



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

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April 21, 2024

St. Vincent De Paul Update

Last year, our long time St. Vincent De Paul Ministry leader, Joan Krotech-Lattner, retired from her role and was presented with a plaque in recognition of her hard work over the many years.

During the COVID Pandemic, the Region of Waterloo Emergency Safety plan combined our St. Vincent De Paul with the House of Friendship, in order to provide a more central location for those who needed food assistance. While this was in effect, our St. Vincent De Paul membership changed, with some member retiring, passing away, or finding other areas to volunteer. Because of this, when COVID restrictions were lifted we were not able to restart our St. Vincent De Paul ministry.

This was not an issue exclusive to our parish, but effected many churches in the region. This has led to the organization's regional level to start to look at alternate methods for supporting those in our communities. One idea that has been discussed is creating a central St. Vincent De Paul with volunteers from multiple parishes working out of it. The money we have collected over the years from our parish will be used in this new initiative. We are waiting to hear what decisions have been made to determine how else we can be involved.

We were able to request some funding from the regional level of St. Vincent De Paul to assist the families at St. Paul's school. For example, this past Christmas and Easter, we used funds to donate \$1,000 in Food Basic gift cards. We have also used money to assist five youths at St. Paul's school to attend their grade 8 retreat program.

You will have noticed that we removed the St. Vincent De Paul donation envelopes from your collections, and while we do still run food drives, the items collected are now donated directly to the House of Friendship or Food Bank, as they are the main source of assistance for those in our area.

We will keep you informed of the future of St. Vincent De Paul and if there is any way that you can assist. At this time, if you wish to donate any food or funds, please send it directly to the House of Friendship (<https://houseoffriendship.org/>). They will provide you with a tax receipt if required.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the parish office: 519-745-7301 or stfranciskitchener@hamiltondiocese.com

Thank you,
St. Francis Parish Staff