December 3rd, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

“We are the clay and you, O LORD, are the potter: we are the work of your hands”

— Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7

Rev. Jeremy Dixon, C.M., Pastor

Parish Center:

1010 West Webster Avenue
Chicago, IL 60614

Phone: 773-325-8610
Fax: 773-325-8626
Email: info@stvdep.org
Website: www.stvdep.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stvincentdepaulparishchicago

Mass Schedule

Weekends:

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

September through May: 8:30 p.m.

Weekdays:

Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday mornings after the 8:00 a.m. Mass
As we begin the season of Advent today, it’s important to reflect on what this season is all about. It’s not merely a holding place before we get to Christmas. Advent is about waiting for God to appear in our world. The prayers and readings at Mass in this season focus on the two comings of Jesus. The first is our commemoration and celebration of Jesus’ coming among us. We wait for this great celebration of Christmas Day with hope and expectation. The second is the final coming of Christ when all will be made new, the “day of our Lord Jesus Christ” as St. Paul says in our second reading. Although this coming is usually associated with fear and chaos, we are invited to hope for this day as well, when all people will be gathered to the Lord and all injustice will be no more.

Yet there is a third appearance we await in this season: the “in-between” coming of God in our world. It is false that God is absent today, that Christ doesn’t make himself known to us today. He does! Christ comes to us in our prayer, in our reading of Scripture, in our celebration of the Eucharist, in the poor person who asks for our assistance. Christ continues to come to each one of us each and every day in many surprising and unexpected ways. He doesn’t wait until we are perfect to meet us. He doesn’t wait until everything in our lives is ordered and just right. He comes to us today!

Yet we often don’t recognize God’s presence in our lives. Our own darkness, our past failures and our sins all lead us to not recognize that God is still there. That is why personal prayer is so important to our lives. I know that when I don’t spend time each day in prayer with the Lord, I get sidetracked and fail to recognize the Lord’s presence. It is through prayer that we have eyes that can see the hand of God in our lives. It is through prayer that we can hear the voice of God in our lives. It is through prayer that we can feel the love of God in our lives.

I invite each of you this Advent to spend time each day in prayer. For those of you who don’t currently do this, I ask that you spend 3-5 minutes each day without distraction. Go to bestadventever.com and sign up for a short daily reflection sent to your email. Read the reflection and spend a few moments thinking about how it applies to your life. We also have many prayer and reflection opportunities planned throughout Advent and a brief daily reflection on our Facebook page and website. I promise you that if you make a conscious effort to spend some time each day in prayer that you will better see the presence of God in your life. This is the preparation we are invited to undertake to celebrate Christmas. This is how we can wait in joyful expectation for the bursting forth of Christ’s presence in the world. This is how we remain watchful and alert for the coming of Christ.
Renew My Church Frequently Asked Questions

If a parish closes or merges, what happens to the parish’s money?

The assets and liabilities of a parish that closes or merges follow the people to the parish that receives responsibility for the pastoral care of the people.

- If Parish A and Parish B merge and become Parish C, the assets and liabilities of Parishes A and B become the assets and liabilities of new Parish C.
- If Parish A closes and merges into Parish B, the assets and liabilities of Parish A become part of Parish B.
- When directed donations are involved (e.g., capital campaign funds), the guiding principle is to respect donor intent.

What happens to the pastors and priests if two parishes merge into one parish?

It is not predetermined. In some cases, one of the two pastors may be the pastor of the one parish. But in some cases, a priest not currently in one of the parishes will be assigned to be pastor of the one parish.

What happened with the Renew My Church pilot groupings?

The pilot groupings in West Humboldt Park and the North Shore area have just concluded their local meetings. Decisions are not yet finalized, but will be by the end of 2017.
Advent Prayer Tree

What are your prayers as we prepare for the birth of Jesus? Write your prayer on an ornament and hang it on the tree in church.

This year in particular, we invite prayers for those who are on the margins and strangers in our midst as we commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian mission.

SETON SOUP KITCHEN

Vincentian Mission Sunday

The Seton Sandwich Window began in 1980 from the front of the parish center. Since then, the generosity of many people has allowed us to expand the menu and serve guests six days per week. Now we serve over 31,000 meals per year.

The second weekend of every Month will be Vincentian Mission Sunday. We ask that you bring donations to church with you. You can give it to an usher, put it on the altar, or take your donation to the parish office.

This December we are asking for donations of hot cocoa.

Thank you for your continued support of our Vincentian mission to serve our sisters and brothers in need.
In the 4th Century, a young Christian woman made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and kept a journal of the customs and liturgies she saw there. She witnessed the Christians celebrating the birth of Christ with a midnight vigil in Bethlehem, which was followed by a torchlight procession and gathering in Jerusalem. When the Basilica of St. Mary Major was built in Rome around 430, Pope Sixtus III included a replica chapel of the Bethlehem cave where Jesus was born. Like the practice in Jerusalem had been, he instituted the celebration of a midnight Mass in this chapel.

The solemn tradition of celebrating the Lord's birth at the midnight hour has been carried on for centuries. In our modern world, however, where convenience often trumps tradition, many parishes have moved their midnight Mass to an earlier hour.

At St. Vincent de Paul, we continue the time-honored tradition of Christmas Mass at Midnight. Join us at this mystical hour when the world truly does appear to wait in stillness.
We prepare for everything we consider important in life. And that includes Christmas. We visit family and friends, bake cookies, decorate our trees, and shop for gifts until we’re ready to drop.

This year, prepare for Christmas in a different way. Join our parish for Best Advent Ever, a free email program from Dynamic Catholic that will help you slow down and focus on what matters most during Advent. Each day, you’ll receive an email with . . .

• Short inspirational videos from leading Catholic voices Matthew Kelly and Dr. Allen Hunt
• Practical tips for your everyday life
• Real-life stories of hope

TO SIGN UP, VISIT
BestAdventEver.com/BeautifulHope
St. Vincent de Paul Parish Christmas Gift Program

Silver bells, hear them ring, its Christmas time in the city!

It's that time of year again as the Christmas season is right around the corner. Help make this Christmas one to remember for a needy child in our community through the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Christmas Gift Program. An example of those we aid are families associated with the Marillac House. Parents of the children are allowed to come to the center the weekend before Christmas to "shop" for their holiday gifts after making a $5 donation per household. The nuns that run this program use the funds for field trips for the children throughout the year.

Please pick up a tag, or two, at the church entrances and return the gifts UNWRAPPED to the Parish Center or altar steps no later than Sunday, December 10th. Don't forget about our teenagers whose needs are just as great as the littlest ones in our community.

If your Book Club, Office or Organization is interested in supporting a charity this Christmas season please consider the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Gift Program.

Volunteers are also needed Sunday December 10th following the 8am Mass to help sort gifts in the Parish Center.

Please contact Joan Buchanan at joanplymth@att.net or the Parish Center at (773) 325-8610 to volunteer. Thank you for your generous heart.

Christmas at DePaul - Volunteers Needed!

Christmas at DePaul has become a favorite holiday tradition for both our parish and the University community. As always, we are in need of volunteers to make sure the event runs smoothly. Duties include moving and sorting donations, as well as greeting guests as they arrive for each performance. We have three shifts available and volunteers are welcome to help at one or all three!

Thursday, December 7th: 7:00pm (Shift 5:30pm - 8:00pm)
Friday, December 8th: 7:00pm (Shift 5:30pm - 8:00pm)
Friday, December 8th: 9:00pm (Shift 7:45pm - 10:00pm)

For more information on volunteer roles and to sign-up to help, please visit: http://tinyurl.com/y72ckb5e Questions? - email Gary at scott.r.gary@gmail.com
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And Noted Vincentian Historian:
Fr. John Rybolt, C.M.

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Contact the Association of the Miraculous Medal:
Tel: (573) 547-8343
(800) 264-6279
Email: ammfather@amm.org

Name

Address

City ___________________________________ State __________ Zip __________

Phone _______________________________ Email _______________________________
ON WHALE WATCHING, AND KEEPING WATCH
Copyright 2017 by John B. Reynolds (john@jrwrites.com)

Decades ago, my wife and I spent maybe a week in Hawaii. I have several memories from that
trip, but only a few that remain really vivid. Of these, one is the strawberry papaya pie we had for
dessert at a local diner. I can't recall the meal entrée, but man, I remember the pie. It was sweet-
but-not-too-sweet with a flakey crust that must have been home-made. This pie was amazing. It
was so amazing, in fact, that I've never even tried to replicate it in my kitchen because I know I
could never do it justice, and I want to keep the flavor of that pie in my memory unsullied by
assorted misses—even near-misses—created by my own hand. And as strong as this memory is,
another memory is even stronger. It’s the memory of our whale-watching expedition somewhere
off-shore of Maui. Yeah, we saw some breaching, spouting whales and they were very, very cool,
but the memory I cherish doesn't have a single whale in sight...

Here’s how it all went down. I’m thinking the whale-watching boat folks must have told us to be
ready with our cameras because while they hoped to come upon whales for us, they couldn’t be
sure exactly where we’d see them, or exactly when. At that time in my life, I was totally into
photography so I strapped my zoom lens onto my Canon AE-1, then—like pretty much everyone
else on the boat—I waited. Perhaps others on the boat have the same memory as me. Actually,
I’m sure they do if any of them did what I did. Specifically, I took my eyes away from the camera
for a few seconds at one point just to rest them after having them glued for so long to the view
finder. And that’s when I saw the image that still stays with me—totally in focus—after all these
years. I saw everyone else on that boat with eyes to their respective view finders, scanning the
horizon, cameras facing every which way, waiting for the whales to make an appearance.

It struck me then that all of us to an extent were missing the forest trying to capture the trees
(or one specific tree, anyway). At the same time, I wanted the perfect shot like everyone else, and
we needed to be ready. All of this comes to mind as I consider the Gospel reading for this First
Sunday of Advent. “Be watchful! Be alert!” Jesus tells us. “You do not know when the time will
come. It is like a man traveling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each
with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on watch.” Jesus goes on: “Watch, therefore;
you do not know when the Lord of the house is coming...” It’s hard to be ever-vigilant, to be
constantly on guard, to be eternally focused. But that’s the challenge, and I think we meet it by
living our discipleship as best we can, and by asking forgiveness when we come up short. Yeah,
it’s no piece of pie—especially no piece of strawberry papaya pie—but what Jesus says to his
disciples, he indeed says to all: “Watch!”
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Advent calendars appear now in many homes, and newfangled formats are even available on line. Children have fun opening the doors and windows keyed to the days counting down to Christmas. Behind each door is a picture related to the Christmas mystery, perhaps a scripture verse or saying, but more and more these days something totally unconnected to religious life, like a small toy or a chocolate treat, appears instead. The Advent calendar is not very old as traditions go. We can trace it back to German-speaking Christians, both Protestant and Catholic. Lutherans might have originated the custom by placing chalk marks on doors starting December 1, lighting candles every day, or placing a new religious picture on the wall each day during Advent. The oldest known hand-made calendar goes back to 1851, and the first printed ones appeared in 1908 in Germany with Bible verses behind the doors. By far the most interesting calendar is a building, the town hall (Rathaus) of Gengenbach in Germany's Black Forest. Every year the townspeople invite an illustrator of children's books to create twenty-four paintings or motifs for each of the twenty-four main windows of the building. Every night the people gather to see a new window opened and illuminated.

Very few commercial Advent calendars pay much attention to the core values of our liturgical calendar: the pivotal place of Sunday, the importance of Advent feasts like Saint Lucy and Saint Nicholas, and the clear shift in tone on December 17 from Advent longing and preparation toward imminent hope in Christ's coming. That kind of creativity is left up to you!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Weddings Celebrated in November:

Saturday, November 4
Nina Falcone and Anthony Whalen
Clare Ruscello and Zach Walter

Saturday, November 11
Sarah Pabis and Dale Lewis
Stencel and Sam Tsamoulos

Saturday, November 18
Kristina Sexton and Adam Mantoan
Giving

[Image of donation page]

Weekly Intentions

Please Pray for Our Sick
Let us remember all those here at St. Vincent’s who are ill and in need of God’s healing and comfort. Let us keep them in our prayers and thoughts, especially: Juliette Calabrese, Linda Cameron, Almeda Colby, Bob & Pat Dillon, Virginia Dillon, John Garrity, Mary Grecoina, Leticia Gross, Mary Hayes, Patty Hayes, Anita Italiane Hearl, Laura Linke, Sue Michalak, David Neesan, Terri Proietto, James Schwake, Joyce Walsh

Please contact Ginny in the parish center to inform us of those who are ill and in need of God’s healing and comfort. They will be listed in our bulletin for 3 weeks. Renewal of prayers for the sick is available by contacting Ginny at that time. If you would like Fr. Jeremy to visit the person (if they live in the area), please let Ginny know when you add them to the list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mass Offerings</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday, December 4th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Leonor Alba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 5th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Joyce Schmitz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 6th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Tracy Dolce (living)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 7th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Kevin Aubin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, December 8th</td>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Marlow Gump</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know that you can request a weekday mass to be offered on behalf of your loved ones? Sometimes people will have a mass intention reserved on the anniversary of a death or to support someone during a difficult time. Other times mass is offered in thanksgiving on a birthday or other celebration. If you would like to reserve a mass intention, please contact the parish office at 773-325-8610 or simply stop by.
**Week at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 3rd</strong></td>
<td>Presiders: Vigil Mass - Fr. Dixon; 8:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; 10:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Rybolt; 5:00 p.m. Mass - Fr. Robinson; RCIA 11:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. - St. Vincent Room Al-Anon Meeting 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. - St. Vincent Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Monday, December 4th</strong></td>
<td>SPRED 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. - Ozanam Room AA Meeting 7:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. - St. Vincent Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 5th</strong></td>
<td>AA Meeting 6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m. - St. Vincent Room Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. - Ozanam Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 6th</strong></td>
<td>Christmas at DePaul 7:00 p.m. - Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 7th</strong></td>
<td>Christmas at DePaul 7:00 p.m. &amp; 9:00 p.m. - Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, December 8th</strong></td>
<td>Christmas at DePaul 7:00 p.m. - Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 9th</strong></td>
<td>Presiders: Vigil Mass - Fr. Udovic; 8:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. McDevitt; 10:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; 5:00 p.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; Religious Ed 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. - Church, Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent Room Christmas Gift Sorting 9:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. - Ozanam and Portail Rooms Al-Anon Meeting 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. - St. Vincent Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 10th</strong></td>
<td>Presiders: Vigil Mass - Fr. Dixon; 8:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. McDevitt; 10:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; 5:00 p.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; Religious Ed 9:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. - Church, Soup Kitchen, St. Vincent Room Christmas Gift Sorting 9:00 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. - Ozanam and Portail Rooms Al-Anon Meeting 4:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. - St. Vincent Room</td>
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**Financial Stewardship**

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Actual vs. Budget</th>
<th>Last Year Comparable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Collections</strong></td>
<td>33,310</td>
<td>40,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Revenue</strong> *</td>
<td>19,517</td>
<td>17,739</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue for October 2017</strong></td>
<td>52,827</td>
<td>58,291</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes DePaul University Monthly Stewardship

Thank you for your continued support of St. Vincent de Paul Parish! Your commitment is vital to the fiscal health of our parish. For convenient regular giving, please consider using our auto-withdrawal program.

Welcome

Thank you for being with us! As you explore what St. Vincent has to offer, please reach out to a member of the parish staff to answer any questions. We ask all who regularly join us in worship to take a moment to register. This enables us to serve you better and takes only a couple of minutes. Registration can be done through the Parish Center during business hours, or by visiting us online at www.stvdep.org.

Private Prayer in the Church
Please enter the church for private prayer through the Parish Center during regular office hours.

Finding Your Way Around

Restrooms: Public restrooms are located in the narthex and Parish Center.

Parish Center: Staff offices and meeting rooms are housed in the Parish Center. Reception for the public is located in this building to the west of the church and to the back of the courtyard.

Ozanam Room: Large meeting and activity room on the first floor at the end of the hall.

Portail Room: Small conference room on the first floor across from the kitchen.

St. Vincent Room: Large meeting room on the lower level.

Narthex: Large gathering space at the main doors on Webster Avenue.

Sacristy: Room behind the west side of the sanctuary where the priest and other ministers prepare for liturgical celebrations. This room also provides access to the Parish Center.

Parking
Parking behind the church is permitted for parishioners and guests attending weekend masses and Friday wedding rehearsals. Parking at all other times without a proper DePaul University faculty/staff permit is subject to towing at the owner’s expense. Public parking is available at the university garage on Sheffield (at Fullerton). Tickets may be validated for two hours at Parish Center reception, or at the Sheffield entrance of the church while attending church-related functions.

Disabled Access
A ramped sidewalk can be accessed from the rear parking lot to the Sheffield entrance of the church. There is a ramped access to the sacristy from the church which allows access to the Parish Center through the sacristy. All of our restrooms are disabled-accessible.

Mother Seton Food Pantry and Sandwich Kitchen
Located in the northeast corner of the church (access is through the wheelchair door on Sheffield), the sandwich kitchen is open Monday-Saturday from 8:15-10 a.m. The food pantry is open on Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering in the morning, or to help prepare meals or shop, please contact Phil at outreach@stvdep.org.

Office for the Protection of Children and Youth
If you would like more information about child protection in the Archdiocese of Chicago or how to report abuse, please go to http://www.archchicago.org/departments/protection/protection.shtm or call Jan Slattery, OPCY Director at 312-534-5319.
Celebration of the Sacraments at St. Vincent de Paul

**Reconciliation:** Saturday afternoon, 4:15-4:50 p.m. in the Reconciliation Room near the Sheffield entrance of the church, or you can call the Parish Center for an appointment.

**Baptism:** Please contact Mary Carter (mcarte40@depaul.edu) to register for baptism preparation, which is held on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. You may attend this class either before or after your child is born.

Following preparation and after your child is born, please contact Mary to schedule a baptism date. Baptisms are celebrated on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m., or during a regular Sunday mass. Baptism is not celebrated during the Lenten season.

**Marriage:** Please contact Mary Carter (mcarte40@depaul.edu) to discuss the celebration of the sacrament of marriage here at St. Vincent’s, or concerning preparation and prenuptial matters if you are getting married in another parish.

For baptized Catholics, marriage is celebrated within a Catholic church in the presence of a priest or deacon. The first item to plan is the selection of a date and time. **In order to celebrate the sacrament of marriage at St. Vincent, one needs to be a registered parishioner for four months prior to discussion of a date.** DePaul University faculty, staff, students, and alumni may also celebrate their wedding here, provided either the bride, groom, or both are Roman Catholic, registered at a parish and actively engaged in the practice of their faith. Weddings are celebrated on Saturdays only, at 1:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m. Weddings are not celebrated during the season of Lent, Holy Week or Saturdays that conflict with other parish events. Mary confirms all reservations for weddings.

**Confirmation:** Catholic adults who would like to receive the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to contact Rebecca at rcarmic1@depaul.edu. Confirmation preparation sessions are held Sunday evenings February through May.

**RCIA:** Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a program that prepares adults to receive the sacrament(s) of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion. Preparation sessions are held on Sundays from 11:15 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and celebration of the sacraments occurs at the Easter Vigil mass. To learn more or to enroll in the RCIA program, please contact Rebecca at rcarmic1@depaul.edu.

**First Communion:** Requires two years of classes. Family catechisis (classes for parents and children) religious education classes are held monthly. Please contact Rebecca at rcarmic1@depaul.edu.

**Priesthood/Religious Life:** Please contact Fr. Jim Osendorf, CM, by phone at 1-800-depaul-1 or by email at vocations@vincentian.org to learn more about becoming a priest or religious.

**Anointing of the Sick:** To receive the sacrament of anointing of the sick, please contact the Parish Center.
Contact Us

Parish Staff

Rev. Jeremy Dixon, C.M.
Pastor ................................................................. jdixon20@depaul.edu

Robert Beatty
Director of Music and Community Development ............................................. rbeatty1@depaul.edu

Rebecca Allen
Coordinator of RCIA & Adult Religious Ed. ................................................... rcarmic1@depaul.edu

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Jose and Salvador Perez
Maintenance

Cristina Porcelli
Accountant ................................................................. cristina@porcelliaccounting.com

Bulletin Information
Articles must be submitted on or before Noon on Saturday for the next weekend's bulletin (earlier, for the week preceding holidays). Microsoft Word attachments are requested. Please make sure to indicate which Sunday date(s) you're requesting.

Please DO NOT send content by email, but instead use the Bulletin Submission Form: stvdep.org/weekly-bulletin/. Contact Christopher Allen (callen53@depaul.edu) with any questions.

Website Information
Submit news items, photos, PDF announcements, and similar promotional materials at any time to Christopher Allen. Please include your complete contact information in case we need to reach you.

The Word Among Us (wau.org) is a Catholic devotional magazine with the daily mass readings and reflections.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (tinyurl.com/pn4a7wl) has a daily video reflection on the mass readings, as well as the readings.

Busted Halo (bustedhalo.com) is an “online magazine for spiritual seekers” sponsored by the Paulist Fathers. It includes reflections on faith and popular culture.

DePaul University (http://tinyurl.com/mxkaue6) has a variety of resources regarding St. Vincent de Paul and the Vincentian Family, including articles, podcasts and interviews, in “All Things Vincentian.”

Saint of the Day (http://tinyurl.com/l57vch) provides a short biography of the saint for the current day.
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GREAT PRODUCT - 62% of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.