THE CHURCH OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

DOMINICAN FRIARS OF THE PROVINCE OF SAINT JOSEPH

November 9, 2014 • Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica



Cathedra (the Chair) of the Bishop of Rome in the Papal Archbasilica of Saint John Lateran

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses
Saturday: 5:15 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:15 PM

Daily Masses
Monday-Friday: 7:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, 5:15 PM
Saturday: 12:00 Noon

CONFESSION TIMES

Monday - Saturday
11:30 - 11:55 AM
4:40 - 5:05 PM

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sunday: 11:00 PM - 12:00 PM
Wednesday: 12:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Thursday: 5:45 PM - 8:00 PM
First Friday: 5:15 PM - 10:30 PM

DEVOTIONS

Rosary
Weekdays at 11:40 AM
Sunday at 3:00 PM

Liturgy of the Hours
Weekdays following the 5:15 PM Mass

Compline and Benediction
Thursdays at 7:45 PM

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer Group
Wednesdays following the 5:15 PM Mass

Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group
Saturdays at 9:00 AM

Legion of Mary Prayer Group
Thursdays at 7:00 PM

411 EAST 68TH STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10065
Parish Phone • 212-988-8300
Parish Email • info@stcatherinenyc.org
Parish Website • www.stcatherinenyc.org
Office Hours • Monday-Friday 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

From Father Jordan, O.P.

PASTOR, THE CHURCH OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

My Dear Ones,

May the Grace of Our Lord be always with us!

The news of last weekend continues to reverberate in my mind and heart, as I am sure it also does in yours. I am not exaggerating in the slightest way when I again tell you that I have received notes of support and questions about the status of Saint Catherine's Parish from all around the world. Today, I had both phone calls and e-mails from priests who work at the Vatican!

In commenting upon Cardinal Dolan's letter, I spoke of the *New Evangelization*. The *New Evangelization* is not a nifty phrase that Blessed Pope Paul VI or Saint John Paul II coined: it is the reality of our time! In the words of Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago, "The Catholic Church teaches that grace builds on nature, because human nature, while wounded by sin, is not hopelessly corrupt. As grace builds on nature, so faith builds on culture, which is second nature."[1] American culture, especially the culture of the America of our day, resists Catholicism. The list of such rejections is a litany that is too familiar to us. And while there may be many signs completely discouraging about our culture, there are also reasons for hope. And I am hopeful; I am not completely discouraged. I am not completely discouraged because I have seen the hope of our future in the young members of our parish staff[2], and in the young men and women like the FOCUS[3] missionaries on college campuses. I am not completely discouraged because I know the wonderful, zealous young vocations God is sending to our Dominican Friars, Nuns and Sisters. And I have had the graced privilege of teaching our Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia – a congregation that doubled the size of its Motherhouse in 2005 has now run out of space nine years later! I am not completely discouraged about our culture because I have sat with wonderful young Catholic couples preparing for marriage, planning their families, and striving with all their might to live good, holy, normal and fun Catholic lives. But there is so much work to be done – too many people who don't know Jesus, and many of those who do know Jesus have sidelined Him.

Making All Things New (*MATN*) has pole-vaulted us into the New Evangelization – like it or not. The closure and mergers of our parishes are forcing us to hear the Gospel in a fresh new way and to respond to it as we never have before. There is a very specific call that the Church of New York is being given in our living of the New Evangelization: we are being called to move from *Maintenance to Mission*. Is *Maintenance to Mission* another catch phrase? Hardly! We have been in maintenance mode about our faith and about our families for too long – it's part of the reason we have *MATN*.

Promulgated on December 8, 1975, Blessed Paul VI issued the apostolic exhortation *On Evangelization in the Modern World*. The Holy Father taught that evangelization is the essential mission of the Church, and, therefore, the essential mission of every parish.[4] The commission of evangelization begins when the Church as a body, and each of us as individual members, undertakes the serious work of ***interior renewal*** *for the sake of an* ***exterior mission***. The late Holy Father would again instruct us that the entire purpose of the Second Vatican Council was for the interior renewal of the Church, in order that our exterior mission may be more effective. Where is your life and mine in need of interior renewal? Do we allow exterior issues to have more power over us than the interior realities? If yes, we need renewal. Do I allow one person to determine my happiness and control where I will or will not go, or be part of activities I really enjoy? If yes, I need interior renewal. Am I still as upset about something that happened to me two years ago, as I was the day it happened? If so, I am in need of interior renewal. The list could go on and on.

In maintenance mode, we are only concerned with our interior life; we live in an "us/them" mentality, and we have overlooked the call to interior renewal. In maintenance mode, we miss the effect of our Baptism, which calls us to serve, and we hinder the mission of every parish to proclaim and live the Word of God in its entirety.[5]

As we move from maintenance to mission, we are called to be intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. The choice to be an intentional disciple is a choice to be in a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ; to be in a lifelong relationship with my brothers and sisters in faith; and to commit myself to be a lifelong learner about my faith and my deepening relationship with the Lord and with one another. To move from maintenance to mission calls us to be formed in Christ and to go forth in mission. This move is a tremendous challenge, but it is also a great opportunity to be filled with new life.

My meeting with Bishop John O'Hara on Wednesday was an invitation for us who are the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena to move to a new and deeper level of our mission. While at this time I cannot give you all the specifics, I can tell you that **we are in no danger of being closed**. I am delighted to tell you that Cardinal Dolan is very aware of the life and ministry of our parish, of Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry, and the many ways we serve the People of God. He wants us to stay where we are, continuing to *Set the World Ablaze* for Christ and for the Gospel! In the months ahead, we will address how we can be of greater service for the Church and the Gospel. Blessed be God! Let us thank God for all His goodness to us, and the countless blessings He has showered and continues to shower upon us!

As we move through *MATN*, let us be attentive to our interior renewal for an exterior mission: a mission that all may have life and have it to the full!

You are with me at the altar, my dear ones! Please, pray for me!!

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!

In the Lord,

Fr. Jordan, O.P.

[1] Francis Cardinal George, OMI, "Evangelizing our Culture", as found in *The New Evangelization: Overcoming the Obstacles*, ed. Steven Boguslawski, OP, and Ralph Martin, Paulist Press, 2008.

[2] The oldest member of our staff is 41, and the youngest is 25. Do you know how unusual that is for a Catholic Church? Our approach to issues is very different because of the youth that surrounds me; even Father Jonah is under 40! :-)

[3] FOCUS is the acronym for Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

[4] *Evangelii Nuntiandi*, #14.

[5] cf. Code of Canon Law, #528.

PARISH INFORMATION

REGISTRATION

Welcome! To become a parishioner of the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena, call the parish office at 212-988-8300 ext. 184 or visit http://stcatherinenyc.org/about/join

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Participation in a baptism preparation class is mandatory for infant baptism. Classes are held every third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The next class will be Tuesday, October 21. Please call the parish office at 212-988-8300, ext. 184, to register for this free class or for more information.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Refer to the cover of the bulletin for the schedule, or call to request an appointment.

SACRAMENTS OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by the Director of Catechesis. Typically, youth receive these sacraments during their second grade year. Contact 212-988-8300, ext. 186, for more information.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Youth participate in the sacramental preparation program coordinated by the Director of Catechesis and they are confirmed in their 8th grade year. Contact 212-988-8300, ext. 186, for more information.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Arrangements are to be made by calling the parish office at least six months in advance. It is necessary to book your wedding date with the parish office prior to booking a reception hall. Weddings are held on Fridays at 7 pm, Saturdays at 1:30 pm or 3 pm. Contact the pastor at 212-988-8300, ext. 284, for more information.

SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please notify the Parish Office if you or someone you know will be hospitalized or confined at home and would like to be anointed by a priest.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS

If you or someone you know is interested in the priesthood, please contact Fr. Jordan, O.P., at 212-988-8300, ext. 284, or Fr. Jonah, O.P., at 212-988-8300, ext. 182.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

An inquiry class is offered on Monday nights for those interested in learning more about the faith, whether baptized or non-baptized, as well as those adults who desire to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. Please call the parish office at 212-988-8300, ext. 182, for more information.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT CATHERINE'S

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10: ST. LEO THE GREAT

7:00 AM Mass, *Church*
9:00 AM Redeemer Women, *St. Dominic Hall*
12:00 PM Mass, *Church*
12:30 PM Eastside Bridge Club, *St. Dominic Hall*
3:30 PM Ignite Youth Ministy, *St. Joseph Hall*
5:15 PM Mass, *Church*
7:30 PM RCIA, *St. Dominic Hall*

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11: ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

VETERANS' DAY • OFFICE CLOSED

7:00 AM Mass, *Church*
12:00 PM Mass, *Church*
5:15 PM Mass, *Church*
7:30 PM Christmas Fair Meeting, *St. Joseph Hall*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12: ST. JOSAPHAT

7:00 AM Mass, *Church*
9:00 AM Redeemer Play & Learn, *St. Dominic Hall*
12:00 PM Mass, followed by Adoration, *Church*
12:30 PM Eastside Bridge Club, *St. Dominic Hall*
3:30 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, *St. Joseph Hall*
5:15 PM Mass, *Church*
5:30 PM EMHC Formation Meeting, *St. Dominic Hall*
7:00 PM Schola Rehearsal, *St. Dominic Hall / Church*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13: ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CABRINI

7:00 AM Mass, *Church*
12:00 PM Mass, *Church*
12:30 PM Eastside Bridge Club, *St. Dominic Hall*
3:30 PM Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, *St. Joseph Hall*
5:15 PM Mass, followed by Adoration, *Church*
6:00 PM Legion of Mary, *St. Joseph Hall*
7:00 PM *A Journey to the Heart of Faith*, followed by Compline and Benediction, *Church*

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14: WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:00 AM Mass, *Church*
12:00 PM Mass, *Church*
12:30 PM Eastside Bridge Club, *St. Dominic Hall*
3:30 PM Ignite Youth Ministy, *St. Joseph Hall*
5:15 PM Mass, *Church*
7:00 PM Singles for Christ, *St. Dominic Hall*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15: ST. ALBERT THE GREAT, O.P.

9:00 AM Our Lady, Queen of Peace Prayer Group, *Church*
12:00 PM Mass, *Church*
2:00 PM Baptism, *Church*
5:15 PM Vigil Mass, *Church*
6:30 PM AA, *St. Dominic Hall*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16: THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 AM Mass, *Church*
11:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, *Church*
12:00 PM Mass, *Church*
1:00 PM *Schola Dominicana* Concert, *Church*
5:15 PM Mass, *Church*

NOVEMBER DEVOTION ~ *Remembering the Holy Souls*

During the month of November, the Church directs our attention to recall and pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Book of Remembrance is available near the Holy Souls Shrine (on the left side of the Church) to record the names of your deceased loved ones. A short prayer that can be offered for their purification is, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls rest in peace."

LEGION OF MARY PILGRIM VIRGIN

As part of the ministry of the Legion of Mary, parishioners are offered the grace of the Pilgrim Virgin, a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary shared among parishioners for prayer and meditation in their homes. If you would like the Pilgrim Virgin in your home for a week, please contact Fran Creegan (212-879-0273) or Chris Vincequerra (646-497-1049).

WEEKLY EUCHARISTIC ADORATION



Come spend time with the Source of Life and grow as a disciple of the Lord! Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week takes place on:

Wednesday 12:30 - 5:00 pm
Thursday 12:30 - 8:00 pm
Sunday 11:00 - 11:45 am

"United with the angels and saints of the heavenly Church, let us adore the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist. Prostrate, we adore this great mystery that contains God's new and definitive covenant with humankind in Christ."

~ Pope Saint John Paul II

PARISH PRAYER REQUESTS

Contact the parish office at 212-988-8300, ext. 184, to add a name to this list. Due to space constraints, names will be removed periodically to make room for others.

Margaret Cuddy
Anthony Fantozzi
Aleida Fernandez
Trudy Guida
Lester Jordan
Amelia Jane Lee
Lisa Lebowitz
Cherylann Lino
Janice Lynch
Valerie McIntosh
Meredith Meyer
Charlie O'Connell
Mary Osso
Paulette Racine
Ed Walsh

Please pray for the repose of the souls of our recently deceased, especially Frank O'Brien, Maria Auoa, Mary Baldino, Madeline Robertaccio, and Brother Jude Lochetto, O.P.

As is our mission, we continue to pray for the sick, the dying, and their families in Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Hospital for Special Surgery, and Rockefeller Hospital.

MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9: FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
9:00 AM For the patrons of the Shrine of Saint Jude
Noon For the people of Saint Catherine of Siena
5:15 PM For all the Deceased

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10: ST. LEO THE GREAT
7:00 AM Province of Saint Joseph and all deceased Dominican Benefactors and Associates
Noon For all the Deceased
5:15 PM † Teodola & Miguel Lucido

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11: ST. MARTIN OF TOURS
7:00 AM For all the Deceased
Noon † Margaret Costello
5:15 PM † Margaret & Thomas M. O'Connor

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12: ST. JOSAPHAT
7:00 AM For all the Deceased
Noon † David Kelley
5:15 PM † Bartlomiej Brodzinski

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13: ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI
7:00 AM For all the Deceased
Noon For the intentions of Gene Maraldo
5:15 PM † Kevin Kitson

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14: WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
7:00 AM For all the Deceased
Noon Saint Catherine of Siena Purgatorial Society
5:15 PM † Abukari Imoro

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15: ST. ALBERT THE GREAT
Noon For all the Deceased
5:15 PM † Marina Lucido & Maria Punzalan

MASS INTENTIONS

The Mass Intention book for 2015 is open. The offering for a Mass is $15.00. Masses can be reserved in the Parish Office.

CANDLE INTENTIONS

The Sanctuary Lamp and the Blessed Virgin Mary Candle burn for the intentions of any parishioner or in memory of any of our deceased. The offering is $30.00 for one week, Sunday through Saturday. Candles can be reserved in the Parish Office.

THIS WEEK, THE SANCTUARY LAMP IS OFFERED FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE LEONARD-LEE FAMILY.

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Catherine's!

November 2, 2014

Collection information was not available at the time of publication.

Join us on a Journey to the Heart of Faith

November 13 • The Last Things

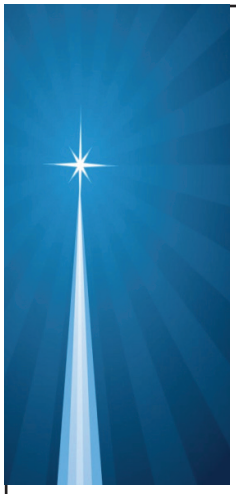
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Preaching on the Beauty of Catholicism
Compline and Benediction

THURSDAYS AT 7:00 P.M.
September 11 - November 20

Schola Catarina



The music program is looking for enthusiastic and committed singers to start Schola Catarina, Saint Catherine's volunteer choir. No prior experience is necessary, but interested parishioners will be asked to complete a form and to sing for Daniel, Director of Music at Saint Catherine's. If you are interested in joining, please catch Daniel in the vestibule right after Mass or contact him at *dsanez@stcatherinenyc.org*.



CHRISTMAS FAIR 2014

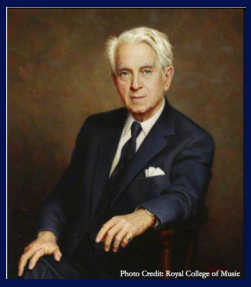
Planning for the Third Annual Christmas Fair (November 22-23, 2014) is in full swing. Donations of gift certificates, tickets, hand-crafted items, and your time as a volunteer are needed. For more information, please contact Kim Quatela (347-537-9798) or Fran Warga (212-535-4029).

NEXT PLANNING MEETING
Tuesday, November 11 • 7:30 p.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Our Christmas Fair Needs Your Donations!

Gift Certificates	Theater Tickets
Bottles of Wine & Liquor	Household or Kitchen Items
Gift Baskets	Christmas Items
Jewelry	Homemade Crafts
Electronic Gifts	Baked Goods
Television	Sports Memorabilia
Laptop or Tablet Computer	Amazon/Best Buy Gift Cards
Sports Tickets	Other New or Used Gifts

All donations are tax-deductible and can be dropped off at the Parish Office during the week, or at the Church Sacristy on the weekend.



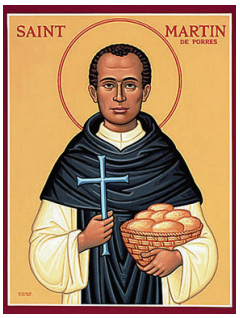
Schola Dominicana of the Church of Saint Catherine of Siena presents

The Music of Herbert Howells

November 16, 2014
1:00 - 1:30 PM

During the month of November, Schola Dominicana remembers the deceased by performing Howells' haunting ***Requiem***, in a program also featuring Come, My Soul; Blessed Are the Dead; and Haec Dies.

This half-hour concert is free and open to the public. Freewill donations are most gratefully accepted.



St. Martin's Bags

It's that time again when we can help our brothers and sisters in Christ! In celebration of the Feast of St. Martin, defender of the poor, we will be collecting much-needed supplies for the needy of our neighborhood. Please pick up a collection bag with a list of needed items at the St. Martin altar in the rear of church.

Our collection will continue until Sunday, November 16th. Thank you for your generosity!

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS:

November 9	CMA NY Metropolitan Guild Meeting
November 16	*Schola Dominicana* Concert
November 22-23	Christmas Fair
November 27	Thanksgiving Day Mass ~ 10:00 AM
December 13	Lessons and Carols

Parish Information

OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW IN DISCIPLESHIP

LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NOVEMBER 15-16: 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME						
Date	*Lector*	*EMHC/Deacon*	*Server/Acolyte*	*Sacristan*	*Greeter*	*Usher*
November 15 5:15 PM	S. Woods	O.P. Friar H. Cox-Nadel	**Are you called to serve?**	G. Jackson S. Woods	G. Jackson S. Woods H. Cox-Nadel	G. Jackson
November 16 9:00 AM	A. Lam	O.P. Friar S. Hammill	C. Lane	M. Silverstein	C. Wishrad	W. Coto
November 16 12:00 PM	D. Ball	O.P. Friar **Are you called to serve?**	M. Inghirami L. Uva	M. Silverstein	E. Malave M. Malave	M. Silverstein
November 16 5:15 PM	J. Perrin	O.P. Friar **Are you called to serve?**	B. Perrin	M. Silverstein	J. Perrin	M. Silverstein



ARE YOU CALLED TO SERVE?

New Liturgical Ministers Needed!

Parishioners are invited to consider becoming a lector, extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (EMHC), usher or greeter to assist at our liturgies at St. Catherine's. Young adult males and boys in 4th grade or higher are invited to learn more about becoming an Altar Server. If you think you may have an interest in volunteering in one of the liturgical ministries, please email Steve Quatela at *quatelas@mskcc.org*.

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA



Today, November 9th, the universal Church celebrates the Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, called "mother and head of all the churches of the city and the world." The first basilica to be built after Emperor Constantine's edict, in 313, granting Christians freedom to practice their religion, St. John Lateran is the cathedral church of Rome. The feast of the basilica's dedication, first celebrated by Pope Sylvester in 324, is today celebrated by the Church as a sign of love for and union with the See of Peter.

CATHOLIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN GUILD

The CMA is a physician-led community of healthcare professionals that informs, organizes, and inspires its members, in steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine.

DR. AMANDA BROWN

"The Meaning of Suffering and its Implications for Clinical Practice"

TODAY! Sunday, November 9 • 1:15 PM • St. Dominic Hall

THE NY METROPOLITAN GUILD MEETS AT THE CHURCH OF SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA EVERY 2ND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH.

For more information, visit *www.stcatherinenyc.org/cma/*

CHAPLAINCY NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2014

The ministry work of chaplains and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) from St. Catherine of Siena Parish at New York Presbyterian Hospital - Weill Cornell Medical Center, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and Hospital for Special Surgery during the month of September 2014 included:

Patient Visits	4,009
Holy Communion	2,442
Anointing of the Sick	195
Emergency Pager Calls	40

Let us continue to pray for the mission of our hospitals and all those who care for the sick. Please contact Fr. Jonah to get started as a volunteer, at (212) 988-8300, ext. 182, or *frjonah@stcatherinenyc.org*.

The Dominican Saints of Health Care

By Fr. Jonah Pollock, O.P.

Associate Director of Dominican Friars Health Care Ministry of New York

Last Saturday, November 1st, we celebrated the Solemnity of All Saints. This past Friday, November 7th, we have celebrated the Feast of All Saints of the Order of Preachers, better known as the Dominican Order. As we considered some of the patron saints of health care last week, we will this week consider four Dominican saints who are exemplary patrons and intercessors for those who provide and receive health care services.

St. Albert the Great was a renowned Dominican scholar, priest and bishop who joined the Order just a few years after the death of St. Dominic, and he became one of the Order's greatest saints, as well as a Doctor of the universal Church. St. Albert is best known for being the teacher of St. Thomas Aquinas, who became an even more renowned and influential theologian and Doctor of the Church. However, St. Albert, though surpassed by his student as a theologian, was engaged in a broader range of studies. In addition to studying philosophy and theology, and being a pioneer in the Christian study and interpretation of Aristotle, St. Albert wrote copious volumes on such subjects as law, astronomy, zoology, mineralogy and alchemy. In his study of the natural sciences, St. Albert relied not only on what others had written before him, but on his own experiments as well. Because of this, St. Albert is revered as the patron saint of scientists. Furthermore, due to his investigations and experiments in the areas of mineralogy and alchemy, St. Albert is honored as the patron of medical technicians. Medical researchers and technicians can look to St. Albert the Great and seek his intercession as a model in the pursuit of that knowledge which tends to the advancement of medicine and the improvement of human health and which redounds to the glory of God.

Blessed James Salomone was a younger contemporary of St. Albert the Great. He was born in Venice in 1231. At the age of 17, he became a Dominican and thereafter was ordained a priest, served as prior of several communities and developed a reputation for great holiness. Bl. James devoted himself to the care of the afflicted and had a great ministry of healing. He is credited with several miraculous healings, most notably the cure of a young girl who was afflicted with cancer of the leg. Bl. James also suffered from cancer himself, developing a malignant tumor in his chest late in his life. He suffered quietly while continuing his healing ministry. When he died in 1314, the cancer disappeared leaving a fragrant aroma. Bl. James is known as the "apostle to the afflicted" and is a patron of cancer patients. His statue is in the vestibule here at the Church of St. Catherine of Siena and Bl. James is the particular patron of the Cancer Support Outreach group that meets here on the first Thursday of each month.

St. Catherine of Siena is the great patroness of our parish church. She is also patroness of those who care for the sick. St. Catherine is famous for many reasons: her intense life of prayer and sacrifice, her writings that earned her the title of Doctor of the Church, and her role in bringing about the pope's return from Avignon to Rome. Another notable feature of St. Catherine's life, however, was her heroic care for the sick. St. Catherine was a Dominican tertiary; she was permitted to wear the habit of the order but she lived her religious life in the world and not in a monastery. After spending years of solitude and prayer in her family home, St. Catherine volunteered to nurse the sick in the hospitals of Siena, attending to the most severely afflicted. When an outbreak of plague ravished the city, St. Catherine was continually among the plague-stricken, nursing them, encouraging them, preparing them for death and burying them with her own hands. Because of her heroic work on behalf of the sick, St. Catherine of Siena is a special patroness to all who care for the sick. The Church invites everyone who works in health care to turn to St. Catherine for intercession and to look to her as their great example of how to care for the sick with generosity, tenderness, encouragement, and deep faith.

St. Martin de Porres was born in Lima, Peru in 1597, the illegitimate son of a Spanish nobleman and freed slave. He grew up in poverty and was apprenticed to a barber for two years, a profession that, at that time, included basic medical care. St. Martin entered a nearby Dominican priory first as a volunteer worker and later as a professed lay brother. As a Dominican, he lived a life of intense prayer and penance and performed a variety of household tasks, including the care of the poor and sick who came to the priory seeking alms. For them, St. Martin continued the healing work he had learned in his youth and even worked many miraculous cures. For the last 25 years of his life, St. Martin was assigned to work in the priory's infirmary, where he took charge of the care of sick and dying friars. When an epidemic struck Lima, St. Martin ministered to the sick in the city, tending to their needs and finding them shelter. St. Martin is a patron of barbers and of public health. He is a model of humble service to the sick and of a practice of health care that is motivated by ardent charity.