

St. Vincent de Paul Church

120 North Front Street
Baltimore, MD 21202
410.962.5078 stvchurch.org



From the Friends of St. Vincent's Park

"We seek to provide a place of sanctuary and dignity for all."

Welcome to St. Vincent's Park. St. Vincent de Paul Church (the owner of the Park) welcomes people who need a place to sleep outside. We thank you for your concern, and your desire to be of service to the poor, especially those who are homeless. Often they are forgotten, and it is encouraging that you seek to address their need.

The distribution of food and clothing in the Park, especially during weekends, is posing major problems. These photos are of the curb after two different weekend cleanup efforts (which may take several hours of volunteer time).



These leftovers tell a story.

- The huge scale of food and clothing brought to the Park on weekends and holidays far exceeds the actual need.
- A lot of food (with its containers) and other items are simply dropped off (or "dumped") by well-meaning donors. The excess is left for trash and rats.
- The quality and quantity of food and clothing brought to the Park is highly unpredictable. This makes it difficult for those who are trying to help to know if their donations in the Park are actually helpful.
- This feast-or-famine approach is not fair to anyone, especially people in need.
- Too often, abandoned food and clothing overwhelm this small Park. It should be a simple place of rest, reflecting the innate human dignity of each person in it.

We need your help to organize giving in the Park.

We ask that anyone who wishes to bring food to the Park be registered. All information for donor registration and guidelines will be found on new signs inside and along the fence of the Park. If you decide not to register, we ask that you consider other locations for your giving (see attached information for several nearby agencies that provide direct service to people in need). As of June 1, 2018, no-one who has not signed up with St. Vincent's Church will be permitted to distribute food in our Park.

To register: Call (410) 962-5078 to say you are interested in being a Park donor. Or complete a short online registration at j.mp/stvpark. Check out the guidelines for donors at that site. Then look at j.mp/stvparkcalendar for available dates and times you can come to serve, or groups you can partner with. After you register, we will call you to confirm your registration and to answer any questions.

Other ways to give back:

- Simply come to the Park to give your time and compassionate personal presence.
- Sign up to help the Friends of St. Vincent's Park clean the Park.
- Pick a weekday evening time from the calendar to come to the Park.

We ask that no clothing be distributed at St. Vincent's Church. Please do not leave clothing anywhere on our property. Currently most of the clothing left in the Park or hung on the fence is picked over quickly; the rest is abandoned. We then have to throw most of it away. The Helping Up Mission (nearby at 1029 E. Baltimore St.) accepts all kinds of clothing at their front entrance most times of the day or evening.

Thank you again for caring for the poor.

Yours truly,

The Friends of St. Vincent Park

The Friends include: the Parish of St. Vincent de Paul, including Father Ray Chase (Pastor) and parishioners of the Church; the River Christian Fellowship; Reaching Hearts Church; Dusty Shoes and Didasko Ministries; Living as Christ Commands (LACC Foundation); and Thirst No More Corporation. Meetings are bi-monthly on a Saturday afternoon. To join the Friends, call the church to learn the next meeting time and date.