



Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer  
and St. Catherine of Siena



Marriage Preparation and Wedding Policy

*(Updated: September 2023)*

Congratulations on your engagement! Thank you for reaching out to the Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena. Your marriage will witness to the world of Jesus Christ's love for His Bride, the Church, a love that is faithful and fruitful, a love that leads to the heavenly wedding feast. We are happy to support you during this time of preparation for the sacrament of matrimony.



## General Information

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### COMMUNICATION

For clarity of communication, we ask that there be only one point of contact for the couple with the Parish.

### BOOKING YOUR DATE

Couples can book their date when they meet with one of our priests. For the ceremony, either St. Vincent Ferrer Church (869 Lexington Avenue) or St. Catherine of Siena Church (411 East 68th Street) may be used. To secure your date, we ask for a non-refundable deposit of \$250 which also counts towards your total donation.

## WEDDING TIMES

The normal times for Wedding Masses at St. Vincent Ferrer are on Saturdays at 1:30 PM and 3:30 PM and at St. Catherine of Siena on Saturdays at 1:30 PM.

For other days or times or for the times for a Wedding outside of Mass, please inquire about availability with the Parish Office.

## DONATIONS AND FEES

Marriage commits spouses both to each other and to our Parish community. Your donation signifies that your marriage is not a private affair, but that it is for the sake of building up God's people. Thus, we ask for the following amounts to help offset the various costs that come with a wedding and marriage prep.

For active parishioners as well as alums of St. Vincent Ferrer High School, Dominican Academy, and Providence College<sup>1</sup>:

- Marriage Prep and Wedding: \$2,500
- Wedding Only: \$2,250
- Marriage Prep Only: \$550<sup>2</sup>

For all those who are not active parishioners:

- Marriage Prep and Wedding: \$3,000
- Wedding Only: \$2,750
- Marriage Prep Only: \$750<sup>3</sup>

All payments (including the fee for music, which is not included in the amounts above) should be made by check to "Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena" or online by [WeShare](#).

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<sup>1</sup> This would be those parishioners who already regularly attend St. Vincent Ferrer Church and/or St. Catherine of Siena Church at the time when they reach out about a wedding or marriage preparation.

<sup>2</sup> For international weddings, there is an additional \$150 fee to cover the cost of the processing fee for the Archdiocese of New York.

<sup>3</sup> Same as note 2 above.

## SMALL WEDDINGS

For small weddings, couples may use the Friars' Chapel at St. Vincent Ferrer, which comfortably seats 24 guests. For these weddings, it is possible to arrange for a discounted price with our priest coordinating the wedding.



## Preparation

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### MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Couples who desire to have their wedding in our Parish may prepare for marriage and its holy commitments either at our Parish or elsewhere. Likewise, we offer to prepare couples who choose to marry elsewhere. The preparation here includes a few individual meetings with a priest; some group sessions with a priest, other engaged couples, and married sponsor couples; and the opportunity to be mentored by one of our sponsor couples. If you would like to prepare here, please reach out to the [parish@svsc.info](mailto:parish@svsc.info), and one of our priests will contact you.

Please allow at least six months for preparation, regardless of where your marriage will be.

## MUSIC

Couples should contact our Director of Music, James Wetzel, at [jwetzel@svsc.info](mailto:jwetzel@svsc.info) as soon as a date for the wedding has been scheduled. He will provide detailed information about your options for musical selections and designing a leaflet as well as the possibilities for and costs of additional singers and instrumentalists.

## CONFESSION BEFORE MARRIAGE

We encourage Catholics to go to confession before their marriage, usually before or after the wedding rehearsal or at another pre-arranged time.



## Wedding Weekend

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### WEDDING ASSISTANT

We have a Wedding Assistant who will help during the rehearsal and the wedding. If you have a Wedding Planner, it will be helpful to have your planner contact our Wedding Assistant for any questions in advance of the wedding.

## PHOTO AND VIDEO

Couples are welcome to hire photographers and/or videographers. During the liturgy, they must remain outside of the space around the sanctuary. If it is helpful, the photographers and videographers can be given a schematic on where they may take photos or film.

## FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

At St. Vincent Ferrer, flower arrangements can be placed in front of the two lecterns and/or by the *Porta Caeli* statue near the altar. A small arrangement may also be placed in front of the altar.

The flowers usually are put up an hour before the wedding, and there is a custom of leaving some of the flowers in the church to show the connection between the Parish and the couple. Please consult with the priest handling your wedding or with the Director of Music regarding the arrangement and removal of flowers. If it is helpful, the florist can be given a schematic on where flowers can be placed.

Regarding other decorations inside or outside the church: no runners, no rice, no flower petals, no glitter, no bubbles, nothing secured with tape. In general, avoid throwing anything or doing anything that will need to be cleaned up before the next Parish Mass.

## REHEARSAL

The couple, the bridal party (including everyone involved in the procession), and any lectors should attend the wedding rehearsal, which usually takes place the day before the wedding itself.

## BRIDAL PREPARATION

There is no proper holding room or dressing room at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena. For the bride's convenience, at St. Vincent's, she may use the baptistery for her final preparations. At St. Catherine's, she may use the area outside of the Parish offices.

## LATE START

Because of the busy Parish schedule, please be on time for your rehearsal and for your wedding. If the wedding starts more than 15 minutes late, we will need to have a Wedding Ceremony rather than a Wedding Mass. If the wedding starts more than 30 minutes late, the musicians will be dismissed without a refund.



## Our Prayers for You

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Please be assured of the prayers of the Dominican Friars as you prepare for your wedding day and entrance into married life. May the witness and prayers of the Holy Family guide you to a joyful and grace-filled marriage.





Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer  
and St. Catherine of Siena

The Church of St. Vincent Ferrer  
869 Lexington Avenue at 66<sup>th</sup> Street

The Church of St. Catherine of Siena  
411 East 68<sup>th</sup> Street

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