



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

CHURCH OF ST. VINCENT FERRER: 869 Lexington Ave, 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

December 18, 2016 — 4th Sunday of Advent

MISA DE GALLO

Misa de Gallo continues through December 24, at 6 AM, at St. Vincent Ferrer. This year, the Novena of Masses will be celebrated with the intention of the safety of children everywhere.

PARISH COFFEE

Join us for coffee (tea), cake, and conversation today, Sunday, December 18 after the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Catherine of Siena in St. Dominic Hall.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards, designed especially for the parish by Sister Mary Grace, O.P. at Caterina Benincasa Dominican Monastery, are available in the St. Vincent Ferrer vestibule.

CHRISTMAS NOVENA MASS CARDS

Cards are now available at the St. Vincent Ferrer Church Office which enables one to remember the living and/or deceased in the Novena of Masses offered at St. Vincent Ferrer beginning on Christmas Day.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE DOMINICAN FRIARS

Christmas CDs, recorded by the Schola Cantorum of the Dominican Friars at the Dominican House Studies, are available in the back of St. Vincent Ferrer church for \$15.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION

Sunday, December 18 is Reconciliation Sunday. Confessions will be heard at St. Vincent and St. Catherine during all Masses.

Monday, December 19 is Reconciliation Monday. Confessions will be heard at St. Vincent and St. Catherine from 4 - 8 PM.

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE 2016

CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Mass of the Vigil with Carols	4 PM	St. Catherine
Sung Mass of the Vigil	6 PM	St. Vincent
Christmas Lessons and Carols	9 PM	St. Vincent
Solemn Mass During the Night	9:30 PM	St. Vincent
Midnight Mass in the Dominican Rite	12:00 AM	St. Catherine

CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Mass at Dawn	8 AM	St. Vincent
Sung Masses During the Day	10 AM	St. Vincent & St. Catherine
Solemn Mass During the Day	12 Noon	St. Vincent

***There will be no 5 PM or 6 PM Masses on Christmas Day**

MASS AND CONFESSIONS ST. VINCENT FERRER

SATURDAY VIGIL: 6:00 PM

SUNDAY: 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM,
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

Parish Vespers

SUNDAY: 5:30 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 & OTHER PRAYER ST. VINCENT FERRER

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

7:40 AM (MORNING PRAYER)

5:30 PM (OFFICE OF READINGS
AND EVENING PRAYER)

WEDNESDAY:

6:30 PM (ROSARY)

7:30 PM (HOLY HOUR)

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

THURSDAY:

4:00 PM (HOLY HOUR)

MONDAY–FRIDAY:

5:00 PM (ROSARY)

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP
PRAYER GROUP

WEDNESDAY: 6:30 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, OP
Pastor

Rev. Joseph Allen, OP
Vicar

Rev. Innocent Smith, OP
Vicar for Formation

Bro. Damian McCarthy, OP
Sacristan

Deacon John M. Powers

Lee Ann Rubino
Business Manager

James D. Wetzel
Director of Music and Organist

Lisa Harrelson
Director of Catechesis and
Youth Ministry

Rachel Miller
Administrative Assistant

Sr. Padraic Mary McGuinness, OP
Receptionist

Tony Hicks
Church Custodian

Tracey Hicks
Church Custodian

ST. VINCENT FERRER

HIGH SCHOOL

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

DOMINICAN SHRINE OF

ST. JUDE

(212) 249-6067
www.dominicanshrineofsaintjude.org

PARISH INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Please register as a member of our parish if this is where you regularly attend Mass. Registration forms are available in the Parish Office, or online at www.svsc.info/register.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

To arrange for the baptism of a child, call the Parish Office. Baptisms are usually celebrated on Saturdays, but other arrangements may be made depending upon the circumstances. Please call the Parish Office to schedule a meeting with a priest.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info). Adults who have not been confirmed should inquire with the Parish Office about preparing for confirmation.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

To begin making arrangements for a wedding at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with a priest. More information is available at www.svsc.info/weddings.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office if you or a loved one would like to receive the Anointing of the Sick at the parish, at a nearby hospital, or at home (for those who are homebound).

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

RCIA is a class for adults interested in becoming Catholic. To learn more, contact Fr. Innocent Smith, OP, at the Parish Office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

For information and/or registration for classes held at St. Vincent Ferrer or St. Catherine of Siena, contact Lisa Harrelson (lharrelson@svsc.info).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR ADULTS

Parish Study is a program for adults interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. It meets on Tuesday evenings in the Fall and Spring. To learn more, contact the Parish Office or check our website at www.svsc.info.

YOUNG ADULTS

St. Vincent Ferrer often hosts events of the New York Frassati Fellowship. For more information, visit www.frassatiny.com.

MASS INTENTIONS**ST. VINCENT FERRER**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 pm (Vigil) Lazaro A. Cruz (D)
 8:00 am For the People of the Parish
 12 pm Frances Hoertkorn (D)
 6:00 pm For the Deceased members
 of the Foye, Armstrong, Gorman,
 Donohoe, & Murphy Families (D)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

8:00 am For the Family of Ghislaine
 de Montigny
 12:10 pm Thomas McKillop (D)
 6:00 pm Marie-Louise
 Leschallas (D)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

8:00 am Raul Castells (D)
 12:10 pm Rev. Barnabas
 Gorski, OFM (D)
 6:00 pm Dr. Donald & Mary
 Theresa Lintner (D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

8:00 am For the Deceased members
 of the Parish & the Order (D)
 12:10 pm Helen & Peter
 McGrath (D)
 6:00 pm Tommy Gimbel (D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

8:00 am Bill Cullen (D)
 12:10 pm Edward C. Perry (D)
 6:00 pm Alexander Barbosa (D)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

8:00 am Augusto Martinez-Costa (D)
 12:10 pm For the Living &
 Deceased members of the
 Delaporte-Falconer families
 6:00 pm Bayard G. Schaeffer

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

8:00 am Rene Concepcion (D)

MASS INTENTIONS**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

4:00 pm (Vigil) Guillerminia
 Ramas (D)
 10:00 am For the patrons of the
 Shrine of Saint Jude
 5:00 pm John Flanagan

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

7:00 am For the Province of
 St. Joseph
 5:15 pm Fr. McHenry, OP,
 Fr. Conroy, OP, &
 Fr. Fitzsimmons, OP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

7:00 am Eva A. Baret (D)
 5:15 pm Guillermo Pangilinan (D)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7:00 am Andres Soler (D)
 5:15 pm For the Deceased members
 of the Fahey Family (D)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

7:00 am Helen Moore (D)
 5:15 pm Marie & John Tramdosch

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

7:00 am St. Catherine of Siena
 Purgatorial Society (D)
 5:15 pm Maria Abella

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:00 am Marie Sebastias Schmid

PARISH PRAYER**INTENTIONS**

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

Len Bencivenga, Peter Gimbel,
 Maggie Heath, Rev. Chris Johnson,
 O.P., Helen Johnson, Carolyn Kelly,
 John Kelly, Anthony Mendola, Maria
 Guillen de Ribone, Raymond Wells,
 & Aquila Zacharilla.

Please pray for the repose of the souls
 of Edgar Brandau, Erin Brenner,
 Robin Craddock, Rosemary Lapin,
 Bradford Meckel, RoseMarie Morace,
 & Archangel Sebastian, 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, and
 Rockefeller University Hospital.

CANDLE INTENTIONS

The seven-day candles are available for
 an offering of \$15 each.

St. Vincent - Sanctuary Lamps
 Tom Chestaro; Ramon & Fernando
 Gonzalez (I); Anthony Mortelliti;
 Edward C. Perry (d); Robert J.
 Schwede (d); For the People of the
 Parish; Intention of Donor

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

Advent Wreath

- 1) Jack Ryan Keegan
- 2) Mary & Patrick Donoghue (d)
- 3) Veronica & Joseph Downey (d)
- 4) Sister Malachy O'Brien, o.p. (d)

St. Catherine - Mary Candle
 Priscilla Ventigan

Mass Intentions may be reserved in the Parish Office Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, and in the Church Office of St. Catherine of Siena Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

UNWRAPPING THE WHOLE CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS

Those familiar with the devotion we call “the Angelus” will recognize the collect, or opening prayer for this Sunday.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Grace holds this prayer together. The flesh taking of Christ, His fleshly death on the Cross, and the glorification of that same flesh each constitute a favor, or gratuity, on the part of God: at Christmas and at Holy Week we celebrate gifts received, not rights won. To leave things here would make us grateful spectators of God’s unfolding kindness, but in fact He has made us partners in it.

At Christmas we perceive the Infant Jesus as God’s tender and adorable present, then in the Crucifixion we behold the same gift, as He allows His son to undergo the Passion. But joined to God’s gift is the gift Jesus makes of Himself with all His adult freedom. In him the loving intent of God has begotten a completely harmonious will-to-give in a human being. Thus the incomparable grace of eternal life can claim a divine and human root, and this reveals the dignifying purpose of God making us

What God does with the humanity of Jesus, He intends to accomplish also with ours. As you hear the Christmas story again this year, you will see the plan at work already in Mary and Joseph. Indeed, each member of the Holy Family features as God’s willing collaborator in the extraordinary work of the redemption. So for ourselves we may surely celebrate the truth that Jesus has come as a gift that we might ourselves become a gift alongside Him, as God will direct. The result is real lives lived beyond contract and beyond job description, at home and at work.

Thus the “gratuity” in grace means more than a kindness received. As the prayer suggests, grace enters us and reorients the whole of our character. We are to take our conscious place in God’s economy of gift. There is no moment of life in which we are not recipients of God’s life-giving love and sustenance, but we are also able to relay this favor to others in very specific ways and these patterns of service not only give us the satisfaction of virtue, which is real, they also fit us for heaven. God’s renovation of us has this eternal purpose; that He does not simply let us into heaven as a kindness, but through His sanctifying work, we become genuinely comfortable in that place beyond imagining.

We treat the gift-giving of Christmas as an annual splurge but actually it's the most real time of the year. This feast opens up a window onto the true state of our affairs. The transactional economy of earning, paying, and dealing shows itself to be illusory, even though it preoccupies us much of the time. Here is the lesson learned by Ebenezer Scrooge; he discovered the goodness in Christmas, and Christmas laid bare the goodness in him.

I hope that all of this teaching takes visible shape in the creche at the Holy Name Altar in St. Vincent Ferrer. The infant lies directly under the image of His presentation in the Temple, as rendered in the triptych. Joseph and Mary, having received Him as a gift make of Him a gift. Below, on the face of the altar, the crown of thorns manifests the implication of that gift.

This year, may we each grow closer to the economy of gift, and to the discovery of our truest selves. Have blessed days of preparation.



Fr. Walter

**THERE WAS A LOVELY CHRISTMAS LUNCH THANKS
TO YOU, OUR PARISHIONERS**

On Saturday, December 3rd, the Social Concerns Committee hosted more than fifty women from the Park Avenue Shelter. Our guests enjoyed a hot luncheon, cupcakes and cookies.

Santa Claus and his elf arrived to distribute individual gifts to our guests and throughout the afternoon, our pianist entertained with Christmas carols with our guests singing along.

We particularly thank you, our generous parishioners, for contributing valued gifts for this annual parish neighborhood event. The presents you provided were beautiful, varied, and just perfect for our guests and brought so much joy to them. To those who donated money toward this event, please know the party was enriched with some new Christmas lights, beautiful paper goods for our luncheon tables, and treats for our food tables.

Thank you to our favorite neighboring food shops for your generous contributions to this event:

Morton Williams (3rd Avenue and 63 Street)
Gourmet Garage (64 Street and 2nd Avenue)
Fairway Market (86 Street and 2nd Avenue)
Starbucks (3rd Avenue and 66 street)
Agata & Valentina (1st Avenue and 79 Street)
Greenberg Desserts (Madison and 82 Street)
And Neutrogena Corporation for so many wonderful toiletries which filled a goody bag for each guest.

Our committee was ably assisted during this party by some wonderful students from the St. Vincent Ferrer High School. They are a joy to us and to our guests.

We appreciate your continued generosity, which serves as a vibrant example of the beautiful spirit of Christmas! May this Holy Season bring you joy and many blessings in the New Year.

NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Saturday, December 31, 2016

Low Mass	
St. Vincent	8 AM
St. Catherine	9 AM
Low Vigil Mass	
St. Catherine	4 PM
Sung Vigil Mass	
St. Vincent	6 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Low Mass	8 AM
St. Vincent	
High Mass	10 AM
St. Catherine	
Solemn Mass	12 NOON
St. Vincent	
Sung Mass	5 PM
St. Catherine	
Sung Mass	6 PM
St. Vincent	

PARISH VESPERS

Parish Vespers now begin at 5:30 PM and the chant class preceding it will begin at 5:00 PM. The coming few weeks of the class will focus specifically on the different chants sung at Vespers during the season of Advent.

PARISH CHOIR

Join the Parish Choir: Please consider joining the volunteer Parish Choir that sings for the Sunday 10 AM Family Mass at St. Catherine of Siena. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings from 9 - 10 AM in the choir loft at St. Catherine's; there are no weeknight rehearsals. The ensemble is open to all adults, regardless of previous experience. Anyone interested should contact James Wetzel, the Director of Music, at jwetzelsvsc@svsc.info or (412) 951-7441.

**63RD U.S. NATIONAL ROSARY PILGRIMAGE
LOURDES, FRANCE**

Father Joseph Allen, O.P. invites you to join him on the 63rd U.S. National Pilgrimage to Lourdes: June 22 - July 1, 2017. Accompanied by a medical staff, clergy, and volunteers to assist the needs of the pilgrims. For details contact Fr. Joseph Allen, O.P., email: Joseph.Allen@opeast.org or the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office: Toll Free: 1-877-276-7279, email: lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net, website: www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com. The deadline for reservations is March 15, 2017.

COLLECTION

DECEMBER 11, 2016

Regular Offertory: \$15,668

Retired Religious: \$6,017

Attendance: 1206



THANK YOU!

OUR CHRISTMAS FAIR WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN
POSSIBLE WITHOUT GENEROUS DONATIONS
FROM THESE LOCAL BUSINESSES:

Baker Street Pub
Bala's Hair Affair
Barbaresco
Café Evergreen
Café Luka
Carmelite Sisters
Center for Learning & Living
Chipotle Mexican Grill
Cork & Bottle
Donohue's Steak House
Dr. Wine
Fatty Fish
Filicori Zecchini
Finnegan's Wake
Gourmet Garage
Gristedes
In Vino Veritas
Janovic

Java Girls
Jean Claude II
Krtil Funeral Home
Le Pain Quotidien
Linda B Salon
Mary Manning Walsh
MF Diamond Spa
Mini Deli
NYC Floral
O'Flanagan's
Padoca
Patsy's Pizzeria
Salon Capello
Shakespeare & Co
Sophie's Cuban
Spice Saigon
Val El Salon
William-Wayne & Co





Reflections on Ethics, Faith & Health Care

EDITOR: FR. JONAH POLLOCK, O.P., S.T.L.

ADVANCED DIRECTIVES *in* HEALTH CARE: KINDS *of* DIRECTIVES

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P., S.T.L., Associate Director, Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

IN OUR LAST REFLECTION, we considered, in a general way, the topic of advanced directives in health care. Let us now consider some of the particular kinds of directives that can be made, namely, (1) health care proxies, (2) living wills, and (3) the POLST paradigm.

Health Care Proxies

A HEALTH CARE PROXY is a designated agent who is authorized to make health care decisions for the designating party in the event that she becomes unable to make her own health care decisions. Designating a health care proxy is typically part of any procedure for making advanced directives. A person's health care proxy should be someone who can be trusted to understand that person's wishes and to carry them out faithfully and prudently, someone who not only understands that person's stated wishes, but understands that person. In designating a health care proxy, one might choose a person whom one considers to already have sufficient knowledge of one's convictions, values and preferences. Alternatively, one might choose to guide one's proxy by expressing one's wishes orally and/or in writing.

A HEALTH CARE PROXY is not a slave. It is immoral to try to bind the will of another person in order to make that person an instrument for carrying out one's own will. Designating a health care proxy is a good way to ensure that decisions about one's health care will be made by someone who understands your values and will respect your wishes. For a Catholic, this can be a way of ensuring that the Church's teaching guides that decision-making process. The proxy, however, must be respected as a free and conscientious agent, not as a mere instrument of the person he represents.

Living Wills

A LIVING WILL IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT designating the kinds of life sustaining treatments that a person would or would not like to receive in a situation in which she is unable to express her wishes. These advanced determinations are to direct proxy decision-makers and medical personnel to act in accordance with the patient's wishes. The life sustaining treatments that living wills can either request or refuse are varied. A form that is valid in the state of New York includes cardiac resuscitation, mechanical respiration, artificial nutrition

and hydration, and antibiotics. It designates the incurable conditions in which these life sustaining treatments may be refused as including "(a) a terminal condition; (b) a permanently unconscious condition; or (c) a minimally conscious condition in which [the patient is] permanently unable to make decisions" (www.caringinfo.org/files/public/ad/New_York).

A LIVING WILL CAN INCLUDE directives that are reasonable and helpful to health care proxies and medical personnel. Declining cardiac resuscitation when the patient is permanently unconscious would be one such example. However, these directives can also be unreasonable and even unethical. Consider, for example, a directive to withhold basic antibiotics from a terminally ill patient whose death would be unnecessarily hastened by an untreated infection. Moreover, living will directives are necessarily general, lacking specificity and open to differing interpretations. A single directive can be applied in ways that are morally good in some circumstances but not in others. For example, a directive to withhold artificial nutrition and hydration from a permanently unconscious patient could, from the perspective of the Catholic Church, be applied morally or immorally depending on the circumstance. The general directive lacks the specificity of the Church's teachings about how to distinguish between ordinary and extraordinary means of preserving life in such circumstances.

The POLST Paradigm

POLST STANDS FOR "physician orders for life sustaining treatment." Other acronyms (MOLST, MOST, POST) are used to designate the same thing. These orders must be signed by a physician and are now recognized as valid in most U.S. states. POLST is meant to complement other forms of advanced directives and are recommended only for those who suffer from life-threatening conditions. Its stated purpose is to prevent unnecessary interventions and hospitalizations by supplying actionable orders to first responders and emergency personnel.

THE POLST PARADIGM SUFFERS from the same defect that we found in living wills, namely, the allowance of unreasonable and immoral refusal of treatment. Moreover, POLST are not just directives, but orders. They do not allow medical professionals to make treatment decisions based on the present condition of the patient, but instead issue orders without regarding the concrete circumstance.