

## *The Second 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](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



## FEBRUARY/MARCH

24 SAT	5:00 PM	†	Edward McCaffery
	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
26 MON	7:30 AM	†	Souls in Purgatory
	12:10 N	†	Father Frank Eldridge
27 TUE	<i>St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot &amp; Doctor of the Church</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Gabriel Lee
	12:10 N	†	In Reparation to the Sacred Heart & Immaculate Heart of Mary
28 WED	7:30 AM	†	Michael Scapeccia
	12:10 N	†	Father Nick Cirillo
29 THU	7:30 AM	†	Helen M. Delury
	12:10 N	†	Michael T. Cossack
1 FRI	<i>World Day of Prayer</i>		
	7:30 AM	†	Mary Beth Garavel
	12:10 N	†	In Reparation to the Sacred Heart & Immaculate Heart of Mary
2 SAT	7:30 AM	†	Marion Pion
	5:00 PM	†	Peter Tuyen Le
	7:30 PM		Brazilian Mass
3 SUN	7:30 AM	†	Myrna Gutierrez
	9:00 AM	†	Maria Ba
	10:30 AM	†	William Connor
	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—February 18, 2024.....\$ 8,795**  
**Online Giving—February 18, 2024.....\$ 2,109**  
**Our weekly goal .....\$ 10,500**

Thank you for your support.

Father Mecca



On the first Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults moves into a more intense period of preparation. In the tradition of the Church the catechumens and the candidates for full communion within the Church are invited to the cathedral to meet with the Bishop. We have three women all of whom are catechumens, that is to say unbaptized persons seeking entrance into the Catholic Faith. They are Sypaseuth Khounvongsa, called Sissy, Eliana King, and Mixtli Suarez. Sissy, Eliana, and Mixtli and their sponsors met two of our catechists and me at the cathedral and we sat in a pew together. At the ceremony last Sunday, they were presented to the Bishop by standing and their sponsors were asked to give testimony to their preparedness for the Sacraments. They were asked if they were faithfully listening to God's word proclaimed by the Church, if they were responding to the word and walking in God's presence, and if they have been joining us in prayer. With that done, the Bishop called them to the Easter sacraments. They have been elected, or, selected (from the Latin verb eligere) by the Christian Community, ie. the Church for entrance. For the remaining weeks of Lent, if I remember to dismiss our three catechumens for their instruction after the homily, I should call them the Elect. During the Lenten season, we pray more consistently for the Elect that they may be drawn more deeply into a relationship with Christ.

As we continue our Lenten journey, I want to encourage us in keeping to our prayer, reflection on God's word, and good works. I was very pleased that every copy of the Word Among Us in both languages was gone by the end of last weekend's Masses. I don't want to rank Lenten practices, but reading the scriptures and reflecting on God's Word is very important. How do we know who God is? How do we know what God desires for us? By listening to Him. I feel fortunate that reflecting on God's Word is necessarily built into my day. I HAVE to read the scriptures prior to Mass and to think about them because I have to have something to say about them to those present. The Lectionary drives my reading, and I'm glad that it does because it provides me with passages that people much smarter than me chose for their value. The scripture passages for Lent speak to us of faithfulness to the covenant we have with God, of right behavior, and of a love that gives us life.

Speaking of a love that gives life, keep in mind the value of participating in the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. This Friday is the First Friday of the month, so I will expose the Blessed Sacrament during the praying of the Stations, and we will conclude with Benediction. We show our gratitude to Jesus for His Passion and death when we pray the Stations. Make a note that next Friday, the 8<sup>th</sup>, our choir is offering us the beautiful and moving Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) by Franz Liszt. Do try to set aside the



**The Sanctuary Lamp Burns**  
**In Memory of**  
**Rosemary Murphy**



**KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH**

*Daniel Alvarez Dorothy Bennett Ware Cohen Barbara Glassso*  
*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*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Fridays of Lent for some prayer and reflection so that they are not the same as all the other Fridays during the year. Giving a portion of your Fridays to the Lord during Lent is a great act of love. The Stations or the soup and spiritual talk prior to the Stations are ways we can make an act of love.

Last week I mentioned that I had not received my Bishop's Annual Appeal letter. It arrived this past week. I won't wait too long to make my gift. My aim is to do it within a week or two. I don't believe in asking parishioners to donate when I have not yet done so. All of us have to juggle our money and select from the many deserving charities and causes what we will support. I ask you to make room for the ABA and give thought as to how you will participate. Say it with me. No gift is too small. Participation, as with other giving, is an act of love for others. As I said last week, the ABA dollars go to people to help and strengthen lives and make them whole through contact with God. Thank you for joining in the Appeal.

—Fr. Mecca

### Music Notes—

#### Reflections on Gregorian Chant – Part 2

In last week's reflection, we examined the necessity and beauty of the vernacular. But what about Latin? What exactly does Vatican II say about Latin? Here are three important quotes:

- Section 54 of the *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy* states that "steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them." This is a reference to the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy), the Gloria (Glory to God), the Creed, etc.
- And from Section 114: "The Church acknowledges Gregorian chant [i.e. Latin chant] as specially suited to the Roman liturgy; therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services."
- And as recent as 2007, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a document, *Sing to the Lord*, which has an entire section devoted to Latin in the Liturgy. It states "care should be taken to foster the role of Latin in the Liturgy, particularly in liturgical song."

Based on the above, I would like to offer two observations: 1) Vatican II very much wanted to continue the use of Latin in the liturgy; 2) the use of Latin was specifically envisioned in the context of liturgical song. In other words, I believe the Council Fathers did not want to abandon our rich tradition of Gregorian chant. Why? That is a question to be examined in next week's reflection.

—Glen Segger, Music Director

### \*\*\*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.

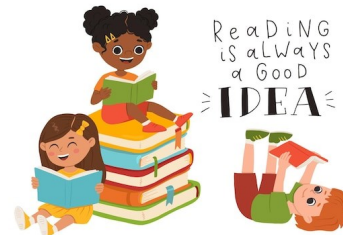
St. Peter School exists to provide a nurturing environment where students become Disciples of Jesus Christ, embrace the love of lifelong learning, and believe in the dignity of all people.

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.

Our Read-A-Thon Fundraiser begins in about a week or so. We look forward to watching our students grow their love of reading! It is a time for them to try out new reading genres and broaden their horizons.

Have a blessed week!

—Mrs. Mary Lou Torre, Principal



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

#### Confirmation Forms

#### Formularios de confirmación

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

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

For more information about our Religious Education program and registration information visit us at <https://stpeterdanb.org/> you will find more information under Faith Formation.

Para obtener más información sobre nuestro programa de Educación Religiosa e información de registro, visítenos en <https://stpeterdanb.org/> encontrará más información en Formación de Fe

#### 2024 Calendar

#### February

25 – Class 16

#### March

3—Class 17

6-8—Sign-up opens for Confirmation

Candidates saint interview

9 – First Reconciliation/

Parent Meeting

10 – Class 18

17 – Class 19

24 – Class 20

31—Easter No Class

—Barbara Siano, Director of Religious Education

St. Peter Parish Choir  
Glen Segger, organ

7  
at Seven

March 8, 2024  
7:00 pm

Franz Liszt

Via Crucis



*We offer our condolences to the family of*

***Helen Feeney***

*who passed away last week*

The Murphy Center for  
**IGNATIAN**  
SPIRITUALITY  
of Fairfield University

#### **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.

There are three lectures remaining March 2<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. The time is 10:30 AM to 12 PM. in the Parish Hall.



Our next Seven at 7 event will feature our Parish Choir singing Franz Liszt's "Via Crucis." This musical journey through the events of Christ's Passion will be presented during our Friday Stations of the Cross on March 8. Our Music Director, Glen Segger, will give a talk about Liszt's musical stations at the soup dinner preceding Stations. Come embark on a profound musical pilgrimage, journeying alongside Christ through the depths of human experience and the promise of divine grace.

#### **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 29 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.** in the **Parish Hall** is Episode 8: "Not Inevitable 'how salvation affects our free will and the choices we make'."

## 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. 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 1 Father Tom Davis  
(St. Ann Melkite Church)**

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



### **A PRAYER FOR LENT**

*Stay with me, Jesus,  
for I fear the darkness,  
the temptations, the dryness,  
the cross, the sorrows.  
O how I need you, my Jesus,  
in life with all its dangers.*

—St. Padre Pio

### **EL SANTO ROSARIO**

Sabado 5:00 a.m.  
en nuestra Iglesia

*Iglesia St. Peter  
Danbury CT.*



### **Teaching and Preaching the Gospel**

Your gift to the Bishop's Appeal supports the education and formation of young men like Fr. Férry Galbert in their preparation for the priesthood and beyond.

*"My experience as a newly ordained priest has been amazing. It has been such a grace, and a humbling experience, to see how the Lord uses me to touch people's lives. Academics, spirituality, human, and pastoral formation eventually became integrated as "one thing" by the time I became a deacon because you begin to see how everything is connected. However, I would emphasize that my human and pastoral formation in the seminary was very important for me because it taught me how to keep everything in a healthy balance. I also learned the value of fraternity and friendship, as well as the fact that spiritual fatherhood is fulfilled when we encounter the people of God and meet them where they are. — Fr. Férry Galbert, Ordained to the Priesthood May 2023*

**Make your gift to the Bishop's Appeal today!  
Visit: [www.2024BishopsAppeal.org](http://www.2024BishopsAppeal.org)**