

Community Christmas Dinner Update

On September 10th, 17 parishioners from St. James and St. Joachim came together for the first planning meeting for what we are calling “Community Christmas”.

The turnout itself was encouraging. These volunteers understand the needs facing families in their own communities and willingly stepped forward to help make this effort a success for their neighbors.

Date: December 5th

Time: Doors Open 1 pm –3 pm

Parish SVDP and other ministries participating:

St. Joachim –Dennis Boyer (SVDP President)

St. James -Rhonda Politte (POC, SVDP)

St. Stephens –Barb Rulo

Background Last year, the Southern Vicariate partnered with Raven’s Ministry and Caring Hearts to provide a Thanksgiving meal for neighbors in need. After seeing the continued needs reflected through our local food pantries, Conversations with St. James and St. Joachim started about creating something similar locally during the Christmas season.

Again, the response was immediate: 17 parishioners came together for the first brainstorming meeting and began turning the idea into a community effort.

Community Christmas Expected attendance: 100–150 people, particularly families and individuals who have utilized the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry and other local assistance.

Meal coordinators:

Dr. Paul Villmer -St. James

Monica Pratt -St. Joachim

Christmas for the Children We are holding a Toy drive during the month of October.

We are asking for toys to be donated unwrapped. This way during our wrapping party, we can group the toys by gender and age appropriate.

Wrapped gifts will be provided on the day of event for children, infant through age 10, and Santa will be present.

Toy drive will run throughout October, partnering with our Archdiocesan Education community and inviting children and families from throughout the Southern Vicariate to help provide gifts for other children.

Queen of All Saints, Sacred Heart Valley Park, and Holy Family have already committed to hold a Toy Drive.

Thank you Fr. Dattilo, and Angie for saying yes to the idea.

Thank you to everyone who has already said yes to helping make Community Christmas possible.

Sincerely,

George Herrera,

Director of Social Outreach

Southern Vicariate of the Archdiocese of St. Louis