



Hello St Joan of Arc families,

Since the onset of the pandemic, the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul at Saint Matthew parish has been exceptionally busy serving 155 families in the Glen Abbey neighbourhood. In the past 8 months we have seen a 50% surge in calls for assistance. We know that the needs of our neighbours will only increase along with the rising COVID numbers, continued job instability and the arrival of the Christmas season.

This year, due to COVID-19, we have had to make some changes to our traditional Angel Tree program, but rest assured, we are still committed to help the community as we have so generously in the past.

This year Saint Vincent de Paul is requesting, if you are able, donations of grocery and gift cards from the following locations:

- \$25 grocery cards from Metro, Sobeys, President's Choice and Walmart
- \$10 gift cards from Shoppers Drug Mart, Dollarama and Tim Hortons

As students bring the gift cards into class, they will be given an angel to decorate and place on our Christmas Tree. To celebrate the generosity of the St. Joan of Arc family, we will be having a virtual assembly where we will showcase the tree with the various Angels students have attached before dropping off the gift cards to St. Matthew Parish.

One way in which we could help the families in our community in addition to raising funds for our school is through FundScrip. All the gift cards mentioned above can be purchased online through FundScrip and while receiving the full value of the gift card, a percentage will be donated to St. Joan of Arc. You do not pay extra for the donation!

Instructions on how to register and purchase cards through FundScrip are provided.

Please note that processing and shipping times can take 1.5 - 2 weeks so in order to get the angels to the school in time for the virtual assembly by December 4th, you should plan to place orders by November 22<sup>nd</sup>. If your orders come after December 4<sup>th</sup>, please contact the school and we will make all necessary arrangements to get the gift cards to the church.

Thank you for helping our neighbours in our community!

SJOA Catholic School Council