



# 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 68<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065

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

## February 28, 2021 — 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### 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.

### ALMSGIVING SUNDAY

Next weekend, a second collection will be taken-up to help offset our Parish's operating deficit. Donations will also be taken-up after Mass by members of the Social Concerns Committee to support the work of the New York Common Pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

### SUNDAY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION DURING LENT

Every Sunday during Lent, Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be offered at St. Vincent Ferrer following the 12 NOON Solemn Mass, with:

3 PM – Chaplet of Divine Mercy

4 PM – Preaching by Fr. Walter Wagner, O.P.

4:15 PM – Organ Recital by James Wetzel

5 PM – Benediction

Fr. Walter's preaching series will examine the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-12), and the recital will feature music of one composer per week. Both will be livestreamed as well.

February 28: Blessed are they who mourn. / Music of Felix Mendelssohn.

March 7: Blessed are the meek. / Music of Herbert Howells

There will also be Adoration from 3–5 PM on Sundays at St. Catherine of Siena as usual.

### WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT

*Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness.*

*Reflecting on the Lessons of Covid:*

*the Gifts of Solitude and Neighborliness in Lockdown*

Saturday, March 6 is the annual Women's Lenten Retreat at St. Vincent Ferrer Church starting at 10:30 AM, followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass at 12 NOON. The event will also be livestreamed via the Parish website, [svsc.info](http://svsc.info).

In these uncertain times, this year's retreat is particularly relevant, helping us to put aside daily distractions, to reflect upon our relationship with God, and find spiritual renewal.

The retreat is hosted by the Visitation Circle. For additional information contact Catherine O'Rourke at [catherine\\_o\\_rourke@hotmail.com](mailto:catherine_o_rourke@hotmail.com) or email the Parish Office at [parish@svsc.info](mailto:parish@svsc.info). We look forward to seeing you there.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Stations of the Cross is prayed every Friday during Lent after the evening Masses: 6 PM at St. Vincent Ferrer and 5:15 PM St. Catherine of Siena.

## MASS AND CONFESSIONS

### ST. VINCENT FERRER

Weekdays: 8 AM, 12:10 PM\*, 6 PM

Saturday: 8 AM, 6 PM (VIGIL)

Sunday: 8 AM, 9:30 AM,  
12 NOON (SOLEMN)\*, 6 PM

### CONFESSIONS

Weekdays: 5:20–5:50 PM

Wednesday: 7:15–7:55

Saturday: 5–5:50 PM

### ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

Weekdays: 7 AM, 5:15 PM

Saturday: 9 AM\*, 4 PM (VIGIL)

Sunday: 10 AM, 5 PM

### CONFESSIONS

Weekdays: 4:40–5:05 PM

Saturday: 3–3:50 PM

\*Mass is livestreamed via [svsc.info](http://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 68<sup>th</sup> 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. Frassati Davis, 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, O.P.

*Principal*

## DOMINICAN SHRINE OF ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067

[jude.parish.opeast.org](http://jude.parish.opeast.org)

## DOMINICAN FRIARS HEALTHCARE MINISTRY OF NEW YORK

(212) 988-1351

[healthcareministry.org](http://healthcareministry.org)

## PARISH LENTEN RETREAT

*Blessed are the merciful.*

*Reflecting on the Lessons of Covid:*

*Going the Distance with My Humanity and Yours*

Saturday, March 13 is the Parish Lenten Retreat at St. Vincent Ferrer. A morning conference will be given at 10:30 AM followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and Mass at 12 NOON. The retreat will also be livestreamed via the Parish website, [svsc.info](http://svsc.info). For more information, please email the Parish Office at [parish@svsc.info](mailto:parish@svsc.info).

## DOMINICAN SISTERS OF OUR LADY OF THE SPRINGS

The Dominican Sisters of Our Lady of the Springs are happy to announce the first profession of vows of Sr. Julia Balu, O.P., on February 13, in St. Vincent Ferrer Church. Fr. Walter celebrated the Liturgy and Sr. Christine Cosgrove, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters, received her vows. We are proud and happy for Sr. Julia. We ask all in our Parish to pray for her as she enters this new step as a consecrated vowed religious in the Dominican Order. Sr. Julia teaches religion at St. Vincent Ferrer High School and lives in our Parish convent.

## 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](http://svsc.info) and go to "Donate."

## RCIA AND THE LENTEN SCRUTINIES

During Lent, the Church prays for and prepares to welcome new members through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

A "Catechumen" (meaning one being instructed) is someone who is preparing for baptism. At the Easter Vigil, the Catechumen will celebrate all three Sacraments of Christian Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

A "Candidate" is someone who has been baptized, but not as a Catholic. At the Easter Vigil, the Candidate will make a profession of faith, be confirmed, and/or receive the Eucharist.

After a period of catechesis (in our Parish, by Fr. Joseph Hagan, O.P.) the Catechumens participate in the Rite of Election on the First Sunday of Lent (usually at St. Patrick's Cathedral, but this year at St. Vincent Ferrer), and the Candidates participate in the Rite of Continuing Conversion on the Second Sunday of Lent. In these Rites, the Church formally ratifies the Catechumens' readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation and the Candidates' readiness to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church. In turn, the Catechumens – thereafter known as the "Elect" – publicly acknowledge their desire to receive said Sacraments, and the Candidates their desire to be enter full communion.

At the 12 NOON Mass on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent, the Elect undergo the First, Second, and Third Scrutinies. These Rites of examination and repentance are to deliver the Elect from the power of sin and temptation, and to give them strength in Christ. For these Masses, a special set of orations are used by the Celebrant, specific intercessions are offered on behalf of the Elect, and the Year A lectionary is always read: the Gospels of the Samaritan woman (John 4:5-42); the healing of the man born blind (John 9:1-41); and the resurrection of Lazarus (John 11:1-45).

## MUSIC NOTES

The next week, for the Third Sunday of Lent, the Schola will sing music of two of the greatest Franco-Flemish composers of the Renaissance.

*Missa Pange lingua* – Francisco López Capillas (c. 1608-1674)

*Aquam quam ego dabo* – Manuel Cardoso (1566-1650)

*Quomodo cantabimus* – Francisco Guerrero (1528-1599)

**MASS INTENTIONS  
ST. VINCENT FERRER**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
6:00 PM (Vigil) Livia Andreotti (D)  
8:00 AM For the People of the  
Parish  
9:30 AM Thomas Mullins (D)  
12 NOON Adele Memmo (D)  
6:00 PM Dr. George Pierser (D)

MONDAY, MARCH 1  
8:00 AM For the Deceased of the  
Parish & the Order  
12:10 PM Joseph Shortt (D)  
6:00 PM Joseph Wall & Family (D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2  
8:00 AM Valerie Forte (D)  
12:10 PM Marie & Jack Powers (D)  
6:00 PM Martin J. Birnbaum (D)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3  
8:00 AM Alfred Chong  
12:10 PM Ita McEnery (D)  
6:00 PM Kate Carty (D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4  
8:00 AM Deceased Members of the  
Sharbel Family  
12:10 PM Roseann Connelly  
6:00 PM Shirley Gomez (D)

FRIDAY, MARCH 5  
8:00 AM Bart & Bridget  
McGovern (D)  
12:10 PM Joe Munro (D)  
6:00 PM Nancy & Luke A.  
Foye Sr. (D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6  
8:00 AM Mary Lai (D)  
6:00 PM (Vigil) August Arace

**MASS INTENTIONS  
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
4:00 PM (Vigil) David Gale (D)  
10:00 AM Annette Williams (D)  
5:00 PM Cesar Bernardo (D)

MONDAY, MARCH 1  
7:00 AM For the Province of  
St. Joseph  
5:15 PM Thomas King (D)

TUESDAY, MARCH 2  
7:00 AM Negat Flournoy  
5:15 PM Poor Souls in Purgatory

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3  
7:00 AM Patrons of the Shrine of  
St. Jude  
5:15 PM Tranquilino  
Madamba (D)

THURSDAY, MARCH 4  
7:00 AM Negat Flournoy  
5:15 PM Mark & Nikki Russell

FRIDAY, MARCH 5  
7:00 AM For the Purgatorial Society  
of St. Catherine of Siena  
5:15 PM Deceased Members of the  
Cox, Foster, Synan, Nadel  
Families (D)

SATURDAY, MARCH 6  
9:00 AM William Feiler (D)  
4:00 PM (Vigil) David Gale (D)

**PARISH PRAYER  
INTENTIONS**

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

August Arace, Roseann Connelly,  
Andrew Fraser, Maggie Heath,  
Rosie Mann, Maurice A. Murphy,  
David Olivier, Alicia Repeczky,  
Adolfo Sardina, Blair Scribner, and  
Gary West.

Please pray for the repose of the  
souls of Samantha Bing, Sue Crissy,  
Nancy Falconer, Kathy Mendlinger,  
Matthew Martinez, Marie O'Brien,  
Juan de Jesus Piraquive, Lucille Witty  
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*  
Nancy Falconer (D); Kathy  
Medlinger (D); Ramon & Fernando  
Gonzalez (L); Margaret Williams;  
Intention of Donor; Souls in  
Purgatory; The People of the Parish.

*St. Vincent – Sanctuary Madonna*  
Jack Ryan Keegan

*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 PM and 2 PM–4 PM,  
and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday–Friday, 10 AM–3 PM.*

## ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATES

*The essay below offers some observations on silence from 2018. I found it a helpful reread, and re-running it will help me get squared away for preaching the Beatitudes this year. The observations hold true even though this year James Wetzel will offer Lenten organ music on Sunday afternoons.*

Serving as celebrant at Mass has given me my own take on the talents of musicians. For example, sometimes the congregation will be singing a hymn while I am incensing the altar, and the song will not be long enough to “cover” what I am doing. So the organist will interrupt the hymn and improvise an “incense interlude” and then come in for a landing just where the congregation needs to be for the last verse. Over the years I have come to cherish the skill, ingenuity, and timing that make for these ephemeral musical gems. They show up in smaller versions all through the Mass. When the offertory antiphon or the Agnus Dei is not long enough, or I am not fast enough, James is right there, expertly filling a liturgical void.

So, I got a shock on Ash Wednesday (2018) at the 10 AM Mass when, with the whole of St. Vincent Ferrer High School in attendance, the Communion antiphon ended way short of hundreds of people receiving Communion, and James sat on the organ bench and did nothing. He came out of his silence again for the Communion hymn, but at the end I walked all the way down that long aisle in silence. Somewhere in all of this I moved from wondering vaguely why everything seemed so subdued to recognizing that yes, we were beginning our annual Lenten fast from the organ.

The budget hawks among us might allege that it’s a rip off to have a fine organist all paid for and not playing, but they wouldn’t realize that not playing is James’ Lenten sacrifice, his giving up of the good thing he loves. He adheres to the ancient discipline that in Lent, instrumentation is used in the liturgy only when necessary to support the singing.

This policy connects us to the silence of Lent. In religious life we teach that silence is the, “guardian of all observance,” since it helps us to live carefully and intentionally all the other aspects of the life. In Lent too, silence serves as the gate to the “narrow way” of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The silent soul can perceive these three works as means to a deeper life. The narrowness of this gate stems from the nature of real silence.

There is, of course, false silence. This is the legal silence of churches, monasteries, and classrooms, a silence focused intently on the elimination of external noise. Such quiet is actually full of noise. People are shushing each other, or they are feverishly pressing fingers to lips. They hope that stifling external sounds will bring inner peace, and these hopes are usually dashed against the noise inside.

When I was involved in our retreat house outside of Boston in the 1990s, we worked very hard at legal silence; we did not even cut the grass when retreat programs were in progress. Then one January, a Buddhist meditation group rented our meeting rooms. These practitioners showed us real silence. It being January, we were in our main reception room taking down our Christmas tree. We were running the vacuum to get the pine needles, and over its noise we were shouting at each other about which boxes received which ornaments and the like.

I will never forget my astonishment when several Buddhist practitioners walked into the middle of all this chaos and began to meditate. In a flash of recognition I grasped that this was real silence. They had silence inside; for them Times Square would have been silent. The best of exterior silence helps us connect with that silence already abiding in that part of ourselves that knows the presence of God. Where inner silence is present, then external silence is productive, even delightful.

Interior silence walks hand in hand with solitude. I will find the inner place of encounter with God, and with myself, when I embrace being alone. I can have happy solitude and silence while on the main concourse of Grand Central Terminal at 5 PM on a Friday. I am alone and silent when I accept the truth that there is a part of me that no one else quite gets, even the people most intimate with me by the usual measures of intimacy. No matter our state of life, or age, or our temperament, at the core we are alone.

Until I accept this truth I will keep searching for the companion who will eliminate loneliness and I will be disappointed; the only complete companion is God. Until we get this, our lives are shaped by disappointment in those with whom we share life.

When I neither accept solitude nor find companionship, then I will befriend noise, outside and inside. Of course not all noise is bad; the news is noise, music is noise, art is noise, politics and theatre are noise. These things stimulate, edify, console, inform, and challenge. Each is good, but the encounter with God is beyond them all.

The self-denial of Lent makes distance from good things to connect with better ones. If I am willing to put a boundary on my love of beef to uncover my hunger for the Eucharist, then I can challenge my craving for the companionship of noise, in order to reach the deeper connection point inside. There I am alone with myself and God, and possessed of that companionship I will accept the limits of my human companions, and I will manage all the forms of noise in my life so that they serve me, not I them.

Then the silence of the Lenten liturgy will not be eerie but an open place, full of potential.

# THIS WEEK OF GRACE

February 28 – March 6, 2021

## General Intentions

- For all sick with Covid.
- For all suffering fatigue from the disciplines imposed by the pandemic, especially those suffering from isolation.
- For the swift and just distribution of Covid vaccines.
- For small business owners in our neighborhood.

## N. B.

- *During these days of Lent, when there are fewer feasts of the saints, we will focus on the entrance chant of the Mass. Chosen to provide a perspective for each day's Mass, these passages of Scripture can inform our prayer.*

## February 28

### The Second Sunday of Lent

- Today at our 12 NOON Solemn Mass we will celebrate the Rite of Continuing Conversion. This rite encourages the Christian men and women who feel that the Holy Spirit is leading them in to the life of the Catholic Church.
- On this Sunday we also recognize our Transfigured Lord as the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets. It will be appropriate then to pray for the Jewish people who also live by these two lights of Revelation.
- *Of you my heart has spoken, seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.* Psalm 26:8-9

## March 1

- *Redeem me, O Lord, and have mercy on me. My foot stands on level ground; I will bless the Lord in the assembly.* Psalm 25:11-12

## March 2

- *Give light to my eyes lest I fall asleep in death, lest my enemy say: I have overcome him.* Psalm 12:4-5

## March 3

- *Forsake me not, O Lord! My God, be not far from me! Make haste to come to my help, O Lord my strong salvation!* Psalm 37:22-23

## March 4

- *Test me, O God, and know my thoughts. See that my path is not wicked, and lead me in the way everlasting.* Psalm 138:23-24

## March 5

- *In you, O Lord, I put my trust, let me never be put to shame; release me from the snare they have hidden for me, for you indeed are my refuge.* Psalm 30:2, 5

## March 6

- Pray for those who make our retreat for women today and for the life and work of Visitation Circle who will host it.
- *The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in mercy. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures.* Psalm 144:8-9

### LENTEN FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

*According to the Current Discipline:*

#### **Laws of Days of Abstinence:**

For all aged 14 and older, obligatory abstention from flesh meat on Ash Wednesday and Fridays of Lent.

#### **Laws of Days of Penance:**

Applies to all the Faithful during the entirety of Lent and Fridays outside of Lent.

#### **Laws of Days of Fast:**

For all aged 18 to 59, inclusive, one full meal permitted and two other meals, which, when combined, are less than a full meal, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

#### **Law of the Eucharistic Fast:**

Complete fast from all food and drink (excluding water and medicine) for one hour before the reception of Holy Communion. This applies throughout the year.

### LENTEN LITURGICAL OBSERVANCES

The penitential season of Lent (from the Old English meaning 'spring' and also known as *Quadragesima* in Latin, meaning 'fortieth') begins on Ash Wednesday.

In Lent, violet vestments are worn and the *Gloria* and *Alleluia* are omitted. According to the *General Instructions of the Roman Missal*, the document governing the celebration of the Ordinary Form of the Mass, the organ is to be used only "to give necessary support to the singing." Thus, as much as possible, the Mass is sung *a cappella*, the hymn accompaniments are subdued, and the organ voluntaries are omitted.

As the Church strips herself of festal trimming entering into the spiritual desert, her faithful are likewise called to a heightened order of penitence, fasting, abstinence, and almsgiving. Making a good confession, attending daily Mass, and praying the Office, Stations, and Rosary are all worthy resolutions.