McCahill, Pastoral Associate - cmccahill@stvchurch.org

Laureen Brunelli, Administrator/Director of Evangelization
laureen@stvchurch.org

Barbara Hodnett, Director of Records and Sacred Vessels
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Anne Gibson, Minister of Education for Children
children@stvchurch.org

James Dimmer, Superintendent - jdimmer@stvchurch.org

Codie Perry, Outreach Coordinator - codie@stvchurch.org

Joseph Organ, Minister of Music - choir@stvchurch.org

Sue Goodman, Cantor

Rev. Charles Canterna, in Residence

SERVICE MINISTRIES

All are invited to get involved!

Breaking Bread with the Hungry – Adult volunteers (and teens with parents) are needed weekly starting at 4 or 4:30 PM on Fridays. Dinner is 5-6 PM.

Weekly Food Pantry – Our neighbors in 21202 and 21231 zip codes can receive a bag of groceries each month on Mondays, 12:30 PM.

Monthly Men's Clothing Distribution – Donations of men's casual clothing and toiletries needed for second Thursdays, 12:30 PM (Sept.-June).

The Resource Exchange provides furnishings for people housed by Healthcare for the Homeless. See our website for volunteer/donation opportunities.

Friends of St. Vincent Park helps maintain our park and make contact with its residents and visitors.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

St. V's social justice initiatives include sister parishes in Nicaragua and Lithuania; support for Maryland BRIDGE, Sts. James & John School and Habitat for Humanity; and advocacy work.

MORE WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

Monday Night Bible Study, Married Couples Group, Dinner for 8, Women in Ministry, Family Life Ministry
Contact the parish office at 410-962-5078 or parishoffice@stvchurch.org for more information.

FOR FAMILIES: At 9:30 Mass, we have a **Liturgy of the Word for children** (LOW) program, where kids hear the Word preached at an age-appropriate level. At all Masses, we offer **MagnifiKids**, a weekly Mass accompaniment. In the Gathering Space, you will find a rug, some toys and rockers for young families. Our religious education program for children in grades K-12 is **Faith, Fun Fellowship** (FFF), and it meets on the second and fourth Sundays after 9:30 Mass.

SACRAMENTS: For Baptism, Reconciliation and Marriage, call for an appointment with the pastor. For First Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation for youth, contact Anne Gibson. Confirmation and Baptism for adults, contact Anne Maura English RCIA@stvchurch.org.

ST. V'S SERVICE MINISTRIES

So far in 2016, St. Vincent has:

- **11,288 dinners** on Friday nights
 - Given **423 sets** of men's clothing
 - Provided furnishings for **119 people** once homeless
 - Distributed **734 bags of groceries**
 - Given **\$3,048.60** in aid from the Poor Box
- March-December our park had **2,020 overnight guests**. --As of 12/21/16

ST. VINCENT'S YEAR IN REVIEW

As 2016 winds down, radio and TV programs remind us it's been eventful year in our country and our world. Here at St. Vincent this, our 175th year, has been a big one as well.

What's Happened?

We began 2016 by welcoming Colleen McCahill as our new pastoral associate. We were fortunate that, as a long-time parishioner, she was able to transition quickly into the position.

As the year began, the parish was already involved the Archdiocesan planning process that addresses how Catholic parishes will continue to, and in fact grow in, our efforts to evangelize given the increasing shortage of clergy. This process will eventually yield new configurations for all parishes, called pastorates, which typically will be two or more parishes operating together.

Meanwhile, this 175-year-old church got a spiffy new look as our multi-year restoration of the exterior continued. The Front Street side's brick was repointed and painted; woodwork scraped and painted; steps reset and realigned; windows repaired and protective glass installed.

In the summer another new staff member joined us. Codie Perry, a Jesuit Volunteer Corps member and recent grad of Boston College, began working as outreach coordinator, connecting with all our service ministries and the people in need who come to our doors.

In honor of our 175th year, our annual Feast of St. Vincent celebration in September was especially festive. Our neighbors and parishioners consumed more than 400 burgers and 300 hotdogs at a picnic in our park. Parishioners supplied the sides and desserts and served the meal to all who came.

The picnic was a prelude to the real celebration, an anniversary Mass in November. Unfortunately, in October Fr. Dick took a fall from which he is still recovering. And so on Nov. 6 we marked the 175th anniversary of this community without him. While he was deeply missed, our anniversary Mass was a joyful event. Bishop Madden's homily recounted the accomplishments of this community, in particular our service to the poor, across our entire history.

Around this same time, the Archdiocese rolled out the first iteration of its pastorate plan in which we were paired with St. Leo of Little Italy. The community came together to discuss how this might work and what it might mean. In the end, both St. Leo and St. V decided to ask the Archdiocese for something different. We then began discussions with St. Ignatius, the downtown Jesuit parish. And while we will not be in a pastorate with St. Ignatius, we are pursuing a deeper relationship with the parish as we continue to discern what our future holds.

What's Next?

Of course, we can never really answer this question. As 2017 dawns, St. Vincent will likely find itself even more "in suspense" as the prayer from Teilhard we are reading each day describes.

Yet we *can* see a few things. Foremost, Fr. Richard Lawrence will retire after more than four decades as pastor in early 2017. We will come together to honor the man who has led this parish for 43 years (or if you do the math, one quarter of its existence). We will plan a fitting retirement party for Fr. Dick sometime in the spring.

We don't know who our leader will be or how leadership will be structured, yet there is something we do know: We continue to be a community that lives its mission to "love, serve and challenge one another." As much as we are able, we will discern the path that allows us to best fulfill our mission and grow in our faith.

Change is coming. That much is certain. And with that certainty, we have the opportunity to take up our challenges in a prayerful, thoughtful manner, listen to one another and listen for what God asks of us.

