



MASS SCHEDULE

Weekends

Saturday – 4:00 & 5:30 p.m.

Brazilian Mass – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday – 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 N

Spanish Mass – 5:30 p.m.

Brazilian Mass – 7:30 p.m.

Weekdays

Monday through Saturday - 7:30 a.m.

Monday through Friday -12:10 Noon

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Saturday - 11:00-11:30 a.m. & 3:00-3:45 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 before the Sacrament is celebrated. Classes are held on the second Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Rectory. Please pre-register by calling 743-2707. Baptisms will take place every Sunday at 1:00 p.m. except the second Sunday of the month.

Saint Peter Church, Danbury, CT

PASTORAL STAFF – 203-743-2707

Rev. Gregg D. Mecca, Pastor

Rev. John Perez, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Paul Merry, Resident

Deacon John Buchholz

BRAZILIAN COMMUNITY

Rev. Msgr. Pedro D. Diniz – 203-730-9071

FAX NUMBERS

Rectory: 794-1928

Rel. Ed. Office: 797-9471

School: 748-5684

EMAIL ADDRESS - office@stpeterdanb.org

WEBSITE - www.stpeterdanb.org

PARISH STAFF

Mr. Stephen T. Roberts, Music Minister - 203-792-1751

Dr. Nancy Engel, Children's Choir - 914-591-7541

SAINT PETER-SACRED HEART SCHOOL OFFICE

Mrs. Mary T. McCormack - 203-748-2895

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FORMATION

Ms. Joanne Durkin, Director of Religious Education

Grades K-9 - 203-743-1048

Chairman of Parish Council – Carmen Vendinha
203-743-1151

Chairman of Finance – Arthur Mannion - 203-778-4618

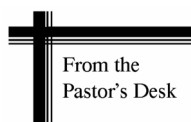
Prayer Line Coordinator – Peggy Heron – 203-748-5476

Bethel Healthcare E.M. – Betty Cyr – 203-743-7245

ST. PETER CHURCH, DANBURY, CT



FEBRUARY



2	SAT	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	4:00 PM † Andrew Sullivan
			5:30 PM † Susan Lynch
			7:30 PM Brazilian Mass
3	SUN	7:30 AM † Margaret Ward	9:00 AM † Geralda Figueiredo
		10:30 AM Our Parishioners	12:00 N † Rose Giumarra
			5:30 PM † Jose Almonte, Spanish Mass
			7:30 PM Brazilian Mass
4	MON	7:30 AM † Guido Cardinale	12:10 N † Rose Jackson
5	TUE	<i>St. Agatha, virgin and martyr</i>	7:30 AM † Etta and Helen Gossarth
			12:10 N † Eugenia Melvin
6	WED	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:30 AM In Thanksgiving to God
			9:15 AM School Mass with Ashes
			12:10 N † Souls in Purgatory - Ashes
			5:30 PM Liturgy of the Word with Ashes
			7:00 PM Spanish Mass with Ashes
			8:00 PM Brazilian Mass
7	THU	7:30 AM † Sr. Hildegarde Marie Mahoney	12:10 N † Theodore Carty, Sr.
8	FRI	<i>St. Jerome Emiliani, priest & St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin</i>	7:30 AM † Florence Maron
			12:10 N † Deceased of the Comacchio Family
			7:00 PM Stations of the Cross
			8:00 PM Spanish Stations of the Cross
9	SAT	7:30 AM † Sally Gereg	4:00 PM † Maria, Joseph and Rosa Miguel
			5:30 PM † Michael Scapeccia
			7:30 PM Brazilian Mass
10	SUN	7:30 AM † Mr. and Mrs. Americo Marcketti and Florence Drago	9:00 AM † Robert Boschert
			10:30 AM † Michelle Davis
			12:00 N Our Parishioners
			5:30 PM † Leida Banitez, 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 – \$9,520
Our weekly goal:..... \$10,500
 Thank you. Father Mecca

WE WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED
Edgar Gavidia Joseph Lyder Lucy Philipakos

KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH
*Santa Ayala Elizabeth Begert Ella Hennessey Don Lavalee
 Diane Lopes Mary Ann Lopez Art Mannion Joan McGarigle
 Ellen and Ed Minck Leroy Morgan Jay Murphy
 Lorenzo Paniagua John Scalzo Anthony Tartaglia*

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS
Annette Durkin

I'll begin the column this week with Lent. Lent begins on Wednesday. It is very early this year, and I think it is taking people by surprise. On Wednesday ashes will be imposed at the two regular daily Masses and, in addition, at 9:15 with the St. Peter-Sacred Heart School community and in the evening at 5:30 p.m. The 5:30 p.m. liturgy is a service, a Liturgy of the Word, with the imposition of ashes. We have scheduled Mass at 7 p.m. for the Hispanic community and at 8 p.m. for the Brazilian community. The clergy will be going to three senior housing complexes this year to conduct a Liturgy of the Word for those who find it difficult or impossible to come to church—Danbury Commons at 2 p.m., Palace View also at 2 p.m. and Bishop Curtis Homes at 11 a.m. It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway, Ash Wednesday is a day of fast and abstinence. Adults who fall into the age category may eat only one full and two light meatless meals on Wednesday. We have included a box in the bulletin outlining the Church's regulations regarding fasting and abstinence. Please take a look at it. We will be following the custom of praying the Stations of the Cross each Friday throughout Lent. Stations in English will be held at 7 p.m. followed by the Way of the Cross in Spanish. The Brazilians will pray the Stations on Wednesday evenings. The children from our campus (that is grades 5-8) will pray the Stations at 1:30 p.m. every Friday except during their winter break. Those stations may be led by the students themselves or by me, depending on my schedule. Either way, anyone is welcome to come and join the students in the afternoon. The distribution of *The Word Among Us* proved so popular during Advent, that we have ordered the Lenten issue for your personal prayer and meditation. In fact, we ordered 500, a hundred more than in Advent, since they went so quickly. We take that to mean you appreciate having a meditation aid. Please help yourself to one. We are happy to supply it to you.

Before we leave liturgy, I want to talk about the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes which is February 11. This year is the 150th anniversary of the apparition of The Blessed Virgin Mary to St. Bernadette. You may know that Pope Benedict has decreed that the faithful can receive a plenary indulgence during this anniversary year. There are two ways in which to receive remission of our time in purgatory. One is to visit Lourdes between December 8, 2007 and December 8 of this year. The other way is to perform some pious act of Marian devotion "in any church, chapel, grotto or other suitable place" in which the image of Our Lady of Lourdes is "solemnly displayed" between the Feast of the Presentation (Feb. 2) and February 11. The conditions for the indulgence further include that we make a sacramental confession and receive Holy Communion within a week of the devotion. The devotion must include the Lord's Prayer, a profession of faith and prayers for the intention of the Holy Father. In order to make the indulgence more readily available to our parishioners, we have scheduled a Marian devotion on the evening of the 11th. A parishioner has a two foot statue of Our Lady of Lourdes we can use. (The statue we have in the sanctuary is Our Lady of Grace.) While we haven't as yet put together the prayer service, I can tell you it will include the Rosary and Marian hymns, most especially, the Lourdes hymn—Immaculate Mary. Mark the evening of the 11th on your calendar. Next week I will be able to give you more information.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Looking back, last week's ministry fair was productive. It looked great. June Archer, in particular, was the driving force that made it come together so attractively. The attendance was decent but rather disappointing after the 4 and 12 noon Masses. Many of the people who came downstairs were those who come to the coffee hour anyway or who are already active in the community. But, on the positive side, some new faces did join us and we are grateful for their presence. I had the chance to meet and talk to people with whom I have not had that opportunity. That was good. Also good, almost every ministry received some names of people willing to lend a hand. When we counted all the signatures on the sheets there were 122. In addition, some people with skills and talents that I might describe as "outside of the box," meaning not specific to the ministries on display, offered them to the parish, giving us several ideas for programs. We created for the ministry fair a tri-fold pamphlet describing all our ministries and a prayer card. We thought of putting one of each in every bulletin this week as a follow up, but it would be a bit expensive to print 900. Instead, you will see them in the vestibule next to the pictures of the fair. We'd love for you to stop and look at them. A big thank you to all who joined us. Thank you to all who have volunteered. Someone from the ministries will be contacting you very soon. By the way, our "fabulous" door prizes went to Wally Kolek (Chuck's Steakhouse) and Ruth Pecoro (gas card). Congratulations to them both.

The 2008 Bishop's Appeal launches today. Entitled, "Living Our Faith," the appeal is the primary way in which most of the essential programs and ministries are supported. Our goal is \$110,000. That's a lot of dough, but we can be grateful because the assessments to parishes went up across the board. We were one of a very few parishes that did not receive an increase. We have a patron on the Priests Advisory Committee who spoke on our behalf, knowing that we have had to get ourselves back on our feet. We are grateful to him. In the upcoming weeks you will receive your letter from the bishop and pledge card. I implore *everyone* to act on it. If we all gave *something* we would make our goal and do so by June 30. Please keep in mind, that a gift to the Appeal is not a gift to the bishop or a referendum on his or my performance. It is a gift to the poor and hungry, to people who need affordable counseling, to students in our Catholic schools, to seminarians, to retired priests, to seniors who need housing. We ask you to help *them*. Think about it and try your best to make a pledge this year. Giving is an appropriate way to demonstrate your appreciation to God for His gift of Christ as well as for all the blessings in your life. In anticipation of your participation I say, thank you. We will keep you informed on our progress reaching our goal.

Lastly, on Saturday morning we blessed candles as part of the liturgy of the Presentation of the Lord. There are in the vestibule 3 and 5 inch candles available for purchase.

Fr. Mecca

Please remember St. Peter Parish when preparing your will. A legacy to the church eases your tax burden and helps continue the good works of our parish.

SAINT PETER-SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

Mission Statement: Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School is a private, Catholic School dedicated to developing a strong academic and spiritual foundation for all students.

Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School
Laying the Groundwork
For Tomorrow's Leaders
Birth-Grade 8

www.stpetersacredheart.org

Email: info@stpetersacredheart.org

Tel: 203-792-6194

Sacred Heart School
17 Cottage Street
Danbury
Birth-Grade 4

St. Peter School
98 Main Street
Danbury
Grade 5-8

REGISTRATION ONGOING

Mrs. Mary T. McCormack, Principal

Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School is seeking to employ long-term substitutes for the following positions:

- Language Arts Teacher – Grades 6-8 – February through June.

*Candidate must have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Education.

- Gym Teacher – 2 days per week – February through March – Grades K-8

- Art Teacher – 2 days per week – February through June.

Interested parties, please call Sacred Heart Campus 792-6194.

Mary T. McCormack, Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes this Sunday Grades K – 8.

Confirmation Parents---All students who are in 8th grade and preparing for Confirmation in the fall, parents must attend an important meeting next Sunday, Feb. 10th in the school lunchroom, at 10:15am. Please remember to come and pick up your information packets. Also the dates for the Confirmation workshops are: Thursday evening March 6th, Saturday April 5th, and Saturday May 17th. These are required for Confirmation, so please put these dates on your calendar.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion Grade 2--- Parents please mark your calendars for the 3 workshops on: February 23, March 15th, and April 19th. These will be held in the parish hall on Saturdays from 3:30 – 5:30 pm.

Confirmation Videos are in!---If you ordered a video of Confirmation in October 2007, please call the Religious Education office 743-1048 to arrange to pick up your video. If you did not order, but would like to purchase one, there are a few available.

*****PARISH EVENTS*****

Ash Wednesday Schedule
February 6, 2008

Masses with Ashes – 7:30 & 9:15 a.m. and 12:10 N
Liturgy of the Word with Ashes – 5:30 p.m.
Spanish Mass with Ashes – 7:00 p.m.
Brazilian Mass with Ashes – 8:00 p.m.

Community Concerns---will hold a **meeting on Tuesday, February 5, at 7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall.** All parishioners are welcome!

Thank you to St. Peter Parishioners---I am writing on behalf of the Department of Children and Families once again to express our heartfelt thanks for your kindness and generosity during the 2007 Christmas season. The staff at DCF looks forward to this time of the year and your altruistic giving truly shows what Christmas is about. On behalf of the Danbury DCF Office we wish you a very happy and peaceful New Year. Sincerely Toni More, Social Worker

Thank you, Fellow Parishioners---I would like to thank you for your generosity to the Hanahoe Children's Clinic with the gifts on the Angel Tree. The parents who came to choose gifts for their children were very appreciative of what we had for them and the wonderful toys and gift cards from St. Peter parishioners were an important part of our supply. Thank you for all your many kindnesses to the Hanahoe Children's Clinic and best wishes for a wonderful new year. Sincerely, Ann Hines, M.D.

*****OTHER EVENTS*****

Hands-On Introduction on How to Nurture the Spiritual Growth of Children with Special Needs---at **St. Rose of Lima School – Science Room, Newtown, Thursday, February 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Please RSVP to Michelle Grieco, 203-416-1502, mgrieco@diobpt.org or Pamela Arsenault, 203-426-2333, ext. 1. Michelle is the Director of the Ministry for People with Disabilities in the Diocese of Bridgeport. "My goal is to provide parishes with a welcoming, loving, and participative environment for those with special needs. My goal is also to support families and educate the parish community, so that we may recognize the gift of love that those with special needs represent to the community."

Healthcare Professionals---This year marks the anniversary of the **Fifteenth Annual White Mass in the Diocese of Bridgeport.** The White Mass will be celebrated on **Sunday, February 24, 2008, at 9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Church in Danbury** with Bishop William E. Lori as the main celebrant and homilist. Breakfast will follow at the Ethan Allen Inn in Danbury. The guest speaker will be Father Daniel Mindling, a noted Moral Theologian and Dean of Studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. His topic will be Plan B. If you wish to participate, please call the Rectory by Wednesday, February 13.

The ABC's of Parenting---presented by Families Network of Western CT, Inc. Parents and children are invited! Please join the 10-week program for parents and school-age children **beginning February 26, 2008, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 Noon** at 5 Library Place, Danbury. Call Rebecca at 791-8773 to register.

Adult Confirmation---Are you a practicing Catholic over the age of 18 who has not received the **Sacrament of Confirmation?** On Pentecost Sunday, **May 11, at 3:00 p.m.**, the Diocesan celebration of Confirmation for Adults will be celebrated at **Saint Augustine Cathedral, Bridgeport.** Diocesan refresher classes are offered on seven consecutive Tuesdays from **March 25 to May 6**, from 7-9 p.m. at Saint Luke Parish in Westport. Adult Confirmation information forms may be obtained from your parish office. If you require further information, please call the Diocesan Office for Pastoral Services: (203) 416-1440, or e-mail gdonnarummo@diobpt.org.

High School Teen Retreat---Danbury Emmaus is having a Catholic retreat for anyone currently in high school from February 29 through March 2, 2008 at the Seton Newman Center at Immaculate High School in Danbury. This will be a weekend one will never forget. Deepen or renew your relationship with God while you make friendships that will last a lifetime! We promise you won't be disappointed! For more information, please call Patrick Corbett at 203-746-9764 or Hilda DeLucia, 203-790-9040.

VISOS - COMUNIDADE BRASILEIRA

MISSAS

Todos os sábados às 7:30pm e aos domingos às 7:30pm.

CONVIVIO

A Comunidade Brasileira se reúne todos os sábados após a missa no Centro Pastoral Brasileiro, 61 Liberty Street, para jantarmos e socializarmos. Venha participar conosco.

CASAMENTOS

Os Noivos devem procurar o Sacerdote na Secretaria Paroquial, à 61 Liberty Street, 6 meses antes do casamento com certidões de Batismo e de Crisma. A data depende da disponibilidade da Igreja..

PASTORAL DO DIZIMO

Recordamos aos irmãos que o DIZIMO é também um Mandamento e tem duas dimensões importantes, entre outras: **A PRIMEIRA:** é ato de amor, fé, confiança e gratidão para com Deus; **A SEGUNDA:** é ato de generosidade para com Deus e para com a comunidade.

GRUPO DE ORAÇÃO CARISMÁTICO

Todas as terças feiras na Igreja às 7:30 p.m. iniciando-se com a oração do Terço.

GRUPO DE JOVENS ÁGAPE

Recordamos a tantos jovens da nossa Comunidade que, todo domingo às 5:30 p.m. acontecem, no Centro Pastoral, as reuniões.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Peter Calendar

Sat Feb 2	Youth Group Bake-Off Fund-Raiser. 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.
Sun Feb 3	Rel. Ed. Classes. Grades K – 8.
Tue Feb 5	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Music Room. Community Concerns. 7:15 p.m. Parish Hall.
Wed Feb 6	Ash Wednesday. Masses and Ashes at 7:30, and 9:15 a.m. and 12:10 noon. Liturgy of the Word and Ashes at 5:30 p.m. Spanish Mass and Ashes 7:00 p.m. Brazilian Mass and Ashes 8:00 p.m. NO Bingo.
Thu Feb 7	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Fri Feb 8	Stations of the Cross. 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in Spanish. 8:00 p.m.
Sun Feb 10	Rel. Ed. Classes. Grades K – 8.
Mon Feb 11	Finance Committee Meeting. 7:00 pm Rectory.
Tue Feb 12	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
Thu Feb 14	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Fri Feb 15	Stations of the Cross. 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in Spanish. 8:00 p.m.
Sun Feb 17	NO Rel. Ed. Classes.
Mon Feb 18	Parish Council. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue Feb 19	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Music Room. Men's Society. 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.
Thu Feb 21	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Sun Feb 24	Rel. Ed. Classes. Grades K – 8.
Tue Feb 26	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
Thu Feb 28	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Fri Feb 29	Stations of the Cross. 7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross in Spanish. 8:00 p.m.
Sat Mar 1	First Penance. 11:00 a.m.
Sun Mar 2	Re. Ed. Classes. Grades K – 8.
Tue Mar 4	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
Thu Mar 6	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

The Church gives us the following regulations for the Lenten Season:

* Fasting and Abstinence are required on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

* Abstinence is required on all Fridays during Lent.

Fasting is defined as eating during the day only one full and two light meatless meals. Eating between meals is not allowed, although liquids are permitted. All those between 18 and 59 years of age inclusive are obligated to fast.

Abstinence is not eating meat at all during the entire day. Everyone 14 years of age and over is obligated by abstinence.

Rita's Cuisine

15 Center Street

Tuesday through Sunday - 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Información Hispana!

Las Misas en Español son: Domingos a las 5:30 pm

Intenciones de las Misas:

Domingo 3 de Febrero: + **Jose Almonte X Dulce Almonte**

Grupo de oración en San Pedro todos los Lunes a las 7:00 pm en la Iglesia. Todos estan cordialmente invitados. El Señor Jesus los espera!

Clases pre-bautismales:

Los interesados en Bautizar a sus hijos deben estar registrados en la parroquia por lo menos por tres meses y deben ver al Padre John Pérez antes de recibir las clases y los padrinos deben ser casados por la Iglesia Católica y deben presentar el Certificado del Matrimonio al Sacerdote. Dios los bendiga a todos. Los bautismos seran programados solo los Sábados a la 12:00 M

La registración para el programa de CCD o instrucción religiosa para la preparación de los niños a los Sacramentos: se estan llevando a cabo en la Escuela de St. Peter a las 10 de la mañana.

El programa de RCIA o educacion Religiosa para los adultos: esto es la preparación de los adultos para recibir los Sacramentos de Iniciación (Bautismo-Primera comunión y confirmación en la Iglesia Católica. Las clases comenzaron el 23 de Septiembre en la parroquia. Las edades desde 13 años en adelante incluyendo adultos.

Las personas interesadas en anotar las intenciones de las Misas Pueden acercarse y solicitarlas en la oficina de la Parroquia de Lunes a Viernes de 9:00 a 5:00 de la tarde.

Toda esta semana del 28 de Enero al 1 de Febrero todas las escuelas Católicas estaran abiertas para todas las personas interesadas en poner a sus hijos en estas escuelas. Los padres de familia que quieran pueden darse una pasada por estas escuelas y hablar con los directivos y los profesores a cerca de los programas en dichas escuelas.

Hace tres semanas se han reanudado las clases de Ingles. Muchas personas se registraron para tomar las clases y casi nadie esta asistiendo a ellas, los dias y horarios de clases son asi par alas personas interesadas:

Martes en la mañana de 9 a 10 am

Miercoles en la noche de 7 a 8:30 pm

Jueves en la noche de 7:30 a 9 pm

Todas las clases son en el basement de la Iglesia.

Gracias a todos los que escucharon mi invitación a recibir las clases de Ingles y que ya han incrementado los grupos de clase y recuerden, esto es para su propio beneficio.

El Próximo Miercoles 6 de Febrero es Miercoles de Ceniza, estaremos colocando la Ceniza ese dis a varias horas.

Dios los bendiga.

