

THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10065 CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA: 411 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10065 www.svsc.info | (212) 744-2080 | email: parish@svsc.info

December 20, 2020 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Whether Christmas brings you near or keeps you far, we rejoice to be your spiritual home, where together we come to adore Him, Christ the Lord.

The Dominican friars and parish staff pray for God's blessing on you and your family this Christmas and New Year.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Find our complete schedule of Masses for Christmas and New Year's in the bulletin. It is also available on the Parish website, *svsc.info*. Flyers are available in both churches. Though subject to change, we intend to offer the same schedule as in years past, with the exception that this year's 12 MIDNIGHT Dominican Rite Mass (in Latin) on Christmas will be at St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

A flyer with the complete Christmastide Music List of the Schola Cantorum is also available in the bulletin, in church and on our website.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY

Monday, December 21 is Reconciliation Monday throughout the Archdiocese, an opportunity for all to make their confession before Christmas. Confessions will be heard at both churches from 4–8 PM.

ADVENT NOVENA

Join us in prayer from December 17 to December 25. We will say the Novena Prayer at each Mass in our parish and deliver a daily greeting to your mailbox. In our two Churches of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Vincent Ferrer there will be a Novena shrine with holy cards and petition slips. The intention for this Novena is for the safety of children.

O ANTIPHONS

As a continuation of our parish Advent study, from December 17-23, Fr. Walter and James Wetzel are offering a daily meditation on the O Antiphons. The daily meditations and the Advent study can be found on our website, *svsc.info*.

One of the most beloved hymns of Advent is 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' or 'Veni, Veni Emmanuel'. Each verse paraphrases one of the seven Great Advent 'O Antiphons' which are the antiphons for the Magnificat at Vespers appointed for the last days of Advent, December 17–23. Every verse begins with a Messianic title and then continues by referencing a prophesy of Isaiah.

- December 17: O Sapientia (Wisdom)
- December 18: O Adonai (Lord)
- December 19: O Radix Jesse (Root of Jesse)
- December 20: O Clavis David (Key of David)
- December 21: O Oriens (Dayspring)
- December 22: O Rex Gentium (King of the nations)
- December 23: O Emmanuel (God-with-us)

The French Benedictine monks who originally composed these antiphons designed them as an acrostic. Spelling-out the first letter of each title, the Latin words *ero cras* are formed, meaning, "Tomorrow, I will come." Thus even while we are focusing on the daily aspect of each antiphon, we are reminded of the Christ's coming at the completion of the series.

MASS AND CONFESSIONS

St. VINCENT FERRER

Weekdays: 8 ам, 12:10 рм*, 6 рм Saturday: 8 ам, 6 рм (Vigil) Sunday: 8 ам, 9:30 ам, 12 NOON (Solemn)*, 6 рм

Confessions Weekdays: 5:20–5:50 рм Wednesday: 7:15–7:55 Saturday: 5–5:50 рм

St. Catherine of Siena

Weekdays: 7 ам, 5:15 рм Saturday: 9 ам*, 4 рм (Vigil) Sunday: 10 ам, 5 рм

Confessions Weekdays: 4:40–5:05 рм Saturday: 3–3:50 рм

*Mass is livestreamed via svsc.info.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS AND OTHER PRAYER

St. VINCENT FERRER

Weekdays: 7:25 AM: READING AND LAUDS 5:30 PM: ROSARY AND VESPERS Wednesday: 6:30 PM: EUCHARISTIC ADORATION Saturday: 8:30 AM: READING AND LAUDS 5:30 PM: ROSARY AND VESPERS Sunday: 8:45 AM: READING AND LAUDS 5:30 PM: ROSARY AND VESPERS

St. Catherine of Siena

Weekdays: 4:50 pm: Rosary *Thursday*: 5:45 pm: Eucharistic Adoration *Sunday*: 3 pm: Eucharistic Adoration

LIVESTREAM ROSARY

Weekdays: 9 AM Saturday: 8:30 AM

PARISH OFFICE

(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info

St. Vincent Ferrer 869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065 *Office Hours:* Monday–Friday: 9 AM–1 PM *and* 2 PM–4 PM

St. Catherine of Siena 411 East 68th Street, NY, NY 10065 *Office Hours:* Monday–Friday: 10 ам–3 рм

PARISH STAFF

Very Rev. Walter Wagner, O.P. *Pastor* Rev. Joseph Allen, O.P. *Vicar* Rev. Joseph Hagan, O.P. *Vicar for Formation* Bro. Damian McCarthy, O.P. *Sacristan* Bro. Frassati Davis, O.P. *Deacon* Bro. Albert Dempsey, O.P. *Deacon*

Deacon John M. Powers Lee Ann Rubino Business Manager James D. Wetzel Director of Music and Organist Lisa Harrelson Director of Religious Education Ginny McCusker Administrative Assistant Tony Hicks Church Custodian Tracey Hicks Church Custodian

St. VINCENT FERRER HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680 Sr. Gail Morgan, о.р. *Principal*

DOMINICAN SHRINE OF

ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067 jude.parish.opeast.org

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

The Parish offices will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25

PARISH COVID PROTOCOLS

We have resumed our regular Mass and confession schedule. The following guidelines should be observed while in church: masks are required throughout the Mass, practice social distancing as indicated by the markers, make frequent use of the hand sanitizer provided, and follow the instructions for the distribution of Holy Communion. The Churches are cleaned between Masses.

HEALTH CARE EMERGENCIES

For health care emergencies please call (212) 988-1351. The Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York provides pastoral and sacramental care of patients and their families at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Hospital for Special Surgery. Please visit *healthcareministry.org* to learn more about the Ministry.

SIGN UP FOR PARISH EMAILS

To receive up to date and important information regarding our Advent schedule and programs, please sign up for Parish emails via our website *svsc.info* or email the Parish office *parish@svsc.info*.

ONLINE GIVING

Fulfill your stewardship with an online service. Liturgical Publications (WeShare) allows you to make donations anytime, based on your personal schedule. Donations can be made with a credit card, debit card, or e-check. To enroll, visit *svsc.info* and go to "Donate."

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

Does your employer participate in corporate matching or corporate grants? If so, we are a registered non-profit with Benevity Causes. Donations can be made through your work place giving portal or SPARK. Please search your company portal for *The Roman Catholic Church of Saint Vincent Ferrer and Saint Catherine* to submit your matching donation.

DECEMBER PARISH STUDY

Fr. Walter will examine the concluding chapters of St. Matthew's Gospel on Tuesdays in December. On Thursdays, he and James Wetzel will discuss hymns of Advent. These sessions are offered virtually, with videos uploaded to the Parish website, *svsc.info*. Please go to the website to register for the new Advent study series.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

On December 27, the Sunday within the Octave of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Holy Family. Observance of this feast began locally in Canada and France in the 17th century. In 1893, Pope Leo XIII, who had a personal devotion to the Holy Family, approved it as a feast for Canada, and Pope Benedict XV had it added to General Roman Calendar in 1921 on the Sunday within the Octave of the Epiphany. After the 1969 revision of the Calendar, it was moved to its current position.

THE ADVENT WREATH

Again this year the Advent Wreath is placed around the base of the Statue of the Blessed Mary, Porta Caeli, to the right of the Crossing Altar. Please contact the parish office or see Brother Damien about this opportunity for spiritual giving during the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas. Availability for Advent candle intentions is as follows:

- The Octave of Christmas
- 4 lamps
- The Second Week of Christmas 4 lamps

During these weeks, the Sanctuary Madonna lamp that usually hangs beside the Porta Caeli will not burn.

MASS INTENTIONS ST. VINCENT FERRER

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 6:00 PM (Vigil) Michael Regan (D) 8:00 AM Patrick Kelliher (D) 9:30 AM Luisa Alfonso Lara (D) 12 NOON John Ehid (D) 6:00 PM For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21 8:00 AM For the Deceased of the Parish and the Order 12:10 PM Rev. Barnabas Gorski, OFM (D) 6:00 PM Rudolf Netek (D)

Tuesday, December 22

8:00 ам Rudolf Netek (D) 12:10 рм Edward C. Perry (D)

6:00 PM Deceased Members of the Monta Family

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 8:00 AM Irma Navarro (D) 12:10 PM Irma Navarro (D) 6:00 PM Deceased Members of the Foye, Armstrong, Gorman, Donohoe, & Murphy Families (D)

Thursday, December 24 8:00 Am Rene Concepcion (D) 6:00 pm *Christmas Vigil* No Announced Mass 9:30 pm *Christmas Vigil* No Announced Mass

Friday, December 25 Midnight Mass

NO ANNOUNCED MASS 8:00 AM NO ANNOUNCED MASS 9:30 AM NO ANNOUNCED MASS 12 NOON NO ANNOUNCED MASS 4:00 PM NO ANNOUNCED MASS

Saturday, December 26 8:00 am Estella Avertez (D)

6:00 PM (Vigil) Mary Miller & Patrick Murphy (L) & Deceased Members of the Miller & Murphy Families

MASS INTENTIONS

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Sunday, December 20 4:00 рм (Vigil) Davis Gale (D) 10:00 ам Miguel & Teodola Lucida (D) 5:00 рм Plunkett Foye (D)

Monday, December 21 7:00 ам For the Province of St. Joseph 5:15 рм Niedzwiedz, Michalski, & Laszuk

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22 7:00 AM John Nardone 5:15 PM Deceased Members of the Logan, Evans, Joyce, & Thomas Families (D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23 7:00 AM Patrons of the Shrine of St. Jude 5:15 PM Martha O'Leary

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24
7:00 AM For the Purgatorial Society of St. Catherine of Siena
4:00 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL NO ANNOUNCED MASS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 10:00 AM NO ANNOUNCED MASS 5:00 PM NO ANNOUNCED MASS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 9:00 ам Maria Abella (D) 4:00 рм (Vigil) For the People of the Parish

Advent Wreath Candle Intentions Maria Marta Litrenta St. Vincent Ferrer St. Catherine – Purgat

Mary & Angelo Soldato
 Jack Ryan Keegan
 Adrian & Pryor Families
 Sister Padraic Mary, O.P.

PARISH PRAYER INTENTIONS

Contact the Parish Office to add a name to this list.

Roseann Connelly, Andrew Fraser, Maggie Heath, Ramoncito Isidore Sr., David Ruck Keene, Thomas Linson, Rosie Mann, Maurice A. Murphy, Richard Robbins, Adolfo Sardina, Blair Scribner, Dennis Smith, Fern Taller.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Stanley Castillo, Edward Greason, Gilbert Hart Kinney, Ellorine Martinez, Catherine, Michael, & Alexandro Martinez, Carol McKillop, James Neville, Isabella Petillo, Wayne Rogers, Jack Scaccio, Sr. Padraic Mary, Celia Vestey, and the souls of all our recently deceased.

We continue to pray for the sick, the dying, and their families in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, the Hospital for Special Surgery, Rockefeller University Hospital, and the Intentions of the Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry.

CANDLE INTENTIONS

St. Vincent – Sanctuary Lamps Ralph Spencer (D); Ramon & Fernando Gonzalez (L); Bro. Rumold O'Donoghue (D); Souls in Purgatory; The People of the Parish; Special Intention; Intention of Donor

St. Vincent – Pieta Lamp Well-being of Christians in the Middle East

St. Catherine – Sanctuary Lamp Maria Marta Litrenta

St. Catherine – Purgatorial Candle Renato S. Ventigan (D); Rosa J. Silan (D) St. Catherine – Rosary Altar Candle Maria Marta Litrenta; Intention of Donor St. Catherine – Blessed Mother Candle Priscilla Ventigan St. Catherine – St. Martin de Porres Candle Maria Marta Litrenta

Mass Intentions and Candles may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday—Friday, 9 AM—1 рм and 2 рм—4 рм, and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday—Friday, 10 AM—3 рм.

THE FORCE OF LIFE

I write you these lines way back on December 9th; bulletin deadlines creep earlier and earlier. Last evening (for me) on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, a good number of folks gathered after the 5:15 PM Mass at St. Catherine's. Masked and distanced, we fanned out in front of Our Lady's altar and consecrated ourselves to Mary using an 18th century formula developed by St. Louis de Montfort. Every year a group prepares spiritually to do this beginning on All Saints Day. Leading this consecration has established itself in my celebration of Mary's Feast, and each time the dedication of the participants preaches to me.

But this year dozens of covered lips muffled the familiar words, and since the words were quieter our collective hearing was impaired and we could not keep together. Circumstances should have made this sad but joy pervaded. After we completed the consecration I asked the group if we could manage a verse of "Hail, Holy Queen." Out came the familiar words from group memory, and cloth over our faces could not blunt the vigor of the singing.

I heard the force of life in the others and I felt it in myself. We were singing through the masks, singing across the separation, singing despite the fatigue. Yes, the song honored Mary Immaculate, but it also gave voice to determination. We intend to live beyond this pandemic and to persevere in believing.

All that in one little verse!

Our time of pandemic has made it clear to me that life insists on itself. Like water, it finds its way to expression. Exuberance from within fueled our spring of 7 PM claps, our summer of demonstrations, and our Fall of al fresco dining in the parking lane. The modes of expression could not have differed more, but each surfaced the human spirit that refused to give up.

When we set about insisting, grown-ups have to harness energy and ingenuity to accomplish what infants do naturally, and with a force that brooks no resistance. When infants cry they insist on behalf of us all. They state no cause for interrupting, they offer no justification for the inconvenience. Their demand to be fed, or held, or changed, comes from their creator: the crafter of life included advocacy in the essentials of His design. But those insist with no less force who cuddle, and nurse, and do diaper duty in response. Perhaps care for babies demands a skill set, but the impetus to engage them comes from the unthought part of us.

Renderings of the crèche put St. Luke's infancy narrative into all kinds of cultural dress. The Holy Family may look like royalty, or they may look like refugees, but we give them our attention because they show us the insistence between babies and parents that pushes human life forward into each new generation.

How well our Maker knows us, for the insistence at the manger discloses the insistence between Him and each of us. He has made us to want, as babies want in their need, and as parents want in their care. If I manage to love my neighbor as myself in God's sight, have I not discovered a self-assertion beyond all selfishness? It was designed into me by the one who made me cry as a baby and coo at babies as a grown-up. The baby surfaces relentlessly my relentless need to respond to him, and in that moment the baby's maker surfaces the vast capacity for relentless love he has designed into me. I have buried it under a concrete of learned guardedness, made of hurt and disappointment, but the child's cry jackhammers through all of that in a second.

Christ steps into that moment of exposure as surely as he did in Bethlehem. In the flesh, he expresses the insistence between God and me that I have tried to elude.

The crowd singing "Hail, Holy Queen" in St. Catherine's Church humbles me because they have not eluded his love at all. In their song the unaffected cry of the infant and the insistence of faith have become one, and on a dark pandemic night they are happy.

May it be so for us all.

A Very Merry Christmas!

Water dry

Fr. Walter

THIS WEEK OF GRACE

December 20 - December 26, 2020

Antiphon of the Blessed Mother for the ending of the pandemic

• At Night Prayer during Advent and Christmas, and at the Solemn Mass, this Antiphon takes the place of the usual Salve Regina. It may give voice to what is in our hearts at this time.

Mother of Christ! Hear thou thy people's cry, Star of the deep, and portal of the sky! Mother of him who they from nothing made, Sinking we strive, and call to thee for aid; Oh, by that joy which Gabriel brought to thee, Thou Virgin first and last, let us thy mercy see.

Below are the "O" antiphons for the remaining days of the Christmas Novena. Each of them provides a spiritual insight into the Mystery of Christ.

December 20

The Fourth Sunday of Advent O Clavis David

O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom:

come and free the prisoners of darkness!

December 21

O Oriens

O Radiant Dawn, splendor of eternal light, sun of justice:

come and shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

December 22

O Rex

O King of all nations and keystone of the Church: come and save man, whom you formed from the dust!

• On this day in 1216 the Order of Preachers received the formal approval of Pope Honorius III. Pray that the Friars, Nuns, Sisters, Laity and Secular Clergy of the Order may, in their varied ways, be a "Holy Preaching" in the midst of the Church.

December 23

O Emmanuel

O Emmanuel, our King and Giver of Law: come to save us, Lord our God!

Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25. The Vigil and Solemnity of Christmas Receiving the Incarnation

- The flesh-taking of God's Son affirms our bodily life. Here the very abundance of Christmas serves the Gospel, as we have the opportunity to affirm the goodness of our own physical life with its joys and challenges.
- The days of Christmas also encourage prayer for those who live in tension with their bodies. Think of those with chronic illness, physical handicaps, eating disorders, or who have been led to hurt themselves. We can pray that all find the harmony of body and soul shown to us in Jesus, Mary and Joseph.
- This year we want to pray for all whose bodies have been exploited or abused by others, that the wounds of this may be healed.
- For ourselves, we hope to be found always reverent of the bodies of others.

The Octave of Christmas

• For eight days the Church stays in festal mode. Look for the *Gloria* each day at Mass. The liturgy hopes this is a prolonged sabbath for you. Maybe with the commotion passed we can rest in the gift of Jesus at the heart of our lives.

December 26

The Feast of St. Stephen, Deacon and Protomartyr

- Stephen is understood to be among those seven men chosen for service in the infant church. We reckon their calling as the beginning of the Diaconate.
- Think of all those whose lives are so changed by the encounter with Jesus that they become willing to put their own physical life at risk.
- In the washing of the disciples' feet Jesus enfleshed the dignity of service. He continues to affirm it in the Order of Deacons. Please pray for our Deacon John Powers, Br. Thomas Aquinas Dolan, Br. Albert Dempsey, Br. Frassati Davis, and all their fellow Deacons, who find their vocation in the concrete, direct service of their Brothers and Sisters.

CHRISTMASTIDE MUSIC LIST – 2020

THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

All of these Masses at the Church of St. Vincent Ferrer unless otherwise noted. All of these Masses will also be livestreamed via svsc.info and the Parish's Facebook page. Visit svsc.info or consult the bulletin for a full Christmas Mass and Confession schedule. No registration or ticket is required to attend any Mass.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday, December 24 9:30 PM Solemn Mass During the Night Missa Qual donna – Lasso

O beatum et sacrosanctum diem – Philips Descendit de caelis – Et exivit per auream – Byrd

CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday, December 25

12 Midnight Solemn Mass in the Dominican Rite (in Latin) Missa Beata Dei genitrix – Alonso Lobo

12 Noon Solemn Mass During the Day

Missa Quaeramus cum pastoribus – Morales Queramus cum pastoribus – Ubi pascas – Mouton

ST. STEPHEN

Saturday, December 26 9 AM Sung Mass at St. Catherine of Siena

HOLY FAMILY

Sunday, December 27

12 Noon Solemn Mass

Missa O admirabile commercium – Palestrina Angelus ad pastores ait á 7 – Andrae Gabrieli

HOLY INNOCENTS Monday, December 28 6 PM Sung Mass

NEW YEAR'S DAY - OCTAVE DAY

Friday, January 1 12:10 PM Solemn Mass

Plainsong Mass for a Mean – John Sheppard Angelus ad pastores ait – Sweelinck Gaudete omnes – Sweelinck

EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 3

12 Noon Solemn Mass

Missa Illuminare Jerusalem – Baccusi Surge, illuminare Jerusalem – Corteccia Magi videntes stellam – Lombardo

BAPTISM OF THE LORD Sunday, January 10

12 Noon Solemn Mass

Missa O magnum mysterium – Victoria Pastores loquebantur – Guerrero Videntes autem cognoverunt – Guerrero

The Very Rev. Walter C. Wagner, *Pastor* Schola Cantorum of St. Vincent Ferrer James D. Wetzel, *Director of Music and Organist*



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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE – 2020

THE PARISH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

As of November 28, 2020 and is subject to change. For the latest information, visit svsc.info and sign-up for parish emails on our website or by emailing parish@svsc.info. No registration or ticket is required to attend any Mass.

CHRISTMAS EVE – Thursday, December 24

4 PM Sung Mass of the Vigil – St. Catherine6 PM Sung Mass of the Vigil – St. Vincent

9:30 PM Solemn Mass During the Night – St. Vincent* with Orlando di Lasso's Missa Qual donna and motets of Byrd and Philips.

CHRISTMAS DAY – Friday, December 25

12 Midnight Solemn Mass in the Dominican Rite (in Latin) – St. Vincent* with Alonso Lobo's Missa Beata Dei genitrix.

> 8 AM Low Mass of Dawn – St. Vincent 9:30 AM Sung Mass of Dawn – St. Vincent 10 AM Sung Mass During the Day – St. Catherine

12 Noon Solemn Mass During the Day – St. Vincent* with Cristóbal de Morales' Missa Quaeramus cum pastoribus and motets of Mouton.

> 4 PM Low Mass During the Day – St. Vincent 5 PM Low Mass During the Day – St. Catherine

NEW YEAR'S EVE - Thursday, December 31

5:15 PM Low Mass of the Vigil – St. Catherine6 PM Low Mass of the Vigil – St. Vincent

NEW YEAR'S DAY - OCTAVE DAY - Friday, January 1

Regular Weekday Mass Schedule, *including* 12:10 PM Solemn Mass – St. Vincent* with John Sheppard's Plainsong Mass for a Mean and motets of Sweelinck.

*These Masses will also be livestreamed via svsc.info and the Parish's Facebook page.

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