



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



MARCH

15	SAT	4:00 PM	✠ Corrado Scattolini
		5:30 PM	✠ Dorothy Sweet
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
16	SUN	7:30 AM	✠ For Peace in the Nguyen Family in 2008
		9:00 AM	✠ In Honor of St. Joseph
		10:30 AM	Our Parishioners
		12:00 N	✠ Rose and Salvatore Girardi
		5:30 PM	✠ Johana Sanchez, Spanish Mass
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
17	MON	7:30 AM	✠ Christine Melody
		11:00 AM	St. Patrick's Day Service - AOH
		12:10 N	✠ Souls in Purgatory
18	TUE	7:30 AM	✠ Josephine and Francis Paola
		12:10 N	✠ Ellen and Felix Needham
19	WED	7:30 AM	✠ George Gilbert
		12:10 N	✠ Angeline Cavagna
20	THU	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
		7:30 PM	Mass of the Lord's Supper
21	FRI	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
		12:10 N	Stations of the Cross
		3:00 PM	Veneration of the Cross
		7:00 PM	Spanish Veneration of the Cross
		8:30 PM	Brazilian Veneration of the Cross
22	SAT	8:00 AM	Morning Prayer
		8:00 PM	Easter Vigil
23	SUN	7:30 AM	✠ Msgr. J. N. Theriault
		9:00 AM	✠ Batazar Kinchalos
		10:30 AM	✠ Deceased of DeFazio Family
		12:00 N	Our Parishioners
		5:30 PM	✠ Olimpia Gutierrez, 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 – March 9, 2008 \$8,555
Our weekly goal:..... \$10,500
 Thank you. Father Mecca

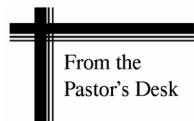
Please remember St. Peter Parish when preparing your will. A legacy to the church eases your tax burden and helps continue the good works of our parish.

BANNES OF MARRIAGE

Casey Ward and Linda Salamone

KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH

*Santa Ayala Jane Bedini Robert D'Andrea Diane Lopes
 Mary Ann Lopez Art Mannion Joan McGarigle
 Ellen and Ed Minck Leroy Morgan Jay Murphy
 Lorenzo Paniagua John Scalzo Anthony Tartaglia
 Isabella Valdiviezo Anthony Zarcone*



From the
Pastor's Desk

With this weekend Holy Week begins. Today we celebrate Palm Sunday, the commemoration of Jesus' entry

into the city of Jerusalem. With our early Easter this year there are few, if any, signs of spring. The temperature outside today as I write is rather cool—still in the 30's at 10 o'clock. I did not see the weather forecast for the weekend, but I am hoping that we will have better weather than last week's torrential rain on Saturday and bitter wind on Sunday. As I said last week, we were daring enough to have planned a procession into church at the 10:30 Mass this weekend with the blessing of palms taking place outside. As long as it is not too cold we will go ahead with it. Processions are not common any more. One reason I suppose is they probably don't appeal to modern tastes. Another reason is most parishes have Masses too close together to make time for one on Palm Sunday when the liturgy is already long due to the reading of the Lord's Passion. We are going to try a procession from the lawn alongside the church. If we start promptly at 10:30, I think we will be o.k. for the noon Mass. A procession on Palm Sunday can be traced as far back as the 4th century when the Church obtained its freedom. The faithful in Jerusalem re-enacted the solemn entry of Christ into their city holding a procession in which they carried branches and sang 'hosanna.' In Rome the early custom was to bless the palms in a church outside of the city walls and from there a solemn procession moved into the city to either the Lateran or St. Peter's Basilica. I read this week that the traditional Palm Sunday hymn, "All Glory, Laud and Honor," has its roots in the late 8th century. The hymn text was written by the Benedictine, Theodulph, Bishop of Orleans who lived circa 760-821-- another reminder of the antiquity of our liturgies. At all other Masses the palms will be given out before Mass and the Mass will begin at the church entrance with the blessing of palms and proclamation of the Gospel.

We'll stay on the subject of liturgy. This week we experience the most powerful and beautiful of all our liturgies. I encourage you to try to be present for as much as the Triduum as you are able. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday when morning Mass is not celebrated we will pray Morning Prayer from the Church's Liturgy of the Hours. On Thursday we will celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m. The Blessed Sacrament will lie in repose until 12 midnight. On Good Friday we have Stations of the Cross at 12:10 and the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion is at 3 p.m. The Vigil of Easter begins at 8 p.m. Because the Church allows for only one Mass on Holy Thursday and at the Vigil, our three communities will be together at those liturgies. This is a rare and good experience for us all. We see present the universality of the Church. Together we celebrate the sacred mysteries that give us life. We have prepared programs for these two liturgies which have the translations of the readings. No one from our three communities is being received into the faith or completing initiation so this year our Easter Vigil is made easy for me, the celebrant. I cannot say I am disappointed! Please note if you are a regular 4 or 5:30 Saturday Mass-goer, on this day only one Vigil of Easter is permitted and it cannot be celebrated before the evening. There are no early vigils. Do not come to church at 4 o'clock.

Monday of this week we had our Lenten penance service. We had a good crowd of people. Joining us were many individuals from the Hispanic community. Fortunately, Fr. Merry speaks Spanish and was here to help. Frs. Franklin and Petrucci from St. Joseph's came to lend a hand since, although Fr. Pedro had returned, he was committed to speak at a church in Waterbury. I know that as much as we priests encourage folks to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation well in advance of Easter, the fact is

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

many people wait until the day before. Anticipating that there will be lines, we are extending the confessions in the morning by a half hour and adding a priest in the afternoon. In sum, confessions will be heard on Saturday from 11-12 and 3-4.

Because of the date of Easter, our celebrations of the feast of St. Patrick and the Solemnities of St. Joseph and the Annunciation are thrown out of whack. These feasts and solemnities cannot be celebrated during Holy Week. You know by now that the optional memorial of St. Patrick was, accordingly, moved to Friday and the Solemnity of St. Joseph to Saturday. The Annunciation is transferred to Monday, March 31, the first day outside of Holy Week and the Octave of Easter. I saw my name in the paper this morning. The reporter called Tuesday afternoon, and I chatted with him while I was trying to pack my bag to go home. Since my head was at the time everywhere at once, it didn't occur to me that he might quote me until the very end of the conversation when I asked if he was writing an article. His focus was on St. Patrick's Day. I don't quite get the fascination, but every time St. Patrick's Day falls on a Friday the media is all over the question whether the Catholics will eat meat. And, the reporters assigned to the story are never Catholics themselves who, perhaps, might possess some rudimentary catechesis. No, they're clueless. I was attempting to give him the whole picture of why, since Holy Week's purpose is the remembrance of the events of the Lord's Passion, we don't celebrate other "holidays" during this period. I referred to St. Joseph's Day as further example. Good thing I stopped talking before getting into the Annunciation. Having said all this, have a Happy St. Patrick's Day!

This week we keep our eyes fixed on Christ. This is the week in which "Christ died for our sins and was raised for our justification. (Romans 4:25)." Jesus said 'yes' to dying for our sins. He died for love, not against his will or by accident, and was raised from the dead by the Father for our salvation. This is the heart of the Paschal Mystery, the heart of our faith. "We adore you O Christ and we praise you because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world." Fr. Mecca



*We offer our condolences to the families of
Rosemary Murphy
&
Mary "May" Sisson
who passed away last week.*

SAINT PETER-SACRED HEART SCHOOL

"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"

The crowds welcomed Jesus into the Holy City of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday so many years ago and here we are again celebrating yet one more Palm Sunday as we enter the holiest week in our church.

We at Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School join in this week with our students preparing them for a prayerful, solemn week. Yes, classes will continue as usual, meetings will be held because our joys, our works are all part of our prayer. This week however religion classes will focus on the gospel readings of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and of course Easter!

Our rock garden will be transferred into beautiful flower gardens on both campuses. The 'Living Stations of the Cross' will be portrayed by our 8th Grade students on Holy Thursday at 10:30

AM at Sacred Heart's gym. We invite you to join us in this hour of prayer.

Our school news at this time is wonderful. As of this writing eight of our Grade 8 Graduating Class have been accepted into Immaculate High School. Sincere congratulations are offered to the students' parents for this continued commitment to Catholic Education.

Our students of Grades 7 and 8 participated in Science Horizon's science fair. We congratulate our students and Mrs. Sniffin, our Assistant Principal, for her tireless effort in bringing such a wonderful addition to our curriculum. Saint Peter students have been participating for several years. This is the first time Sacred Heart students took part. Once again, we share with you continual striving of academic excellence at Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School.

May this Week of Holy Week be of prayer and peace.

Mrs. Mary T. McCormack, Principal

SAINT PETER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes this Sunday - All Grades.

Happy Palm Sunday!

****Please note: No Classes next Sunday, Easter Sunday.**

This is Holy Week---Children in all grades have been studying about Holy Week and the passion and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. We encourage all students and their families to participate in the special masses and devotions during this holiest week of the year. (Please see the church bulletin for the times for mass on Holy Thursday -Mass of the Lord's Supper; Good Friday services and stations of the cross, adoration, and of course Holy Saturday, he Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday.) Please do your best to bring them to church for all, or at least a few, of the special events of Holy Week. These are opportunities for parents to instill in their children the importance of their Catholic faith as a family. Participating in these events and the celebration of Easter makes a lasting impression on children, and will become part of their fond memories of family life and childhood.

Lenten Confessions this Sunday---Any child (in grades 3 – 8) who has not yet gone to confession with their class in preparation for Easter, due to absence, will be able to go today during class.

First Communion Parents---If you can help us with the Banner and photographs please call the RE office at 743-1048.

The next parent meeting is Sunday, March 30th, during class time in the school lunchroom. The topic is: Adult Education on preparing your child for the reception of the sacrament of First Holy Communion. Please plan to attend; 10:15 in the school lunchroom lower level.

PARISH EVENTS

St. Peter's Men's Society---is having its next meeting **Tuesday, March 18, 2008 in the Parish Hall at 7:30 p.m.** Annual dues will be collected at \$15.00. Note that if you bring a check please make it out to St Peter Church. All are welcome to attend.

Community Concerns Committee---would like to thank all those parishioners who participated in the Spare Change Collection. We

are able to divide \$785.84 between Harmony House and Interfaith Aids Ministry. Thank you.

We are looking for **volunteers** for the **Emergency Overflow Shelter** for the **week of March 24 through 30**. Please help us to provide the homeless a night inside during the winter. Please call Larry Morgan at 744-1082 for more information.

Women of the Parish...

**Save the Date...Sunday, April 20
Following the 10:30 a.m. Mass**



**The Women's Guild is holding its annual
Communion Breakfast at the Inn at Ethan Allen.
The guest speaker this year is Phil Gallagher.
Please plan on joining us...**

The Parish Council will NOT meet in March since the meeting falls during Holy Week. The next meeting is Monday, April 21, at 7:30 p.m.

Save the date---

**Saturday, June 14
St. Peter Church will hold its first**



Clean Sweep Tag Sale

The committee will be asking for persons to purchase spaces in which to sell their treasures. They will also be asking for gently used items to be donated for the Church to sell. All proceeds will go to St. Peter Church for capital expenditures. So begin looking for and collecting donations...

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

Saint Anthony Maronite Catholic Church, Granville Avenue, presents **"The Passion of Jesus Christ in His Final Days..."** on **Palm Sunday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the church proper.**

The Bridgeport Diocesan Choir presents **"The Seven Last Words of Christ"**, a sacred cantata by Theodore Dubois, under the direction of David Forbes McCaffrey, III, Diocesan Director of Music. It will take place on **Sunday, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cathedral of Saint Augustine, Bridgeport, CT.** Admission is free.

A special celebration of **Divine Mercy** will take place **March 30 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church Brookfield.**

Confession will be available after the singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Eucharistic Adoration.

How our ABA contributions make a difference---*Parish Finance Services works directly with our 87 parishes, pastors, Finance Councils and bookkeepers across the Diocese of Bridgeport to ensure the good stewardship of financial resources entrusted to their ministries.*

In 2007, parish financial controls and accounting procedures were reviewed by external auditors in all parishes. We now have basic principles for uniform controls over offertory and a new Parish Finance Manual is available on-line.

Our parish financial reports and underlying accounts have been redesigned consistent with not-for-profit reporting standards. We now have an innovative web-based uniform accounting and reporting platform to facilitate consistent and transparent reporting in all 87 parishes.

Your support to the 2008 Living Our Faith Annual Appeal offers funding for this critical initiative. Bishop Lori wants our parishes, as the heart of our Diocese, to be strong and to flourish.

This year, as much as 50% of all funds raised above our parish Appeal goal will remain in the parish to address much needed capital repairs and parish improvements.

To date: cash and pledges \$40,095; parish goal \$110,000.

If there is an abortion in your past that you need to make peace with, The Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Bridgeport offers **Rachel's Vineyard Retreats**. The next **retreat weekend** is **April 11 – 13**. For information call the retreat director at 203-218-0291 or email her at Jeremiah31v17@aol.com. Visit the website at www.rachelsvineyardbpt.com All inquiries are kept in the strictest of confidence.

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.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

St. Peter Calendar

Información Hispana!

- Sun Mar 16 **Palm Sunday.**
Rel. Ed. Classes. Grades K – 8.
- Mon Mar 17 **AOH St. Patrick Day Prayer Service.** 11:00 a.m.
Finance Committee Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Rectory.
- Tue Mar 18 **Children's Choir.** 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
Men's Society. 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.
- Wed Mar. 19 **No Bingo.**
Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Thu Mar. 20 **Holy Thursday.**
Morning Prayer. 8:00 a.m.
Liturgy of Lord's Supper. 7:30 p.m.
- Fri Mar. 21 **Good Friday.**
Morning Prayer. 8:00 a.m.
Stations of the Cross. 12:10 Noon.
Veneration of the Cross. 3:00 p.m.
Spanish Veneration of the Cross. 5:30 p.m.
Brazilian Veneration of the Cross. 8:00 p.m.
- Sat Mar. 22 **Holy Saturday.**
Morning Prayer. 8:00 a.m.
Easter Vigil. 8:00 p.m.
- Sun Mar. 23 **Easter Sunday.**
7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 N Masses.
NO Religious Education Classes.
5:30 p.m. Spanish Community
7:30 p.m. Brazilian Community
No Rel. Ed. Classes
- Mon Mar. 24 **LPI at St. Peter through Friday for Ads.**
- Tue Mar 25 **Children's Choir.** 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Thu Mar 27 **Parish Choir.** 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Sun Mar 28 **Rel. Ed. Classes.** Grades K – 8.
- Tue Apr. 1 **Children's Choir.** 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Thu Apr. 3 **Parish Choir.** 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Fri Apr. 4 **First Friday Adoration. 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon**
- Sat Apr. 5 **Confirmation Workshop.** 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Sun Apr. 6 **Rel. Ed. Classes.** Grades K – 8.
- Tue Apr. 8 **Children's Choir.** 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
Women's Guild. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
- Thu Apr. 10 **Parish Choir.** 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Sun Apr. 13 **Rel. Ed. Classes.** Grades K – 8.
- Tue Apr. 15 **Children's Choir.** 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
Men's Society. 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.
- Thu Apr. 17 **Parish Choir.** 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Sat Apr 19 **First Communion Workshop.** 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Sun Apr. 20 **Rel. Ed. Classes.** Grades K – 8.
Women's Guild Communion Breakfast.
11:30 a.m. The Ethan Allen Hotel.
- Tue Apr. 22 **Children's Choir.** 6:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Thu Apr. 24 **Parish Choir.** 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
- Sun Apr. 27 **Rel. Ed. Classes.** Grades K – 8.
Virtus Training Session. 2:00 p.m. Parish Hall.

Intenciones de las Misas:

Domingo 16 de Marzo: Cumpleaños Johana Sanchez y por las intenciones de Christian Sanchez int. sus padres

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 registraci3n para el programa de CCD o instrucci3n religiosa para la preparaci3n de los ni1os a los Sacramentos: se estan llevando a cabo en la Escuela de St. Peter a las 10 de la ma1ana.

El programa de RCIA o educaci3n Religiosa para los adultos: esto es la preparaci3n de los adultos para recibir los Sacramentos de Iniciaci3n (Bautismo-Primera comunión y confirmaci3n en la Iglesia Cat3lica. Las clases comenzarán en Septiembre en la parroquia. Las edades desde 13 a1os 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.

Todos estan invitados a celebrar el acto de devoci3n del Santo Via-Crucis todos los Viernes de la Cuaresma a las 8:00 de la noche en el Templo.

Quienes esten interesados en tomar cursos de Planificaci3n Familiar por favor dejar saber al Padre Perez, para mayor informaci3n.

Programa de Semana Santa

Viernes 14 de Marzo: 8:00 pm Santo Via-Crucis

Sabado 15 de Marzo: 8:00 pm Pascua Judia

Domingo 16 de Marzo: 5:30 pm Misa de Ramos

Jueves Santo: 7:30 pm Misa de la Ultima Cena

Viernes Santo: 9:30 am Oracion de la Ma1ana en el Basement

5:30 pm Santo Via-Crucis en la Iglesia

6:30 pm Adoraci3n de la Santa Cruz

Sabado Santo: 9:30 am Oraci3n de la Ma1ana en basement

8:00 pm Misa de la Vigilia Pascual

Domingo de Resurrecci3n: 5:30 Misa de Resurrecci3n

Dios los bendiga.

Visit...

**Rita's Cuisine
15 Center Street**

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

