

Fourth 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
Website - www.stpeterdanb.org

MUSIC MINISTER

Dr. Glen Segger, gsegger@stpeterdanb.org

SAINT PETER SCHOOL OFFICE

Mary Lou Torre — Principal - 203-748-2895
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
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

Chairman of Parish Council – Fred Visconti – 203-744-2311
Chairman of Finance – Arthur Mannion - 203-733-0183



DECEMBER

23 SAT	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
25 MON	<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Our Parishioners
	9:00 N	†	Brazilian Mass
	10:30 AM	†	Priests & Deacons of the Parish
	12:00 N		Spanish Mass
26 TUE	<i>St. Stephen, The First Martyr</i>		
	7:30 AM		Eileen Margaraet Ureta
	12:10 N	†	Matthew Wiglesworth
27 WED	<i>St. John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Souls in Purgatory
	12:10 N	†	Roger Gliewe
28 THU	<i>The Holy Innocents, Martyrs</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Joan, Paul and Larry Schneider
	12:10 N		Safe School Year
29 FRI	<i>St. Thomas Becket, Bishop and Martyr</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Joan Ginty
	12:10 N	†	Tom Kelly
30 SAT	7:30 AM	†	Michael Timan
	5:00 PM	†	Kathleen Arconti Colley
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
31 SUN	7:30 AM	†	Charles Greenwald
	9:00 AM		In Thanksgiving
	10:30 AM	†	Brandon Chiacchia
	12:00 N	†	Doreen Hentschel
	5:00 PM		Spanish Mass
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
1 MON	<i>Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God</i>		
	10:00 AM	†	Vita and Donata Mecca
	12:00 N		For Peace
2 TUE	<i>Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	John Francis Taylor
	12:10 N	†	Souls in Purgatory
3 WED	<i>The Most Holy Name of Jesus</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Mame and Sadella Jowdy
	12:10 N	†	Jesuina DoValle
4 THU	<i>St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Mary McNulty, Henry Kilby and James McGarrigle
	12:10 N	†	Lewis Family
5 FRI	<i>St. John Neumann, Bishop</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Lilia Lozano Melo
	12:10 N	†	Msgr. M. Colie Palmer
6 SAT	<i>St. Andre Bessette, Religious</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Paul M. Proto
	5:00 PM	†	Charles A. Riley
7 SUN	<i>The Epiphany of the Lord</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Our Parishioners
	9:00 AM	†	Peace in the Family
	10:30 AM	†	Michael A. Palanzo
	12:00 N	†	Angelo Rossi
	5:00 PM		Spanish Mass



Here we are on this day with dual identity. This morning it is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. This evening it is Christmas Eve! It will be a crazy day, for sure, but when evening falls and the hustle and bustle is done, the magic of Christmas will descend. There is magic to this night. There is not another one like it in the year. Don't you think there is a divine cause? Before talking about the magic, let's acknowledge that this evening is not necessarily easy for everyone. Not everyone has a family to gather with tonight. We don't all live in a Hallmark Christmas movie in which everything comes together perfectly for Christmas. Some of us are alone or working or dealing with sadness and difficulties. So, what's this magic? It's the realization, the confidence that with God incarnate, we are good. We are so good. We have God with us upholding us, surrounding us with His divine presence, with His peace. We feel loved. God is very much at work this evening. I pray that each one of us knows it, feels it deep inside.

The Christmas concert on the evening of the 15th was terrific. I told you Vivaldi's *Gloria* is a piece full of joy. I think from what I observed those in attendance agreed. Glen and our choir invested much time into learning, polishing, and presenting for us this great work as well as the very lovely choral pieces. They enriched us. The carol sing-a-long added a fun component that is just not around much anymore. Thank you, Glen and choir! Our reception afterwards centered around dozens of homemade Christmas cookies, a gift from Donna Carangelo and her co-bakers Terri and Samantha Thompson. We thank them for this visually beautiful and personal touch to conclude the evening.

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. You see a regular Sunday schedule with no vigil Masses for the Feast of Mary, Mother of God. That is because Monday, January 1, 2024 is not a day of obligation this year. As you recall, when this feast falls on a Friday or Monday, the obligation to attend Mass is abrogated. We have two Masses on January 1, but at a different holiday time – 10 a.m. and 12 noon. Everyone needs some down time that morning.

Deacon Rafael, Deacon Dave, Fr. Riley and I extend to you our warm wishes for joy and love this Christmas and good health and peace for the year ahead. Merry Christmas!



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



***St. Peter Office will be CLOSED from
12:00 noon December 22 until January 2, 2024.***

***The Clergy and Staff wish all our parishioners a
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
See you in 2024!***



***We offer our condolences to the family of
Denise McGivney
who passed away last week.***

**SACRIFICIAL GIVING—17/24 December 2023.not available
Online Giving—17/24 December 2023.....not available
Our weekly goal\$ 10,500**

Thank you for your support.

Father Mecca



**The Sanctuary Lamp Burns
In Memory of
Vera Carangelo**



KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH

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

Saint Peter Men's Society would like to wish everyone a holy and blessed Christmas. We would like to thank everyone who has supported our various projects throughout 2023. Please follow the Sunday bulletin for our next coffee hour Sunday January 21, 2024 and Spring Pancake Breakfast Sunday April 14, 2024.

SAINT PETER SCHOOL NEWS



On behalf of St. Peter School, I would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas during this holy season.

Each one of us has one or two Christmas carols which speak to our hearts in a special way. While Silent Night will always be a favorite carol of mine, this year I am especially touched by the song our St. Peter School students will be singing once again this year, *Prince of Peace*. We sang it last year and I found myself going back to listen to the recording several times throughout the year because it is such a beautiful, simple and comforting piece of music. As the months have gone by, it continues to speak to my heart in a way that simply can not be easily brushed aside. The refrain is, "Healer of men, peace again." Our world is in a state where we need the healing power of Jesus's love more than ever. Just like that first Christmas, it appears that our world is once again in need of exactly what the magi and shepherds went in search of on that cold, dark night long ago - the Prince of Peace.

This Christmas I pray that the Prince of Peace will fill us all with renewed hope and that His light will shine in the areas where darkness prevails. May the gifts of peace, love, and happiness find you all during this most blessed season of Christmas.

Christmas blessings,

St. Peter School Staff and Students

—Mrs. Mary Lou Torre, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



May you and your loved ones know the joy that comes from the mystery of Christ's birth among us! May we continue to be witnesses of Christ's mercy to one another. Christmas blessings to all!
Religious Education

—Barbara Siano, Director of Religious Ed & Staff

December 24 and 31, 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.

Prayer for Priests

Saturday, January 6 at 8:00 a.m. parishioners will gather for Prayer for Priests. Join us in the Parish Hall.

The **Knights of Columbus** will be holding a basketball free throw contest on Sunday January 7 at 1:00PM at St Saint Gregory the Great school gym. Boys and girls ages 9-14 are welcome to participate.

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 24 and 31, 2023

God Is With US

Today as we contemplate the birth of Jesus, we must note that the Gospel of Christ is not a fairy tale, it is not a myth nor just an uplifting tale. The Gospel of Christ is the full revelation of God's plan for human beings and the world. It is a message that is both simple and grandiose, that prompts us to ask ourselves: what concrete project has the Lord placed in me, as he continues to make his birth present among us?

The nativity scene is like a living Gospel, reminding us of one essential thing: that God did not remain invisible in heaven, but came to earth, becoming a human child. God is not a distant lord or a detached judge, but a humble love, descended down to us. The child in the crib conveys his tenderness to us. The child with open arms tells us that God has come to embrace our humanity. It is good to stand in front of the nativity scene and there to confide in the Lord about our lives, to talk to God about the people and situations we care about, to share our expectations and concerns. We remember that Jesus came to us, that he became human like us, and that he accompanies us. In everyday life we are no longer alone, for he lives with us. He doesn't magically change things, but if we accept him, everything can change. Happy Christmas!

—Advent Reflections from Pope Francis, 2020

