

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Laetare Sunday)



A Light in the Darkness

Weekends

Saturday Vigil – 5:00 p.m.

Brazilian Mass – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday – 7:30, 9:00 Children's Liturgy and Choir,
10:30 a.m. with Adult Choir and 12:00 N

Spanish Mass – 5:00 p.m.

Brazilian Mass – 7:30 p.m.

Weekdays

Monday through Saturday - 7:30 a.m.

Monday through Friday - 12:10 Noon

(HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE)

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday - 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

and by appointment

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Couples planning to be married must begin to make arrangements at least 8 months prior to their wedding date by contacting the Rectory.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Attendance at pre-Baptism class is required prior to the Baptism of the first child. Classes are held on the second Sunday of the month at 1:15 p.m. in the Rectory. Please pre-register by calling 203-743-2707. Baptisms in English are on the first and third Sundays of the month at 1:15 p.m.

Saint Peter Church, Danbury, CT

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Gregg D. Mecca, Pastor

Rev. David J. Riley, In Residence

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. - MONDAY through FRIDAY

104 Main Street, Danbury, CT

OFFICE NUMBERS

Phone: 203-743-2707

Email Address - office@stpeterdanb.org

Website - www.stpeterdanb.org

MUSIC MINISTER

Dr. Glen Segger, gsegger@stpeterdanb.org



LATINO COMMUNITY

Bautizos—Cuartos Domingos de cada Mes. Contacten con Ana Espinal para el formulario y la información sobre la clase pre-bautismal. Se celebra el sacramento de bautismo dos veces al mes: el primer domingo del mes a las 3 y el cuatro domingo a la 1:15.

Confesiones—Domingos a las 4:00 p.m.

Horario de Oficina—De Lunes a Viernes, de 1:30 p.m. a 3:30 p.m. En español pregunten por Ana Espinal.

SAINT PETER SCHOOL OFFICE

Mary Lou Torre — Principal - 203-748-2895

StPeterSchoolDanbury.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Barbara Siano—Director of Religious Education K - 8
203-743-1048 or spreligioused@stpeterdanb.org

Chairman of Parish Council – Fred Visconti – 203-744-2311

Chairman of Finance – Arthur Mannion - 203-733-0183



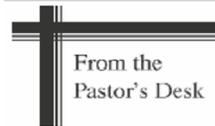
MARCH

18 SAT	5:00 PM	†	James P. McCaffery
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
19 SUN	7:30 AM	†	Mary Ellen Cesca
	9:00 AM		Our Parishioners
	10:30 AM	†	George Lukchis
	12:00 N		Special Intention
	5:00 PM		Spanish Mass
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
20 MON	<i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Souls in Purgatory
	12:10 N	†	George Gilbert
21 TUE	7:30 AM	†	Jeanne Collins
	12:10 N	†	Our Parishioners
22 WED	7:30 AM	†	Mary and Jim Mercereau
	12:10 N	†	Florence Jackson
23 THU	<i>St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Rosemary Isacson
	12:10 N	†	Eleanor Mayer
24 FRI	7:30 AM	†	Kathryn Liddane
	12:10 N	†	Michael Chisdack
25 SAT	<i>The Annunciation of the Lord</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Anthony Peton
	5:00 PM	†	Mary C. Riley
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
26 SUN	7:30 AM	†	Beverly Jansen
	9:00 AM		James V. Pascarella
	10:30 AM	†	Cynthia Duddie
	12:00 N		Our Parishioners
	5:00 PM		Spanish Mass
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass

On the weekend, if the intention of the Mass is yours, please see an usher about bringing up the gifts.

SACRIFICIAL GIVING—March 12, 2023.....\$ 7,933
 Online Giving—March 12, 2023.....\$ 2,009
 Our weekly goal\$ 10,500

Thank you for your support. Father Mecca



This weekend is the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the half-way mark in the season.

As you know, it is known as Laetare Sunday from the first word spoken at the Mass when Mass began with the Introit, or Introductory chant, taken on this Sunday from Isaiah 66. “Laetare Jerusalem: et conventum facite, omnes qui diligitis eam: gaudete cum laetitia, qui in tristitia fuistis: . . .” “Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her, be joyful all who were in mourning. . .” The Lenten abstinences were rather severe centuries ago. On this Sunday half-way through this penitential season, those abstinences were relaxed for the day, and the Church called to mind God’s mercy, forgiveness, and love, which is our reason to rejoice. As a visual sign, the custom developed to use pink vestments in place of the penitential violet and, I believe, the organ was able to play with some flourish! In our day, we no longer practice such deprivation, but it is good for us to pause and to think about how merciful God is to us who repent of sin and live a more authentic Christ-centered life. We will rejoice at Easter for we have risen to the more abundant life of our Lord.

Last week in St. John’s Gospel for Cycle A of Lent we listened to Jesus’ encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Drawing water becomes an opportunity for Jesus to speak to her and to us about his life-giving Spirit. Today, in another wonderful encounter with a man born blind, the condition of blindness and removing it leads Jesus to speak of ignorance of God giving way to understanding, to enlightenment. The encounter is great drama with a cast of characters who are stubborn, thick headed, and fearful. They won’t acknowledge the truth, utter the truth, bow down to the truth of Jesus’ identity. Who is blind today? Who won’t recognized the truth of the Gospel today? During Lent, we commit ourselves more to it, removing any blindness that prevents us from seeing and more authentically living the Gospel.

Last Friday, Bishop Caggiano celebrated Mass for the St. Peter School children. I could not have been more proud of the students. They really know the Mass responses, but as Mrs. Torre has said to me, it depends on their mood and whether or not they want to “turn it on or not.” Well, they were turned on! (Thanks be to God!) The students sang two hymns – Lord, Throughout These Forty Days and O Sacrament Most Holy—and they belted them out. I have to tell you what I told them on Monday. Tears came to my eyes as they sang in praise of our Eucharistic Lord. Our Bishop was left with a very positive impression, and that pleased me immensely, not because of any pride, but because in that brief one hour exposure, I wanted him

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns

In Memory of

The Gillotti Family

We offer our condolences to the families of

Marilyn Ehrhard

Theresa Yorio

who passed away last week.

KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH

*Daniel Alvarez Dorothy Bennett Richard Baris Richard Botelho
 Ray Condon Nubia Dekker Jerry DeJulia Elizabeth Ianelli
 Joseph Kasinskas Teddy Marchione Christopher McLaughlin
 Samantha Miller Ann Moffa Erick Neil Sister Clare Nguyen
 Anthony Pelle, Jr. Robert Soares Sr. Mary Bernard Wiecezak*

FOURTH (Laetare) SUNDAY OF LENT

to see the great good that takes place day to day at St. Peter School. After all, Bishop Caggiano has believed in and has been very supportive of our school, directing benefactors to help it. I think he had to have left feeling that our children are worth the investment. Enrollment is open. Re-enrollment has never been so high as this year. If a Catholic education is meaningful to you or someone you know, schedule a visit.

Please read Barbara Siano's column. Many good things and graces take place every Sunday at our Religious Education classes. We have excellent catechists, but we need more in order to ensure that every student has a class to attend. Please begin to think and pray about assuming this critical role.

—Fr. Mecca

One in Christ—The 2023 Bishop's Appeal

If you have not yet responded to the 2023 Bishop's Appeal, please reflect upon the importance of your support to ministry and outreach that relies upon the charity of everyone the Diocese of Bridgeport. The challenge is immediate and far-reaching, but the solution is within our reach!

Please consider the following options when deciding upon the best way to support the Bishop's Appeal this year:

- Make an automatic monthly recurring gift until you inform the Diocese to adjust or discontinue.
- Make a pledge and spread out your payments over 5 or 10 months
- Check if your employer will match your gift through the Corporate Matching Gift Program
- Contribute a gift of appreciated stocks or securities

Thank you for your support.

SAINT PETER SCHOOL NEWS



For more information about registering your child at St. Peter School, please contact mcorrea@spsdanbury.org or mtorre@spsdanbury.org or call the school office @ 203-748-2895

This week we look at yet another reason from Rev. Nuzzi about why Catholic Schools still hold an important place in this world - A Nuanced View of Scripture. "Catholic school students are given the opportunity to explore the beauty and richness of Sacred Scripture seen through the lens of faith and lived out in daily practice. They

experience the ongoing revelation of God in Scripture as the One who leads the Israelites through the promised land, and who redeems them through His cross and resurrection. They also come to view the human person as created in God's image and likeness and destined for eternal life. They learn to apply Scripture to their own lives as a tool for prayer and the true guide for virtuous living."

The St. Peter School students continue to amaze me! Just recently, a 7th grade student decided to rally his classmates together to say a special prayer for one of the teachers facing a personal challenge. Knowing that the routine for every class period was for the teacher to lead the students in the *Our Father*, the young man and his classmates decided to start the class themselves and offer the *Our Father* for their teacher and the challenge she was facing. Needless to say, the teacher was genuinely moved by this kind and thoughtful gesture. This is just one small example of how the students take scriptures/prayers and apply them to daily life.

Our Read-A-Thon fundraiser is well underway at the school. So far we have raised \$3820 and over 170 students have read a collective total of 48,822 minutes!

"Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you."
(1 Peter 5:6)

—Mrs. Mary Lou Torre, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

REGISTRATION 2023/2024—There have been numerous inquiries about registration for the next religious education school year. While the enthusiasm to register is exciting, we are challenged to provide the classes needed to accept everyone. However, like all religious education programs we operate with kindhearted, dedicated volunteers. We need your help to provide the number of classes needed to ensure that everyone who comes to us for instruction has a space. Currently we need Catechists and Assistant Catechists for every level but especially First Communion One classes. We cannot register any students unless we have a Catechist and an Assistant Catechist to teach. Please be aware that students already in our program will register first, then students of registered parishioners and students from neighboring parishes if we have space.

INSCRIPCIÓN 2023/2024—Ha habido numerosas preguntas sobre la inscripción para el próximo año escolar de educación religiosa. Mientras que el entusiasmo para inscribirse es emocionante, tenemos el reto de proporcionar las clases necesarias para aceptar a todos. Sin embargo, como todos los programas de educación religiosa funcionamos con voluntarios de buen corazón y dedicados. Necesitamos su ayuda para proporcionar el número de clases para asegurar que todos los que vienen a nosotros para la instrucción tenga un espacio. Actualmente necesitamos Catequistas y Asistentes de Catequistas para todos los niveles, pero

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especialmente para las clases de Primera Comunión. No podemos inscribir a ningún alumno a menos que tengamos clases con un Catequista y un Asistente de Catequista para enseñar. Por favor tengan en cuenta que los estudiantes que ya están en nuestro programa se inscribirán primero, luego los estudiantes de los feligreses inscritos y los estudiantes de las parroquias vecinas si disponemos de espacio.

March

19—Lesson 19

26—Lesson 20

April

2—Lesson 21

9—No Class

15—Confirmation Retreat Group 1

16—No Class

22—Confirmation Retreat Group 2

23—Lesson 22

30—Lesson 23

—Barbara Siano, DRE

Musical Note—



The Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as “Laetare Sunday.” It is a day when the church is called to a joyful anticipation of Easter. The name “Laetare” (rejoice) is derived from the Introit Chant: “Laetare, Jerusalem.” Our parish choir will be singing this Introit Chant at the 10:30 high Mass this weekend. It’s a beautiful (and challenging) chant. The Catholic Church is blessed with a wonderful repertoire of Gregorian Chant, and our parish is blessed with an amazing choir dedicated to learning more and more of this incredible chant.

—Glen Segger, Music Minister

St. Edward the Confessor Lenten Reflection—Father Edward Enright, O.S.A., an Associate Professor of Merrimack College, will be the speaker on Wednesday, March 29. Adoration begins at 6:00 p.m.

**Magnificat’s 20th Anniversary Breakfast
at the Ethan Allen Hotel, Danbury, CT
Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic Women. The guest speaker is Fran Fraleigh Karpiej, OFS, who will share her testimony and lifelong ministry and devotion to God. Cost \$25.00 per person, reservations required by April 8. For more information, please call Carol Flynn 203-775-3875 or email magnificatthmi@gmail.com.

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**Stations of the Cross
Every Friday in Lent at 7:00 p.m.**

**LENTEN
ALMSGIVING**



<i>Weekend</i>	<i>Item Requested</i>
<i>Mar. 26</i>	<i>Size 1 and 6 Diapers Baby Wipes & Diaper Cream</i>
<i>Apr. 2</i>	<i>Paper Towels & Toilet Paper</i>



Soup and Stations

Come to the Parish Hall each Friday in Lent at 6:00 p.m.

Our speaker is John Feeney.

Enjoy a bowl of soup and a Lenten message prior to the Stations at 7:00 p.m.



Easter Cards



Looking for the perfect Easter Gift? A Mass card for the living. The 12:00 Noon Mass on Easter Sunday will be for those living mentioned in the Easter Card—

for a \$5.00 donation.