December 24th, 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent
“To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be glory forever and ever”
— Romans 16:25-27

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/
stvincentdepa paulparishchicago

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
Merry Christmas! As we celebrate the birth of our Lord, the birth of new hope and love, I want to share a Christmas homily by St. Leo the Great. Leo was pope from 440 to 461 amid great upheaval in the Church and in the world. He helped to articulate the doctrine that Jesus was truly God and truly human, the great mystery of the Incarnation that we celebrate during this season. May you and your families have a blessed and holy Christmas!

Dearly beloved, today our Savior is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no one free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God’s wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to people of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvelous work of God’s goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of humanity?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God’s own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God’s kingdom. Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit.
The Christmas and New Years Mass schedule:

**Sunday December 24:**
- 8:00am
- 10:00am
- 5:00pm (with carols at 4:30pm)
- Midnight (with carols at 11:30pm)

**Monday December 25:**
- 9:00am

**Sunday December 31:**
- 8:00am
- 10:00am
- 5:00pm

**Monday January 1:**
- 8:00am

PLANNED GIVING: making a year-end gift

As we approach this holiday season, let us remember the joy in giving and in sharing the blessings we have received. God has cloaked us in His bountiful love, and we can in turn offer our fellow parishioners an extension of this love. By considering a Planned Gift to St. Vincent de Paul Parish we can ensure that our parish will continue to serve and grow in its mission.

Please contact the parish office as you prayerfully consider making a planned gift to St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

We are happy to discuss with you some of the financial benefits of making a Planned Gift, such as an income stream for you during your lifetime and tax benefits for your family after you are gone. There are significant tax benefits you might also consider for your year-end giving.

If you make a gift directly from your IRA before Dec. 31st or if you make a gift of appreciated stock held longer than 12 months, you can realize important tax savings.

**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.*
Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In 1223, just two years before his death, Saint Francis of Assisi set up a living crèche, a replica of the manger in Bethlehem at the birth of Jesus. He preached and prayed before the scene. His biographer, Thomas of Celano, says that in that moment Francis was “overwhelmed with love and filled with wonderful happiness.” His contemplation of Jesus, the Word made flesh, drew him to experience the depth of God’s love.

We live in a troubled world beset by wars, violence, injustice, broken relationships, and illness. Beyond that, we do believe and are convinced that God loves us and walks with us in Jesus, his Son. As we know, God will heal us and our broken world and bring us into the fullness of life. It is my hope that when you pray before the mystery of the Incarnate Word, as Saint Francis prayed, you will be renewed in hope and confidence and be “overwhelmed with love and filled with wonderful happiness.”

May God bless you with a renewal of faith, hope, and love as we celebrate the birth of the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

ARCHBISHOP OF CHICAGO
Christmas Mass at Midnight

With the St. Vincent de Paul Chamber Chorale and Orchestra

Mass in C Major (k. 258) by W. A. Mozart
"Christmas Concerto" Op. 8 , by G. Torelli
*Service of Carols begins at 11:30pm

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.
Low Gluten Hosts Available!

If you are allergic to wheat or have celiac disease, or have any type of gluten intolerance, we have hosts available for you!

To receive a low gluten host at mass, please come to the sacristy before mass begins, so one can be prepared for you. Then, be sure to get in the communion line to receive from the priest.

These hosts have 0.01% gluten. If you have questions, please contact Fr. Jeremy at jdixon20@depaul.edu

Mass Intentions for 2018

Did you know that you can request a mass to be offered on behalf of your loved ones? Mass intentions can be celebrated for people living or deceased. If you would like to make a special intention for mass, please stop by the parish office or call at 773-325-8610. The calendar for 2018 is now available.

CHRISTMAS AT DEPAUL

Thank you for your generosity in making the annual Christmas at DePaul concert a great success in support of our soup kitchen and food pantry. We especially would like to thank the Vincentian Women, Knights of Columbus, Community Life and Outreach Commissions, as well as the many volunteers who welcomed guests and sorted donations. We again broke records for donations, which included:

- 54 boxes of canned goods, coffee, sugar, creamer, hot cocoa and tea
- 12 large boxes of socks, hats and gloves
- over $13,000 in monetary donations

Your generosity and giving spirit is a great sign to all of the meaning of Christmas and to our efforts to further our mission of serving Christ in all of our sisters and brothers.
**ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO**

**WORD MADE CLEAR**

Join in a Virtual Journey Through The Gospel of Mark

This is your chance to engage the Gospel of Mark over the next few months with our very own Scripture Scholar, Fr. James McIlhone. We are giving you the tools to explore the Gospel whatever way works best for you – on your own, with a small group at the parish, with a small group at lunchtime. We will provide weekly email updates to guide you through the process.

To get you started, all are invited to a special kick-off event to begin our journey – The Word Made Clear: The Gospel of Mark with Fr. James McIlhone. Come hear some of Fr. McIlhone’s wisdom from years of teaching and preaching about the Gospel and join in the discussion as we are challenged to take the Word we hear and make it the Word we live in our daily lives.

There are two options for the kick-off event. Each will offer the same presentation followed by a chance for questions and discussion.

**Monday, January 22 at 7 p.m.**
St. John of the Cross
5005 South Wolf Road, Western Springs, IL, 60558
Join us in the Parish Center

**Thursday, January 25 at 7 p.m.**
St. Francis de Sales
135 South Buesching Road, Lake Zurich, IL, 60047
Join us in the Ministry Center

Please register for the kick-off events and to receive the weekly emails online at goo.gl/4ZNvRy.

We look forward to journeying with you in the New Year!

**Friday, January 5**
Marriot Marquis Chicago

Great Lakes Ballroom
2121 South Prairie Avenue
Chicago, IL 60616

Doors open at 8:45 p.m.

The Archdiocese of Chicago is proud to partner with FOCUS for a special Grow it! Theology on Tap Session during the SLS18 Conference. Refreshments will be available and admission is free.

Please visit www.totchicago.org for speaker announcements, registration details, and more information.

We look forward to seeing you there!

A Matt Maher concert will take place at the SLS18 Conference directly following the Theology on Tap session at 10 p.m. Tickets will be available to purchase that evening.
ARCHDIOCESAN MASS FOR LIFE

Celebrate the Archdiocesan Mass for Life on the morning of Sunday, January 14 as a sending forth for March for Life Chicago later that day!

Join Cardinal Blase J. Cupich and priests from across the Archdiocese of Chicago for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as we petition the Lord to transform our society from a culture of death into a culture of life.

Sunday, January 14, 2018
11 a.m.
Holy Name Cathedral
730 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611
An ex-work colleague—Liana—and I had one thing in common before she left the corporate scene: we kept little sticky notes posted on our bookcase shelves at work with quotes or inspirational sayings that meant something to us. My chosen quotes—nine of them currently—remain well-displayed at my workstation, and I often take a moment in the early AM to read them. Things like, “‘Fool’, said my Muse to me. ‘Look into thy heart, and write’” by English poet Sir Philip Sidney, and “To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift” by American runner Steve Prefontaine. I find that these thoughts help me remember who I really am as I deal with whatever work crisis comes along.

I used the past tense in my opening sentence on Liana’s behalf because she’s long gone, leaving our place to take on some other assignment. Hence her sticky notes are long gone as well. While I have all of my quotes committed to memory, I can’t remember any of hers. Surely she does, though, and I pray they are still inspiring her. Just the same, I do recall something she shared with me before she booked. I remember it because it rang true for me then and it still rings true for me today. I don’t think it made it to her bookcase shelf. I’m not even sure who said it (some online sites attribute it to Audrey Hepburn) but it speaks to me: “Nothing is impossible; the word itself says ’I’m possible!’”

I told Liana that I’d seen the word impossible many times but that I’d never made the I’m possible connection. This comes to mind now as I consider today’s Gospel. Luke’s account of the announcement of Christ’s birth is all about Mary. Her name is mentioned several times, after all, and she’s a key player in the salvation story. “Behold,” Gabriel tells her, “you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High…” Mary challenges this, given her virginal status. “Details, schmetails,” the angel essentially responds, telling Mary of the Holy Spirit coming upon her and of Elizabeth’s old-age pregnancy, and then adding in matter-of-fact fashion, “for nothing will be impossible for God.”

Yes, this Gospel speaks of Mary. By Mary acknowledging herself before Gabriel as the handmaid of the Lord, however, and by saying, “May it be done to me according to your word,” she makes “I’m possible” out of “impossible” (How can this be...?) so this Gospel speaks, too, of a God who doesn’t know the meaning of the word. But here’s the thing. Here’s the amazing, glorious, divinely-deemed-possible thing: we all play a part in the story. And not a bit part. In step with the Holy Spirit, God not only conceives Christ in Mary, He brings Christ to life in each of us. Me. You. Liana. Think about that. Ponder it in a quiet moment. We are God-carriers to the world. Awwwsome, no? Awwwsome, yes. Not easy, certainly, but like Prefontaine said, to give anything less than our best is to sacrifice the gift. Merry Christmas.
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Children of the parish are somewhat focused on Santa Claus these days, who is keeping an eye on who's naughty and who's nice. Santa Claus, with his heavenly patron Saint Nicholas, has been more or less in charge of gift-giving to American children for a hundred years or so. In other places, perhaps more attentive to our Christian tradition, there are different gift-bearers. In Greece, Saint Basil delivers the presents on his feast day, December 31, and makes sure everyone is sprinkled with holy water. The Baby Jesus is in charge elsewhere, called the Christkind in Austria and Belgium, El Niño Jesús in Columbia, and Le Petit Jesus in France, where he shares his duties with Père Noël. In the Czech Republic almost everyone is atheist, but Jeíek, the infant Jesus, brings gifts to one and all. In Poland the "Star Man" is said to bring the gifts, although often he turns out to be the village priest in disguise. Saint Nicholas, not his Americanized cousin, is the giver in Holland, where he wears a bishop's miter, and in Russia, where he wears a bishop's crown. Soviet Russia tried to dethrone Saint Nicholas and promote Grandfather Frost, but no one was much fooled by this attempt to squeeze religion out of Christ's birth. One country has a saintly woman in charge of the gifts, Saint Lucy, honored in Sweden on December 13, when children serve their parents breakfast in bed, and others awake to news that they have been nominated for a Nobel Prize. Some children have a second round of gifts on Epiphany, when the magi assume the gift-giving duties. In general, the gifts of Christmas are simple pleasures, not great heaps of treasures. Once upon a time, a new pair of socks or an orange was enough for us. No matter what gifts we receive, all of them are to point us to the true gift, and the true giver.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright (c) J. S.
**Giving**

![Image of computer and phone with donate website]

**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, Madelynn Jacobs, 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.

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<th>Mass Offerings</th>
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<td>Monday, December 25th</td>
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<td>Tuesday, December 26th</td>
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<td>Wednesday, December 27th</td>
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<td>Thursday, December 28th</td>
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<td>Friday, December 29th</td>
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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

Sunday, December 24th
Presiders: Vigil Mass - Fr. Dixon; 8:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. McDevitt; 10:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; 5:00 p.m. Vigil of Christmas Mass - Fr. Udovic; Christmas Mass at Midnight - Fr. Dixon

Parish office closed at noon.

Monday, December 25th
Christmas Mass (Presider: Fr. McDevitt)......................... 9:00 a.m.- Church Parish Office Closed

Tuesday, December 26th

Wednesday, December 27th
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

Thursday, December 28th

Friday, December 29th

Saturday, December 30th

Sunday, December 31st
Presiders: Vigil Mass - Fr. Udovic; 8:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. McDevitt; 10:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon; 5:00 p.m.

Parish Office Closed.

Monday, January 1st:
Presiders: Vigil Mass - Fr. Dixon; 8:00 a.m. Mass - Fr. Dixon

Financial Stewardship

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<tr>
<th>Actual vs. Budget</th>
<th>Last Year Comparable</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Collections</td>
<td>22,270</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue *</td>
<td>16,566</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Revenue for November 2017</td>
<td>43,836</td>
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*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.

We Welcome the Following New Parishioners:
Joseph Ruotolo, Christina Javier-Torres, Joseph Sharpe, Sarah Stein

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.

Ozanan 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 catechesis (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. ........................................ rccarmic1@depaul.edu

Christopher Allen
Communications Director ................................................................. callen53@depaul.edu

Mary Carter
Administrative Assistant & Records .................................................. mcarte40@depaul.edu

Ginny Costigan
Administrative Assistant ................................................................. gcostiga@depaul.edu

Maggie Fernandez
Business Manager ............................................................................. mferna48@depaul.edu

Suzanne Gillen
Assistant Director of Music & Young Adult Ministry ................................. sgillen1@depaul.edu

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/pn447vl) 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/l5yvch) provides a short biography of the saint for the current day.

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 24, 2017