

The First Sunday in Lent



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



FEBRUARY

17 SAT	5:00 PM	†	Vera Carangelo
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
18 SUN	7:30 AM		Our Parishioners
	9:00 AM	†	Can Nguyen
	10:30 AM	†	John Giampe
	12:00 N	†	Rita Timan
	5:00 PM		Spanish Mass
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
19 MON	7:30 AM	†	Clara Ayala
	12:10 N	†	Mary C. Riley
20 TUE	7:30 AM	†	James Lynch
	12:10 N	†	In Reparation to the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary
21 WED	<i>St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Clarence Godfrey
	12:10 N	†	Father Bernardo Rodriguez
22 THU	<i>Chair of Peter the Apostle</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Richard O'Grady
	12:10 N	†	Niccalena Lariccia
23 FRI	<i>St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Ellen O'Connor
	12:10 N	†	In Reparation to the Sacred Heart and Immaculate Heart of Mary
24 SAT	7:30 AM	†	Souls in Purgatory
	5:00 PM	†	Edward McCaffrey
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
25 SUN	7:30 AM		Our Parishioners
	9:00 AM	†	Francisco Le & Catrina Pham
	10:30 AM	†	Can and Nhung Nguyen
	12:00 N	†	Butch Melody and Joe Halas
	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—February 11, 2024.....\$ 6,403
Online Giving—February 11, 2024.....\$ 2,099
Our weekly goal\$ 10,500

Thank you for your support.

Father Mecca



Lent has begun. What is Lent but a journey toward a more authentically lived life of God. God long ago entered into a Covenant with His people. In that sacred relationship, God adopted a people to be His own. He promised to be with His people forever. He promised to give His people life, an authentic life because it is *His* life. After the Resurrection, the Apostles began baptizing followers into this life of God made more perfectly manifest by Jesus. The Covenant was extended to everyone. God's promises extended to everyone. The Baptized agreed on their part to reject evil and sin and to embrace the Lord's teachings. We have done the same thing. First, our parents and Godparents made the statements for us at our Baptism, then, we did ourselves at our Confirmation. Each Easter Sunday we renew those promises. Nonetheless, we can stray, we can fall into bad habits, we forget our obligation to God to live exclusively by *His* Word and not by our ego or by very wrong ideas circulating within society. Lent is our annual recommitment to God. The first words we hear from Scripture on Ash Wednesday are "return to me with your whole heart" from the Prophet Joel. We listen to the Lord, we examine where and how we have strayed, and we make the appropriate changes. As I said to the 8th graders recently, God does not ask something of us without giving us the means to accomplish it. God has given us His Spirit, He has given us precepts to follow, He has given us His Son in the flesh as teacher and example, and He has provided us with the Sacraments within His Church to guide, strengthen, and sanctify. We take full advantage of all of this during Lent to make us better reflections of Jesus.

I understand that parishioners have received their Annual Bishop's Appeal letter and invitation form the Bishio to participate in this year's campaign. I have to rely on others to know when the letter arrives at your homes because the letter to the priests comes a couple of weeks later. I am aware of how many requests from so many worthy causes asking us for support. I have a stack of solicitations on my upstairs desk. I suspect as with me, several of the solicitations you have are from Catholic organizations. During Advent, I just never got around to making gifts, but I will during Lent as part of my almsgiving. If you never thought about the ABA in this way, include it as an act of almsgiving because it very much is. Remember, the ABA dollars go to people whom the Church serves and not towards the operational expenses of the diocese. Those are covered by the monthly tax on the parishes. The ABA is for the Church's charitable and evangelical outreach and spiritual and educational formation of its members. Our gift benefits people we will likely never meet but also people right here at home, particularly the children in our Religious Formation classes and our St. Peter School through



The Sanctuary Lamp Burns

In Memory of

Mary Beth Garavel



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 Anthony Pelle, Jr
 Christopher McLaughlin Marita Repole Robert Soares*

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

to our program and tuition assistance. This Lent, select the Appeal as one of the recipients of your almsgiving, and remember, small gifts are not insignificant.

Looking back a week, Cecil De Mille's "King of Kings" tops the list of Jesus films! There were so many moments that were moving and noteworthy in the sense of cinematography. A lot of us have been talking about it this week. One example that impacted me was how the viewer did not see the face of Jesus until we saw it through the eyes of the girl whom Jesus cured of blindness. The out of focus, fuzzy image gradually sharpens, and we experience seeing the face of our God. Genius! Brilliant, too, was Peter on the organ and our choir when they so subtly and delicately became part of the soundtrack. I thank them for their gift of their time and talent and Glen for bringing us a wonderful experience.

—Fr. Mecca

Music Notes—



Reflections on Gregorian Chant – Part 1

Before reflecting specifically on the importance and beauty of Gregorian chant, I believe it would be helpful to review what the Second Vatican Council had to say about Latin and the vernacular in the liturgy.

The *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* (1963), the foundational document outlining the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council, states: "... the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites." (§36). It then goes on to make exceptions to this rule, suggesting that the use of the vernacular may be of "great advantage to the people," especially regarding the readings and the prayers. What are we to make of this? Latin is to be preserved, but the vernacular may be permitted. Isn't this a contradiction?

Concerning the vernacular, the Council Fathers wanted the faithful to experience more deeply the love God has for us through Jesus Christ. How? Through "full, active, and conscious" participation at the liturgy. But how can we possibly achieve full, active, and conscious participation when the liturgy is in a language we do not understand? Indeed, allowing the liturgy to be celebrated in one's mother tongue was not only inevitable, but one of the most beautiful reforms to come out of Vatican II. But what about Latin? That will be the topic of next week's reflection.

—Glen Segger, Music Director

PLEASE NOTE:

The week of March 4th through the 8th our new sound system will be installed. During this time NO microphones or speakers will be used at Mass.

Thank you.

SAINT PETER SCHOOL NEWS



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

Our enrollment is robust so far and we have over two hundred students signed up for the 2024-2025 school year! Spots are filling fast; if anyone is interested in learning more about St. Peter School, please contact us.

Every year our 4th and 5th graders have the opportunity to participate in the state-wide Fire Prevention Poster Contest. This year one of our fifth grade students, Angel Quilligana, was a city-wide winner! How amazing is that! On Thursday, Fire Marshall Timan came to share the news with Angel and his classmates. What an honor, teachers, and I look forward to attending a dinner honoring the Danbury Fire Prevention Poster Contest winners at Anthony's Lake Club in March.

Our students participated in Ash Wednesday Mass this week and I hope you get a chance to see the pictures of St. Peter students in the News Times.

Have a blessed week!

—Mrs. Mary Lou Torre, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

No Religious Education Classes today; Mass is required.

No hay clases de educación religiosa hoy, pero se requiere Misa

Confirmation Forms

Formularios de confirmación

Completed registration and sponsor forms and the Confirmation fee are due February 25, 2024.

Los formularios de inscripción y patrocinador completos y la tarifa de confirmación vencen el 25 de febrero de 2024.

First Reconciliation- First Communion Candidates

Primera Reconciliación- Candidatos a Primera Comunión

Students in First Communion (FC II) A,B, C & D will receive the sacrament of First Reconciliation March 9, 2024. Parent and child meeting (attendance is mandatory) at 9:00 am in the parish hall followed by First Reconciliation Liturgy and first confessions at 10:00 am in the Church.

February 18, 2024

Los estudiantes en Primera Comuni3n (FC II) A, B, C y D recibir3n el sacramento de la Primera Reconciliaci3n el 9 de marzo de 2024. Reuni3n de padres e hijos (la asistencia es obligatoria) a las 9:00 am en el sal3n parroquial seguida de la Liturgia de la Primera Reconciliaci3n y primeras confesiones a las 10:00 horas en la Iglesia.

February

18 – No Class

25 – Class 15

—Barbara Siano, Director of Religious Education

Summary of Operations For the Month of January 2024

Revenues:

Collections (1)	\$	42,211
Other Revenues:		
Bingo		
Other (2)		17,238

Total Revenues 59,449

Expenses:

Personnel	42,454
Church (3)	4,253
Other (4)	7,477

Total Expenses 54,184

Net income from Operations \$ 5,265

- (1) Weekly, Monthly & Holy Day collections
- (2) Bequests, parking lot lease, Excess Annual Bishop's Appeal & funds for church usage
- (3) Church & Rectory liturgical supplies, flowers, maintenance, utilities & insurance
- (4) Office & grounds

Parking Lot Collection	\$	4,179
Loan Balance	\$	49,278



The **Men's Society** would like to welcome you to a **Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall**, this **Sunday, February 18** after the **7:30 and 9:00 a.m. Masses**.

There is no charge to attend. Just come down and meet new and old friends after Sunday morning Mass.



Date change due to weather last Tuesday.

St. Peter Men's Society
is sponsoring

**A Night of Reflection with
Dr. Patrick Donovan**

Tuesday, February 20
at

7:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Dr. Donovan is the Director of the Institute of Catholic Formation in the Diocese. He is an author, theologian, teacher, and above all, a husband and father.

The topic is **"How Parables Change Us"**. At its simplest, a parable is a metaphor or simile drawn from nature or common life. It arrests the hearer by its strangeness and leaves us with a new understanding of our reality. Join us for a conversation about parables and how, if we really listen, we can be challenged to grow in faith as we launch into Lent 2024.



Ignatian Parish Pilgrimage

St. Peter Parish is sponsoring an In-House *Ignatian Parish Pilgrimage* for Lent, which is designed to foster a healthy and active spiritual life.

The dates are Saturdays: February 24th, March 2th, 9th, and 16th. The time is 10:30 AM to 12 PM. March 23rd is the "snow date".

Discover Our Faith

At every Sunday Mass, Catholics confess that Jesus came down from Heaven "for us men and our salvation." But what does "salvation" mean? In this remarkable 10 part video series, Scripture scholar and theologian Michael Patrick Barber provides a thorough, deeply Catholic, and deeply biblical, answer. **February 22 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** in the **Parish Hall** is Episode 7. "Not Simply a Moment: helps us see what Jesus has done for us, will do for us and is doing in our lives to perfect us."

Lent continues...

Stations of the Cross
Every Friday in Lent

7:00 p.m. in English
7:45 p.m. in Spanish

LENTEN ALMSGIVING



<i>Weekend</i>	<i>Item Requested</i>
Feb. 18	Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Dish Soap, Household Cleaners
Feb. 25	Size 5 / 6 Diapers, Diaper Cream Baby Wipes & Baby Lotion
Mar. 3	Price Rite Food Cards \$10 to \$25
Mar. 10	Tooth Paste, Liquid Hand Soap, Laundry Soap, Bleach
Mar. 17	Size 5/6 Diapers, Diaper Cream Baby Wipes & Baby Lotion
Mar. 24	Price Rite Food Cards \$10 to \$25

When donating food cards, please attach the receipt indicating the value.



Soup and Stations

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

March 23 Deacon David Klein

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



A PRAYER FOR LENT

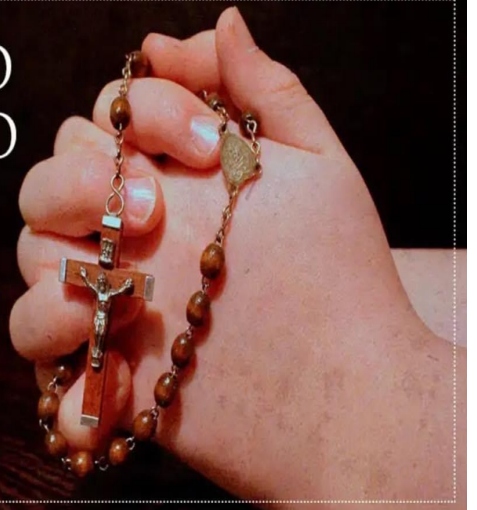
*Speak to me, O my God,
let me know your will,
for behold I am ready
to fulfill your every command.
The difficult, the irksome,
I will patiently endure
for love of you.*

—St. John Neumann

EL SANTO ROSARIO

**Sabado
5:00 a.m.**

*Iglesia St. Peter
Danbury CT.*



The Institute for Catholic Formation offers parishes resources throughout the year so that leaders can focus on what they do best: engaging with the faithful in the pews. From book clubs to reading groups and workshops to posters in Lent and Advent, the Institute provides free resources to make parish life better, a pastor's life easier, and the faithful more engaged. When you make a gift to the Bishop's Appeal, you support the ministries that continue faith formation. Thank you for your gift.