

# Third Sunday of Advent



## 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

Deacon Rafael Regus

## 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](mailto:office@stpeterdanb.org)

Website - [www.stpeterdanb.org](http://www.stpeterdanb.org)

## MUSIC MINISTER

Dr. Glen Segger, [gsegger@stpeterdanb.org](mailto:gsegger@stpeterdanb.org)

## SAINT PETER SCHOOL OFFICE

Mary Lou Torre — Principal - 203-748-2895  
[StPeterSchoolDanbury.org](http://StPeterSchoolDanbury.org)



## HISPANIC COMMUNITY

**Confesiones**—Primer Domingo del mes—3:45—4:45 p.m.

**Grupo de Oracion**—Lunes 7:00 p.m. Sotano de la Iglesia

**Estudio de La Biblia**—Viernes 7:00 p.m. Sotano de la Escuela

**Rosario de La Aurora**—Sabado 5:00 a.m.—Iglesia

**Bautizos**—Requiere de una clase prebautizmal contactarse con nuestra oficina 203-743-2707 [office@stpeterdanb.org](mailto:office@stpeterdanb.org)

**Ministerio del Coro**—Alejandro Servin 203-300-9584

**Intensiones para la Misa**—Anotarse 15 minutos antes en la entrada.

**Horario en Espanol**—1:30 - 3:20 p.m. de Lunes—Virnes

Deacon Rafael Regus 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. lunes y jueves

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Barbara Siano—Director of Religious Education K - 8  
203-743-1048 or [spreligioused@stpeterdanb.org](mailto:spreligioused@stpeterdanb.org)

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

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



## DECEMBER

16 SAT	5:00 PM	† Janet Mascio
	7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
17 SUN	7:30 AM	Our Parishioners
	9:00 AM	† Elsa Valera
	10:30 AM	† Antonio Scalzo
	12:00 N	† Michael DiBuono
	5:00 PM	Spanish Mass
	7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
18 MON	7:30 AM	† John Jacocks
	12:10 N	† Immac Thampoe
19 TUE	7:30 AM	† Souls in Purgatory
	12:10 N	Safe Trip
20 WED	7:30 AM	† Rosemary Riley
	12:10 N	Jane Maureen Beresheim
21 THU	<i>St. Peter Canisius, Priest &amp; Doctor of the Church</i>	
	7:30 AM	† Odelia Ruemenapp
	12:10 N	Linda Marie Schneider
22 FRI	7:30 AM	† Sal Scarpetti
	12:10 N	† Lou and Les DiLisio
23 SAT	<i>St. John of Kanty, Priest</i>	
	7:30 AM	† Bernadette Ward
	5:00 PM	† Frances Ferguson
	7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
24 SUN	7:30 AM	Our Parishioners
	9:00 AM	† Peter Tuyen Le
	10:30 AM	† Father Paul Merry
	12:00 N	Spanish Mass
	4:00 PM	† Kenny, McCleary and O'Connor Families
	6:30 PM	Spanish Mass
	8:00 PM	Brazilian Mass
	12:00 M	† Irene Klementowicz

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

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING—10 December 2023.....\$ 7,738**  
**Online Giving—10 December 2023.....\$ 2,034**  
**Our weekly goal .....\$ 10,500**

Thank you for your support.

Father Mecca



Due to the calendar this year, as we celebrate Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday we are more than half way through Advent. Next Sunday is not only the Fourth Sunday of Advent in the morning, it is Christmas Eve in the evening. I don't think anyone in the Church likes when Christmas falls on a Monday. It is a bit stressful for everyone involved in the preparation and celebration of the Christmas liturgies. We will have to have part of the sanctuary decorated because there is a scant three hours between the last Mass of Advent and the first Christmas Vigil Mass. Our decorators can work fast, but to arrange the poinsettias after Advent is concluded is a bit too much pressure.

Please note that there are three and not four Masses next Sunday celebrated in English. The noon Mass will be celebrated in Spanish. Since our Sunday Mass in Spanish is celebrated in the evening, it will already be Christmas Eve. It's necessary, therefore, to make room for our Spanish speakers to fulfill their Sunday obligation. That brings up a point for all of us. There is no killing two birds with one stone next Sunday. Attending a Christmas Eve Mass does not fulfill our Sunday obligation. We must attend Mass for Sunday and for Christmas.

Our Christmas Mass schedule is the same as last year. We begin the Vigil Masses at 4 p.m. in English. It will be followed by Mass in Spanish at 6:30 p.m. and in Portuguese at 8 p.m. We are continuing the tradition of Mass at midnight. We are one of the few parishes that still does so, and besides ourselves who enjoy the experience of this most solemn and beautiful liturgy, we attract a number of guests. The Christmas Day schedule mimics our regular Sunday line-up. We begin at 7:30 a.m. in English for the early birds. The 9 a.m. is Brazilian, the solemn Christmas Day Mass in English is at 10:30. The noon Mass is in Spanish.

Shifting away from Christmas to an update on our campus, our school has made the transition to all LED lights. We looked into conversion many years ago but were told that the pendant lights in the classrooms could not be converted. We dismissed the advice to install drop ceilings with LED fixtures. Last year, Noah Langer from the school office told me and Mary Lou about a firm he was working with for this purpose. This time around the answer was different. The work primarily involved removing the ballasts out of the pendants and replacing them with drivers for LEDs, but some new fixtures were installed. The bulbs use 11.5 watts of electricity as opposed to the 32 or 40 watt fluorescent bulbs that were in use. We are happy to conserve energy and look forward to realizing some savings.

—Fr. Mecca

## The Sanctuary Lamp Burns

In Memory of

John J. Murphy



## KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Daniel Alvarez Dorothy Bennett Ware Cohen Barbara Glassco  
 Richard Baris Nubia Dekker Jerry DeJulia  
 Joshua Erickson Elizabeth Ianelli Joseph Kasinskas  
 Teddy Marchione Catherine McDermott  
 Christopher McLaughlin Anthony Pelle, Jr Robert Soares

## THIRD (GAUDETE) SUNDAY OF ADVENT



**Our Daily Advent Prayer**  
**Come, Lord Jesus, we need you!**  
**Draw close to us.**  
**You are the light.**

**Rouse us from  
the slumber of mediocrity.  
Awaken us from  
the darkness of indifference.  
Come, Lord Jesus,  
take our distracted hearts  
and make them watchful.  
Awaken within us the desire  
to pray and the need to love.  
Help us to remain vigilant,  
waiting for You to come,  
waiting for You to draw near to us!**  
**—Pope Francis**

### \*\*\*SAINT PETER SCHOOL NEWS\*\*\*



For more information about registering your child at St. Peter School, please contact [mmartinez@spsdanbury.org](mailto:mmartinez@spsdanbury.org) or [mtorre@spsdanbury.org](mailto:mtorre@spsdanbury.org) or call the school office @ 203-748-2895.

St. Peter School staff and students continue to prepare their hearts during this season of anticipation through prayer, acts of kindness, and service to others. This special time of year is an opportunity for all students to reflect on what it means to ready our hearts for Jesus. Perhaps it is through a kind word, a quick note of thanks, or a word of forgiveness.

We are eagerly preparing for our Christmas Pageant which will be held this Tuesday. A few new songs have been added to our repertoire which the students are excited to sing. Every year, we seek to make our presentation better than the year before!

—Mrs. Mary Lou Torre, Principal

### \*\*\*RELIGIOUS EDUCATION\*\*\*



#### Christmas Break

This Sunday Dec.17 will be the last class for 2023. Classes resume January 7, 2024.

#### Vacaciones de Navidad

Este domingo 18 de diciembre será la última clase de 2023. Las clases se reanudan el 7 de enero de 2024.

#### Religious Education Office

The Religious Education Office will be open during the break to accept phone inquiries and respond to emails should you have any questions. If we are not in the office when you call, please leave a message including your child's name and class and a number to return the call to you, without this information we will not be able to call you back. The office number is (203) 743-1048.

#### Oficina de Educación Religiosa

La Oficina de Educación Religiosa estará abierta durante el receso para aceptar consultas telefónicas y responder correos electrónicos en caso de que tenga alguna pregunta. Si no estamos en la oficina cuando llame, por favor deje un mensaje incluyendo el nombre de su hijo(a) y la clase y un número para devolverle la llamada, sin esta información no podremos devolverle la llamada. El número de la oficina es el (203)743-1048.

Merry Christmas! Feliz Navidad!

—Barbara Siano, Director of Religious Education

## Christmas Schedule



#### **Confessions:**

*Saturday, December 23, 11:00 a.m. to noon  
3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.*

#### **Sunday, Christmas Eve Masses:**

*4:00 p.m. English Vigil  
6:30 p.m. Spanish Vigil  
8:00 p.m. Brazilian Vigil  
11:30 p.m. Traditional Carols & Seasonal Music  
12:00 M Solemn Mass with Organ & Choir*

#### **Monday, December 25, Christmas Day Masses:**

*7:30 a.m. Organ, Cantor  
9:00 a.m. Brazilian Mass  
10:30 a.m. Organ, Choir  
12:00 noon Spanish Mass*

***December 17, 2023***

### **Worship & Spirituality**

The *St Ignatian Parish Pilgrimage* sponsored by the Ignatian Spirituality Center of Fairfield University is coming to St Peter Parish for the 2024 Lenten / Easter season. This pilgrimage was started in 2017 at the direction of Bishop Caggiano and held at various parishes since then. What can you expect from spiritual direction? Encouragement and hope to gently nudge you toward the wisdom and love God is already pouring into your life. Meaningful connection to yourself, God, and others, to respond to the movements of your heart and make choices in line with your truest self. Watch *Four Journeys in Ignatius* (5 min video) to see other people's experience of spiritual direction.

Visit: <https://www.fairfield.edu/jesuit-and-catholic/murphy-center-for-ignatian-spirituality/>



### **Discover Our Faith**

At Sunday Mass Catholics profess that Jesus came down from heaven “for us men and our salvation.” But what does “salvation” mean? In this 10-part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical answer..

This “Salvation” series begins January 11 and runs through March 14. Please let us know whether you will be interested in attending Thursday evenings 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

### **The 2024 Mass Book is Open!**



You may call or come into the office with your Mass Intentions. The number to call is 203-743-2707.

Masses are not only for the dead. They can be said for the living, for birthdays, and for anniversaries.



*December 17, 2023*

# St. Peter School Celebrates Breakfast with Santa...

