

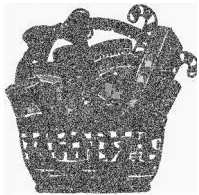
The Society of St Vincent de Paul (SSVdP) Dispatch February 2020 Edition



St John the Divine Parishioners: ***You are the best!***

The Christmas Hamper Project

On December 14th, 65 members of the SSVdP and other Parish volunteers welcomed the less fortunate families in the area, to give them a Christmas Hamper. Thanks to your outstanding generosity, the tremendous success of the local schools food drives and some very special local businesses, we were able to give those families a bountiful selection of food, sundry items, special treats, PJs, hats, mittens, toys for ALL of the children, gift cards redeemable at a local Food Store and a gift card for either Tim Horton's, McDonald's, Giant Tiger or Shopper's Drug Mart.



Your donations of food through the ***Stuff the Sack*** food drive and all of those purchases of the requested items on the stars of the ***Giving Tree*** plus your financial offertory contributions throughout the year meant we had enough to supply this year's large number of families in need.



The numbers are staggering and sadly, the highest in our history; 495 people (157 families) received Christmas Hampers in December, and that included 184 children.

YOU made their Christmas a little brighter – thank you.

Please note that while the Christmas Hamper campaign is a big project, SSVdP serves those in need in this area **every month** with food, clothing, furniture and other essentials. In 2019 we were able to assist 1088 people through personal visits and through the food cupboard at St John the Divine.

You can also visit the new St John the Website www.sjtd.ca, on the home page, scroll down to **GALLERY**, click on **Additional Galleries** and there click on the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Hamper picture to watch a video of our Hamper process.



Cover Me With Love Coat Drive:

In our last months bulletin, we reported how the SSVdP Team drops by a few downtown locations each winter with a truck loaded with coats and other items to distribute to as many of London's homeless as possible. We requested your unneeded winter coats for this cause and again you responded like only St John the Divine Parishioner can, with donations of almost 200 coats, sweaters and boots. If you still have something to donate, the collection boxes will stay up for a few more weeks at the rear entrance of the church.



New Members Welcome!

The Society of St Vincent de Paul Conference at St John the Divine is one of eleven in the city and is one of the strongest because of the number of volunteer members involved. We always welcome any new members. The time commitment is less than 3 hours a month and that includes the monthly meeting! To join or to get more information, please contact Mike Chretien by email at chretien@live.com or contact Pam at the Parish office (519-471-7022) so she can have a member contact you.