

# SAINT CHRISTOPHER SOCIAL CONCERNS

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

Volume 5 Issue 3



Thank you for signing up to receive information from the Saint Chris Social Concerns Committee (SCC). We appreciate your continued interest in the Social Concerns Committee and looking for ways to help others.

Many churches and nonprofits have suspended or modified volunteer efforts for health reasons due to the coronavirus.

We continue to offer suggestions and ideas for you to consider during these times.

**Prayer**, as you might expect, comes first. Listed next are **volunteer opportunities** and **charitable actions**, followed by **advocacy and education**.

Please consider keeping informed of the changing situation and social concerns issues via our Facebook page. Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/stchris-scc> (St. Chris Social Concerns Committee) to join. Just click on the box: **Join Group** on the main picture. If you have a problem, let us know.

We value your input regarding this newsletter. Please send ideas and comments to John Hosek: [jjudehosek@gmail.com](mailto:jjudehosek@gmail.com).

## PRAYER FOR THE JANUARY 2021

*Loving God,  
You have given all peoples once common origin,  
And your will is to gather them as one family in yourself.  
Fill the hearts of all with the fire of your love  
And the desire to ensure justice for all our sisters and brothers  
By sharing the good things you give us  
May we secure justice and equality for every human being,  
And end to all division,  
And a human society built on love and peace.  
~St. John Paul II*



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### JANUARY 2021 SOCIAL JUSTICE DATES (FROM THE CATHOLIC SOCIAL JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER)

January 1st: Catholic World Day of Peace & Emancipation Proclamation Day

January 11th: National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 16th: National Religious Freedom Day

January 18th: Martin Luther King Birthday

January 27th: International Holocaust Remembrance Day

### VOLUNTEER AND CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITIES

#### HOMELESS STANDDOWN



This 29th version of the **Homeless Stand Down** has some significant changes. The sponsoring organization has once again been folded into another: Hands On is now part of Business Volunteers Unlimited. Due to COVID-19, the 2021 Homeless Stand Down has been restructured to ensure the safety of clients, community partners, and volunteers.

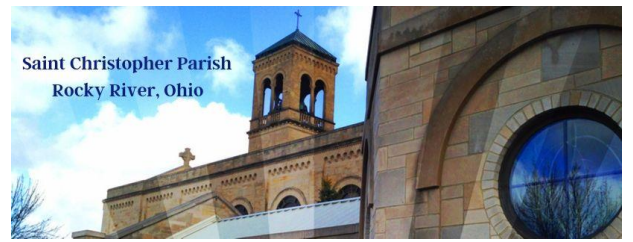
There will not be a large, in-person gathering at Public Auditorium in January. *Instead, we are going to create care packages to be distributed to people experiencing homelessness, on Saturday, Feb. 13th.*

The Cleveland Cares Packages will contain a variety of items including essentials, clothing, nonperishable food, and items that make the clients feel loved. Service organizations like medical, dental, legal, and more will be able to list their services and contact information in our Guidebook.

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Here are the ways you can be involved with the 2021 Homeless Stand Down:

- Make a financial contribution
- Donate New Items: clothing, outerwear, hygiene items, or
- Volunteer your time: Volunteers will help sort, pack, and distribute the Cleveland Cares Packages. *Volunteers are needed in January.*

Information on donating or volunteering is available on the website below:

<https://handson.bvuvolunteers.org/homelessstanddown#:~:text=Due%20to%20COVID%2D19%2C%20we,gathering%20at%20Cleveland%20Public%20Auditorium.>

### ROCKY RIVER ASSISTANCE



Due to the COVID-19 public health crisis, the RRAP has limited the monthly Pack & Sort to Rocky River Women's Club members only.

**However, you may drop off non-perishable items at Lake Road Market at 20267 Lake Road anytime. The needs for January are oatmeal, peanut butter & jelly.**

The RRAP needs monetary donations to continue assisting our neighbors in need. Tax-deductible donations can be made online via PayPal: <http://www.rrwc.org/donation> or by checks made to Rocky River Assistance Program, mailed to: P. O. Box 16724, Rocky River, OH 44116. If more convenient, you can also mail grocery gift cards to RRAP. Giant Eagle, Heinen's and Target cards in \$25 increments are the most helpful.

### SAINT COLMAN PARISH

**The next Neighborhood Meal will be on January 30. For the foreseeable future, the meal will be a to-go meal. For information, please call 216-651-0550.**

We thank our dedicated volunteers who have worked hard to plan for a safe reopening of this vital program for our Parish and our neighborhood.

To donate, please send checks to St. Colman Church, 2027 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44102.



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### ROCKY RIVER/LAKEWOOD MEALS ON WHEELS

**Rocky River Lakewood Meals On Wheels** is continuing to deliver freshly made, nutritious meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. We have implemented strict sanitation procedures to protect our meal recipients, volunteers, and staff from contact with and transmission of the virus.

Planning ahead, we have given all our recipients a supply of non-perishable food to have on-hand in the event that we are forced to suspend our normal operations at some point in the future.

We have the capacity to serve more people who are finding it difficult to purchase or prepare healthy meals. If you or someone you know – friend, relative, neighbor – needs our service, please contact us at (440) 333-6298, and browse our website for more information.

For more information about Rocky River Meals on Wheels visit [www.mealsonwheelsrr.org](http://www.mealsonwheelsrr.org).



### WEST SIDE CATHOLIC CENTER



#### Important update regarding COVID-19:

Please check out the West Side Catholic Center at the following sites to keep informed of the status of their programs:

[CLICK HERE FOR INFORMATION ON ITEM DONATIONS AND DROP OFF TIMES](#)

(Donation hours: Monday-Friday, 8:30am-1pm. Two parcel limit.

[CLICK HERE FOR A FULL LIST OF UPDATES TO OUR RESOURCE CENTER PROGRAMS](#) (Resource Center hours: Monday-Friday, 9am-1pm; Saturday, 9am-10am and 4:30pm-5:15pm for meals only)

### SAINT VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY



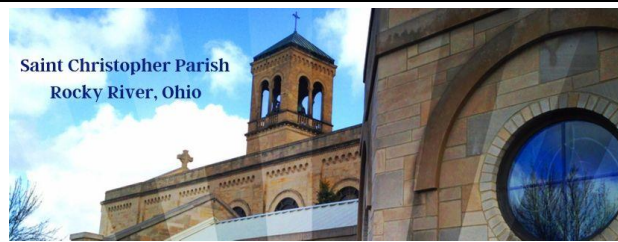
Please check out Saint Vincent DePaul at the following site to keep informed of the status of their programs:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/svdpcle/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/svdpcle/posts/?ref=page_internal)

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Donate safely and securely online today! Or to make a gift by mail, please make your check or money order payable to “St. Vincent de Paul Society” and mail to: St. Vincent de Paul Society Care Club, 1404 East Ninth Street – Third Floor, Cleveland, OH 44114.

Thank You! Click here to donate to a hunger center: <https://donate.svdpcle.org/hunger-center-donations/>

### THE GREATER CLEVELAND FOOD BANK



Greater Cleveland  
Food Bank

Volunteers are crucial to all operations of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, whether in traditional roles (collecting, sorting, and repacking food that comes through our warehouse every day) or using special skills to support with administrative functions or special projects.

In 2019, more than 21,000 volunteers contributed more than 92,000 hours of service to the Food Bank, a savings of more than two million dollars in salaries and benefits, allowing for additional food to be provided to our agencies and clients.

Reach Volunteer Services by phone at 216.738.2053

Get started by clicking on one of the options below:

- [Learn more about our different project areas!](#)
- Interested in bringing a group out to volunteer? [Click Here](#) to fill out a volunteer group request form.
- [Learn about our Skill-Based Volunteer Program!](#)
- If you or your group is interested in having a member of our Speakers Bureau give a presentation on the Greater Cleveland Food Bank and our Advocacy efforts, [Click Here!](#)
- [View Our FAQ Page](#)

### FRONT STEPS



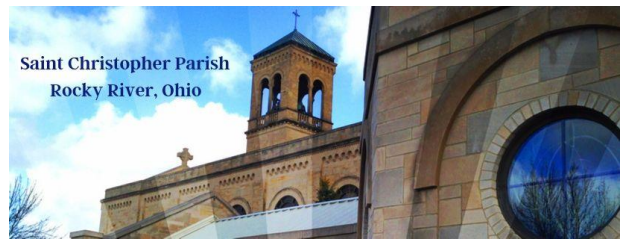
**Help us touch lives and end the cycle of homelessness for men, women and children in Cuyahoga County.**

Together, we can make a difference and empower those who seek a better, healthy and more fulfilling life.

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Front Steps can carry out our work within the community thanks to the support of our generous donors and supporters. Learn more about how you can get involved through donation, volunteerism or sponsorship.

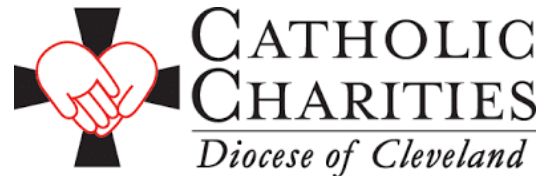
<https://www.frontstepsservices.org/donate>

### EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY OPPORTUNITIES



### CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA (CCUSA)

CCUSA Advocacy and Social Policy team advocates for policies that uphold human dignity and promote integral human development. Informed by the experience of local Catholic Charities agencies, we urge policy makers to see the faces of those in need in their communities and to create policies which assist and support them.



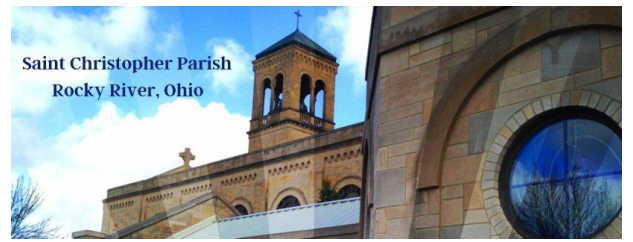
**Sign up for Washington Weekly and receive Advocacy Alerts:**

<https://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-vision-and-ministry/advocacy/action-center/>

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### SOCIAL ACTION OFFICE OF THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

The Social Action Office of the Diocese of Cleveland seeks to shape a more caring society and a more peaceful world through justice education, advocacy, community development and organizing. Our work is based on the call of the Gospel to work for the respect and dignity of all human life, the elimination of poverty, to speak out against injustice, and to promote the common good. The office is composed of County-based social action offices, and office for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services.

<https://ccdoble.org/social-action>

### CURRENT ACTION ALERTS FROM THE DIOCESE:

Click here for the most recent Action Alerts from the Diocese:

<https://www.ccdoble.org/service-areas/diocesan-social-action-office/advocacy/take-action-now>

### ACTION ALERTS FROM THE CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO:



**The Catholic Conference of Ohio** is calling upon Governor DeWine to veto SB 175. This recently passed legislation expands the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force in self-defense.

The Conference testified that such a provision is "unnecessary and harmful". It could result in the unnecessary use of force anywhere one has a lawful right to be while also exacerbating racial tensions.

### ***CONTACT GOVERNOR DEWINE and ASK FOR A VETO OF SB 175***

#### **SB 175 LESSENS THE "DUTY TO RETREAT" BEFORE USING DEADLY FORCE IN SELF-DEFENSE**

"SB 175 expands the locations at which a person has no duty to retreat before using force in self-defense. This provision is unnecessary and harmful. It could result in the unnecessary use of force anywhere one has a lawful right to be. It may also exacerbate racial tensions. Please veto this legislation."

Phone: 614-466-3555

Email: <https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/governor/contact>

Additional Information:

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<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/issues/category/gun-violence>

Click here for Action Alerts from the Conference:

<https://www.ohiocathconf.org/issues/category/legislative-action-alerts>

"WE ARE CALLED TO MAKE PEACE HAPPEN EVERY DAY AND IN EVERY PLACE WE LIVE."

-POPE FRANCIS, NEW YEAR'S DAY 2021

