



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 | parish@svsc.info

January 19, 2020 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

PARISH STUDY

This Winter, Fr. Walter Wagner, O.P. will lead our Parish Study series. This semester he will continue his study on the Book of Genesis. Sessions will continue on Tuesday, January 21 and meet each Tuesday evening from 6:45 – 7:45 PM in the Lower Church of St. Vincent Ferrer.

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the Parish offices will be closed on Monday, January 20. There will be regular Mass and confession schedules.

CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

Saturday, January 25 is the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. There will be a Sung Mass at 12 NOON at St. Vincent Ferrer.

NEW YORK PURGATORIAL SOCIETY MASS

On Monday, January 27 at 7 PM, a sung Mass in the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite sponsored by the New York Purgatorial Society will be offered at St. Vincent Ferrer.

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, O.P.

Tuesday, January 28 is the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican friar and Doctor of the Church known as the *Doctor Angelicus*. There will be a Sung Mass at 6 PM at St. Vincent Ferrer.

CANDLEMAS

Sunday, February 2, is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, commonly known as Candlemas. The 12 NOON Solemn Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer will include a Procession and Blessing of Candles.

INVITATION FROM THE ST. VINCENT FERRER CONVENT

On Sunday February 2, the Dominican Sisters in the convent at St. Vincent Ferrer invite single women, 20 to 45 years of age, to join them in the Convent at 3:45 PM for a time of conversation, prayer, and Adoration, followed by Sung Vespers at 5:30 PM in the church. This is an opportunity for the Sisters to get to know a little better those whom they encounter in the parish, and for you to become better acquainted with their Dominican life of prayer and ministry.

The convent, at 152 East 66th Street, is entered through the iron gate east of the 66th Street door to the church.

MASS AND CONFESSIONS

ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM,

12:00 NOON, 6:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 8:00 AM, 12:10 PM,

6:00 PM

SATURDAY: 8:00 AM

Confessions

SATURDAY: 5:00–5:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 5:20–5:50 PM

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SATURDAY VIGIL: 4:00 PM

SUNDAY: 10:00 AM, 5:00 PM

WEEKDAYS: 7:00 AM, 5:15 PM

SATURDAY: 9:00 AM

Confessions

SATURDAY: 3:00–3:50 PM

WEEKDAYS: 4:40–5:05 PM

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

AND OTHER PRAYER

ST. VINCENT FERRER

SUNDAY:

8:50 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (SUNG VESPERS)

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:25 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS

AND VESPERS)

WEDNESDAY:

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SUNDAY:

3:00 PM (EUCHARISTIC ADORATION)

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 5:45 PM

QUEEN OF PEACE PRAYER GROUP

SATURDAY: 9:30 AM

PARISH OFFICE

St. Vincent Ferrer
869 Lexington Ave, NY, NY 10065
(212) 744-2080 | parish@svsc.info
Office Hours: Monday–Friday:
9 AM–1 PM, 2–5 PM

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

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. Hyacinth Grubb, o.p.
Deacon

Deacon John M. Powers
Lee Ann Rubino
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel
Director of Music and Organist

Dorothy VanDine
Assistant Organist

Lisa Harrelson
*Coordinator of Catechesis and
Youth Ministry*

Rachel Miller
Administrative Assistant

Tony Hicks
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks
Church Custodian

ST. VINCENT FERRER

HIGH SCHOOL

(212) 535-4680
Sr. Gail Morgan, o.p.
Principal

DOMINICAN SHRINE OF

ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org

PARISH INFORMATION

Welcome to the Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena in the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, served by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph.

For general information about the Parish, its many organizations, an overview of the current year's schedule of events, and how to become more involved in our common life, please take a green Parish Handbook.

For information about the music program, please take a Music List, 'Music as Holy Preaching'. Both of these booklets are available in the narthex and online.

To register as a parishioner, please use the form found at the back of the Handbook or online. Follow us on facebook @StVincentAndStCatherine and sign-up for email alerts by notifying parish@svsc.info.

PARISH CALENDAR

JANUARY

JANUARY 18 – 25 – OCTAVE OF CHRISTIAN UNITY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY, JANUARY 20 – MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

Parish Offices Closed – Regular Mass and Confession Schedule

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

6:45 PM Parish Study at St. Vincent Ferrer

JANUARY 25 – FEBRUARY 2 – NOVENA OF THE INFANT OF PRAGUE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 – CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

12 NOON Sung Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY, JANUARY 27

7 PM New York Purgatorial Society Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28 – ST. THOMAS AQUINAS

6 PM Sung Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer

6:45 PM Parish Study at St. Vincent Ferrer

FEBRUARY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2 – PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

12 NOON Solemn Mass with Blessing of Candles at St. Vincent Ferrer

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

6:45 PM Parish Study at St. Vincent Ferrer

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6:45 PM Parish Study at St. Vincent Ferrer

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 – PRESIDENTS' DAY

Parish Offices Closed – Regular Mass and Confession Schedule

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

6:45 PM Parish Study at St. Vincent Ferrer

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:45 PM Parish Study at St. Vincent Ferrer

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – ASH WEDNESDAY

Regular Mass and Confession Schedule with

10 AM Sung Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer

12:10 PM Sung Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer

1 PM Low Mass at St. Catherine of Siena

3 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet Service

at St. Vincent Ferrer & St. Catherine of Siena

6 PM Solemn Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer

MASS INTENTIONS

ST. VINCENT FERRER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
6:00 PM (Vigil) C.G. De La Cruz
8:00 AM Deceased Members of the
Bowler & Yerkes Families, Andrew
& Arthur Williams, & Bro.
Michael Yerkes (D)
9:30 AM Ann & Jimmy Carty (D)
12 NOON Laura Bropson
6:00 PM For the People of the Parish

MONDAY, JANUARY 20
8:00 AM For the Deceased Members
of the Parish & the Order (D)
12:10 PM Rev. Barnabas
Gorski, OFM (D)
6:00 PM Edgar Purcell (D)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
8:00 AM Amy Bergman
12:10 PM Burke O'Hara (D)
6:00 PM Vid Suljic (D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
8:00 AM Peter Gaine (D)
12:10 PM Edward C. Perry (D)
6:00 PM Sandra Nowak (D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
8:00 AM For the Victims of the
Australian Bushfires
12:10 PM Lucille Hickey (D)
6:00 PM Souls in Purgatory (D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
8:00 AM Don Christian Gabriel
Rivera (D)
12:10 PM Rene Concepcion (D)
6:00 PM For the Clergy of the Parish

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
8:00 AM Frank & Madeleine
McGuinness (D)
6:00 PM (Vigil) Louise & Dick
Buckley (D)

MASS INTENTIONS

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
4:00 PM (Vigil) David Gale (D)
10:00 AM Mary & Andrija
Mijacika (D)
5:00 PM Rolando Alog

MONDAY, JANUARY 20
7:00 AM For the Province of
St. Joseph
5:15 PM Poor Souls in Purgatory

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
7:00 AM Colonel Cesar Okol (D)
5:15 PM Rosemarie Pirro (D)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
7:00 AM For the Patrons of the
Shrine of St. Jude
5:15 PM Nocholas Zarabara (D)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
7:00 AM For the Annual Enrollment
for the Living
5:15 PM Nora Honora Marion
O'Toole (D)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24
7:00 AM For the Purgatorial Society
of St. Catherine of Siena (D)
5:15 PM Laurette Alexis Palacio (D)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25
9:00 AM Arie Francissco (D)
4:00 PM (Vigil) Gloria Lyn (D)

PARISH PRAYER

INTENTIONS

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

Mike Borland, Bernadette Carty,
Jarrod Dubesko, Edana Fenske, Emily
Garnett, Christine Heller, Joseph
Henaio, Anne Hills, Cody Ingram,
Douglas Kozak, Jared Miller, Jay
Mortimer, Maurice Murphy, David
Olivier, David Reid Isabelle Rivera,
Scott, Lorna Shepherd, Anchalee
Sae-Lim, Adolfo Sardina, Lisa Selby,
William Selby, Prechry Thongtha, &
Barbara Tracy.

Please pray for the repose of the
souls of Robert Calise, Judy Cosme,
Fransisca, Lloyd, & Maurice Garcia,
Matthew Martinez, & Earl Petillo,
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
Michael Antoru; Ramon & Fernando
Gonzalez (L); Frank Nordone (D);
Aquila Zacharilla (D); For the Souls
in Purgatory; For the People of the
Parish; Intention of Donor

St. Vincent – Sanctuary Madonna
Jack Ryan Keegan (L)

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

*Mass Intentions and Candles may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM,
and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday – Friday, 10:00 AM–3:00 PM.*

MUSIC NOTES

Next Sunday for the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Schola will sing motets by two relatively obscure Italian composers. Martini was a Conventual Franciscan friar who was the chapel-master at the Basilica of San Francesco in Bologna. A widely respected musician, he knew both Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Bassano was associated with the Basilica of San Marco in Venice for his entire career and was particularly noted for his instrumental compositions that were known as far afield as London.

Dextera Domini

– Giovanni Battista Martini (1706-1784)

Caro mea – Giovanni Bassano (c. 1558-1617)

For information about the music program, please take this season's Music List, 'Music as Holy Preaching', available in the narthex and online.

ONLINE GIVING

Fulfill your stewardship with an online service. Liturgical Publications (WeShare) allows you to make donations to the Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Catherine of Siena anytime, based on your personal schedule. Donations can be made with a credit card, debit card, or e-check. To enroll, visit www.svsc.info and go to "Sign up for Online Giving," or visit www.churchgiving.com/?pc=ztm3ks26 and click "Start Giving."

MINISTRY APPEAL

Young adult males, single or married, as well as boys in fourth grade or higher are invited to consider joining our parish guild of Altar Servers, those who assist the priest at the altar during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. All training will be provided and scheduling is flexible. If you have an interest in volunteering or would like more information, please contact our parish coordinator of servers, Steve Quatela, through parish@svsc.info or (212) 744-2080.

We are also in need of Ushers (Collection Offering) and Greeters at both churches. If you are interested, please contact the parish office at (212) 744-2080. You may also leave your name and contact information with the guard in the narthex of St. Vincent Ferrer at any time.

HEALTH CARE EMERGENCIES

For Health Care emergencies please call (212) 988-8303. The Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York provides pastoral and sacramental care of Dominican Friars at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, and Hospital for Special Surgery.

PARISH SOCIAL MEDIA

The Parish has Facebook and Instagram pages to help spread the word about special liturgies, lectures, and social events at the Parish. Find us and 'like' us by searching [@StVincentAndStCatherine](#) within Facebook or [svsc_nyc](#) on Instagram.

VOLUNTEERING IN OUR PARISH

To inquire about volunteering in our Parish, please use the form found on our website, www.svsc.info or <http://www.svsc.info/volunteers/>.

DOMINICAN THIRD ORDER

Are you a layperson who believes that you are called to a more profound interior life through the charisms of the Dominican Order? You may want to visit the Dominican Third Order (Lay Fraternity) Chapter that meets in the Parish Center of St. Vincent Ferrer on the third Thursday of each month from 6 – 8 PM. All are welcome. To learn more visit <http://laydominicans.org/>, or visit our blog at <http://olotac.blogspot.com/>.

LEGION OF MARY

The Legion of Mary welcomes memberships into the council that meets at St. Catherine of Siena on Thursday afternoons at 1:30 PM. Legion meetings consist of prayers, review of work projects, and assignments for the coming week. Our ministry is visiting the sick at Mary Manning Walsh and bringing Communion to catholic residents. If you are interested please contact the spiritual moderator, Fr. Joseph Allen, o.p. or president Lettie Dolan at (917) 775-4930 or (212) 288-6384.

COLLECTIONS

JANUARY 12, 2020

Regular Offertory: \$13,183

Deficit Reduction: \$2,893

NY Common Pantry: \$1,106

Attendance: 1289

STILL FULL OF SAP, STILL GREEN

I had very fond memories of this piece and could not remember when I had written it. This week I have been preaching the final vow retreat for our Dominican Brothers. We have been staying at the Trappist Monastery in Berryville, Virginia. Just when I needed something from the archive, I happened upon this old friend. The last paragraph is adapted for this year.

Yesterday morning (Saturday, January 13, 2018) I made my customary crosstown journey on 67th Street, westbound. What struck me on this particular trek, were the piles of Christmas trees alone on the curb. As I trotted briskly by in the chill, these prostrate veterans of Yule gave me a next-to-last gift.

Before they become the mulch beneath this spring's luxuriance, they offered me a wonderful whiff of evergreen. The scent took me back to when I first met them bundled up and full of potential in the stall on First Avenue. They were there looking tall and smart on the day after Thanksgiving. They told me it was time and I had better get busy about holiday things. I encountered them again socially, in a number of locations. They were wearing their holiday best and beckoned me to join them for a tall eggnog. They bid me relax and wonder about the contents of the packages nestled in the folds of their skirts. Later in the season they elicited my sympathy because they had gotten tired of standing in the corner for so long. Their sad verdict was that it was all over and we both needed to move on, me to winter and they back to the soil from which they emerged. Without a word, but with fading scent they offered the tough love of the elderly.

Now they lay stoically, pooling meagre resources to scent the air. They shared the blessings of their calling to the end. I will hold on to their perfume until the hyacinths give me a new one in a few months.

In nature, the cycle of life and death speaks volumes to us about ourselves; it gives essential shape to our life in the body. Much of our reflection upon people, things, and situations involves the ways in which they are passing away from us. Constantly we surrender the familiar into the hands of time.

But God has planted a true perennial in the garden of life, and no cycle of nature holds it in check. Its scent does not grow tired or weak, but is fresh with ever new complexities. With the Resurrection, the Son of Man broke free of turning of nature's wheel and his sacramental presence among us endures without fatigue, "Still full of sap, still green."

Each time I receive Holy Communion, it comes as a fresh encounter with the one whose love for me is constant but never static, always finding new ways to disclose itself to me. I might be tired, or distracted, or burdened, but the love that reaches me in the Bread and Wine of Life flows ever free and clear. The Eucharist comes to me as a "pledge of future glory" precisely because it is life-giving beyond the constraints of mortality. So many people have been life-givers to me and then they leave me. I connect to them by memory which gives a real gift, but they cannot share my present with me, and so much of my moment is about missing people.

But in the heart of my present is now this mystery of the Body and Blood which nourishes and refreshes with the intimacy of a fully shared moment. The Liturgy has the task of showing you and me this truth of its amazing elixir. It does this in many ways, but one to discover, and hold on to, is the communion antiphon. In our parish this text is sung or said just as the priest finishes receiving from the Precious Blood and as you are about to rise from your place and present yourself for Communion.

The antiphon changes each Sunday during the Season of the Year (Ordinary Time) and each day during the four great seasons, of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. It also changes for the Feasts of Saints that punctate the whole year. The text is designed to accompany the movement in which we all receive the Lord in Communion, and you, on this day, receive Him. We might take the communion antiphon as a commentary on Holy Communion, and as a fresh perception of the mystery of the Eucharist.

This year, as we reach for the Bread of Life we will hear "We will rejoice in your salvation, and in the name of the Lord our God we shall be exalted," from Psalm 19(20):6. I hear these words and take the food that will help me to pass through the inevitabilities of nature with a belief that there waits a life beyond them. If I receive the Eucharist in faith it will be fresh scent for me in winter, and will make of me fresh scent to others.

Winter Peace!



Fr. Walter

HELP US HELP THE POOR

The Social Concerns Committee is accepting monetary donations in the "poor box" on the left side of St. Vincent Ferrer as you enter from Lexington Avenue. We will use this money for our celebrations for the women living at the shelter and other events that do come up during the upcoming year. Please be as generous as you can. Any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

MAGNIFICAT PILGRIMAGE TO FRANCE

Guided by Dominican priest Fr. Thomas More Garrett, o.p., Magnificat magazine is leading a 9-day pilgrimage to France from June 27 – July 5, 2020. The trip will include stays in Lourdes, Paris, and Versailles. In addition to the shrine at Lourdes, pilgrims will visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal, the family home of St. Therese of Lisieux, Omaha Beach, and world heritage site Mont-Saint-Michel. For more information visit <https://www.petersway.com/9674.html> or call (800) 225-7662. Interested parishioners should also feel free to contact Fr. Thomas More directly at thomas.more.garrett@opeast.org.

TAI-CHI CLASSES

Health Advocates for Older People will be sponsoring Tai-Chi classes, the ancient movements and balance exercises to strengthen legs, ankles, knees, and hips. Classes will take place on Mondays, 1:30 – 2:30 PM in St. Dominic Hall at St. Catherine's. All are welcome.

LEGACY OF FAITH

The Edward Cardinal Egan Pavilion at the St. John Vianney Clergy Residence in Riverdale is home to more than 35 priests. It provides peace, serenity, fellowship, and the highest-quality care for those who have dedicated their lives to serving the glory of God and the well-being of their communities. It is a tangible response to Christ's call to help others. When you sit down to review your estate to reflect your lifelong devotion to the priesthood, you might think about a gift to the Egan Pavilion. The Planned Giving Office can be reached at (646) 794-3317 or plannedgiving@archny.org.

PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest, deacon, religious, or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sister Eileen Clifford, o.p. at (646) 794-2949 or victimsassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the archdiocesan website www.archny.org. In keeping with archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

ONLINE SUPPORT GROUP FOR INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES AFFECTED BY DIVORCE/SEPARATION

For anyone struggling due to a divorce/separation in their family, there is a free on-line "Webinar-like" support/sharing group. Sponsored by the St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for Freedom, Family, and Faith, this group meets every first Tuesday from 8 – 9 P.M. and is on-going. Prayer, reflection, guidance by Church teachings, and attended by a Mercedarian friar from the Order of Mercy and the Organization's Director, the group allows for listening and optional sharing guided by an experienced facilitator.

To learn more, visit www.nonnatus.org or "Philly Nonnatus" on social media. Call, text, or email the Director of the Foundation at (215) 870-9913 or director.srnf@gmail.com (type SUPPORT in the title to receive direct link).

FRANCISCAN SPIRIT TOURS: REFRESH YOUR SPIRIT, RENEW YOUR SOUL

Franciscan friars Fr. Michael Seigny, OFM Cap. and Fr. Jim Sauer, OFM will be leading several upcoming pilgrimages to Holy sites around the world. Proceeds benefit the work of the Franciscans. For more information, or to arrange a private, custom pilgrimage please contact Franciscan Spirit Tours toll free at (646) 736-7964 or at info@FranciscanSpiritTours.com. You may also see the full itineraries online at www.FranciscanSpiritTours.com. Mention you were referred by the bulletin and the parish will receive a contribution.

Our upcoming pilgrimages include:

Italy/Greece
Shrines, Wines, & Castles (Portugal)
The Camino
Oberammergau/Prague (Passion Play)

Plus our regularly scheduled pilgrimages:

"Franciscan Italy" "Great Women of Faith"
(Paris/Lourdes/Lisieux)
"Holy Land – The Living Rosary"
"Footsteps of St. John Paul II" (Poland/Prague)
"Our Lady in the New World" (Guadalupe/Mexico)
"Catholic Spain" "Fatima" "Journey to Peace"
(Medjugorje)
"Footsteps of Pope Francis" (Argentina/Uruguay)
"Catholic Ireland" "Church of John and Paul"
(Greece/Turkey)

THIS WEEK OF GRACE

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity continues through this whole week.

- Until the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul on Saturday, we continue to observe the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.
- Pray that we would develop a deep understanding of what it means to be a baptized person.
- Pray to experience that fruit of Holy Communion which is the longing that others might come to share this gift.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

- Nine Days for Life Novena - These days from January 21 – 29 embrace the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children on January 22, the Roe v. Wade anniversary. Each of the Novena days offers prayers and activities. Reference it at www.USCCB.org.

Monday, January 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

- Pray for an end of racial prejudice, and pray for all its victims.
- Make a commitment to continue struggling with personal prejudice.

Wednesday, January 22

National Day of Prayer and Penance for the Preservation of Life

- Ponder the lives in which you exercise some degree of power.
- Ask for the grace to exercise that power in truth, justice, and charity.
- Pray for those with power in the lives of the unborn, the elderly, the handicapped, and the gravely ill.
- Pray that those with such power will not act from fear or anxiety, but with the trust that comes from a living faith.
- Pray especially for women surprised by a pregnancy for any reason.
- Pray that those with responsibility for the life of another may have the practical and spiritual resources they need to make the best decisions.
- Pray for the work and witness of the Sisters of Life.
- Pray for the work Pregnancy Help, supported by many of our parishioners, does for vulnerable women and their children.
- Pray for the work of Calvary Hospital, the Hawthorne Dominican Sisters and all who work in Hospice care.
- Consider a work of Penance for the preservation of all vulnerable lives.

Friday, January 24 The Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, Bishop

St. Francis wrote a great spiritual treatise called *The Devout Life*. In this he invited people to recognize how their life of prayer needed to be congruent with their state of life, e.g. if you are a married person do not try to pray like a monk or nun.

- Give thanks for your own state of life, for being married, single, religious, or ordained.
- How does it strengthen you with blessings, and how does it challenge constructively with the restrictions it imposes?
- Can you admire without envy the beauty of other states of life?

Saturday, January 25 The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

- What has been the story of your own conversion? How has God redirected you to Himself?
- What is the role of Scripture in your life? St. Paul's letters offer some of the New Testament's most difficult and rewarding texts. They also reveal how holiness does not erase his complicated personality.