

## 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](mailto:office@stpeterdanb.org)

WEBSITE - [www.stpeterdanb.org](http://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**



**DECEMBER**

12	SAT	4:00 PM	✠ Amalia and Nicola Casini
		5:30 PM	✠ Frances Ferguson
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
13	SUN	7:30 AM	✠ Grace and Pat Kearney and Ed Masten
		9:00 AM	Our Parishioners
		10:30 AM	✠ Marilyn Carrafiello
		12:00 N	In Honor of St. Lucy
		5:30 PM	Spanish Mass
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
		7:30 AM	<i>St. John of the Cross, priest and doctor</i>
14	MON	7:30 AM	✠ Richie Gustavson
		12:10 N	✠ Kathleen Gaughan
15	TUE	7:30 AM	✠ Edward Cardinal Egan
		12:10 N	✠ Bill Fitzmaurice
16	WED	7:30 AM	✠ Antonia & Saviriachy Emmanuel
		12:10 N	✠ Roberto Forlini and Elsa Forlini Kaltenstein
17	THU	7:30 AM	✠ Josephine and Francis Paola and Peter A. Herger
		12:10 N	✠ Gary Hoffer
18	FRI	7:30 AM	✠ Cathryn Costello
		12:10 N	✠ Souls in Purgatory
19	SAT	7:30 AM	✠ Ralph J. LoStocco
		4:00 PM	Our Parishioners
		5:30 PM	✠ Antonio Scalzo
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
20	SUN	7:30 AM	✠ Donald Pepin
		9:00 AM	✠ Blanche and Harry Barese
		10:30 AM	✠ May Gilhooly
		12:00 N	✠ Eva Mannion
		5:30 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.

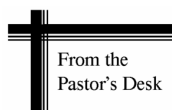
**SACRIFICIAL GIVING – December 6, 2009 ..... \$8,154**  
**Our weekly goal:..... \$10,500**  
 Thank you. Father Mecca

*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.*

**WE WELCOME THE NEWLY BAPTIZED**

**KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH**

*James Buzaid Nicholas Buzaid Eleanor Cassidy  
 Lynn DiPasqua Mary Anne Fortin Michael Gintoli  
 Michael Halpin Thomas Liddane Tony Murphy  
 Dr. James Pegolatti Kathleen Scott Isabella Valdiviezo*



I have not spoken about R.C.I.A. (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) in this space since the early fall when we put forth an invitation to the un-baptized and the baptized Catholics who haven't completed their Sacraments of Initiation to prepare for full initiation into the Church. I want to speak a little about the group that has formed and that will be entering into a new stage in their journey this weekend toward the Easter Vigil. We received a number of calls over the course of the last several months from individuals. A few requested Baptism but most of the individuals needed both Eucharist and Confirmation. We invited everyone to our "Inquiry" sessions which we held on Sundays at 11 o'clock in the rectory. Some came; others never did. The first stage of the R.C.I.A. process is called the Inquiry. It is intended to do what the title suggests, that is, give people an opportunity to ask more about the faith and the R.C.I.A. process and decide whether they are ready and willing to make the commitment to be better formed in the faith and be fully received into it. Our R.C.I.A. team, consisting of Deacon John, Louann Daragan, Yvette Lessard, and me, met with the men and women each week. The hour long sessions have consisted of prayer, reflection on Scripture and an element of our faith, and faith sharing.

Six individuals have committed themselves to the journey. Four are baptized Catholics and one is a baptized Lutheran. They are called Candidates. The fifth person is un-baptized. She is a Catechumen. During Advent, Catechumens and Candidates undergo the first of the formal rites involved in the R.C.I.A., The Rite of Acceptance. We will perform this rite today at the 10:30 Mass. In it we present them with the Gospels and sign them with the cross on the forehead. Beginning today and continuing through the Easter Vigil, these six individuals will attend the 10:30 Mass but will be dismissed after the Liturgy of the Word. They will go downstairs to the parish hall where they will do what they have already been doing except that, having been together at the same Mass, they can use the homily they heard as part of their reflection of what God's Word has to say to them. In religious jargon this process is called "breaking open the Word."

The method of instruction we have chosen for the R.C.I.A. is a hybrid of sorts. There are two models for the R.C.I.A. One is Lectionary based. By that it is meant that the "lesson" for the day comes organically from the Scriptures proclaimed that Sunday. Those leading the conversation bring to bear the dogma that corresponds with what is contained in the Scriptures. The other model is Catechism based, using the structure of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* which was published in 1994. That model needs no explanation. Many of us learned our dogma that way as children. Those who learned the faith before the 1960s, when, I think, textbooks with pictures and the like first made it on the scene, had basic question and answer catechism texts. There are advantages to each model. The former is better suited for adult learners, but its coverage of topics may not be as inclusive as the latter. We like and will use elements of both, but our approach will be more heavily based on the Lectionary model.

Although some of the men and women Candidates have been members of our parish, one for a very long time, I want to welcome all of them to our family of faith. We will be praying for

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

them throughout the year in our Intercessions at Mass. Please keep them in your personal prayers as well.

When I signed off on the envelope contract this week, I was reminded that the new envelopes will arrive at your home sometime before January 1. They will not look substantially different than what you currently have. We could have used this opportunity to create or adopt any number of designs for ourselves, but we kept it simple. Although we saw some very lovely artwork as possibilities for the face of the envelopes, we thought it better for you and our "countesses" not to have to turn it over to mark your offering. We continued with our longstanding pen and ink sketch of the church which appears on the bulletin. In that way there is some cohesiveness to our various printed materials. The biggest change, as I wrote before, is the color of the weekly envelope. It will be white with a blue border and not pink. The monthly offering will be a shade of yellow and the parking lot offering green. May I request that you pay attention to your envelopes when you receive them to be sure that your information is correct. We assume that the file transferred without corruption to Our Sunday Visitor, but you just never know. Please phone in any errors you find to Carol who can get the corrections to the company. You will receive two months worth of envelopes. As I mentioned once before, we had the option of a monthly or bi-monthly mailing. We went with the latter.

On the topic of offerings, this weekend is the national collection for retired Women and Men Religious. The Conference of Bishops added this collection years back as the costs for caring for retired sisters, brothers and priests was straining religious communities beyond their means. Without younger sisters and brothers bringing in income the communities couldn't take care of the elderly. This parish has avoided passing the basket more than once except on the third Sunday for the parking lot collection. Parishioners know to place monthly and special collection envelopes in the basket together. If you are not an envelope user and would like to make a gift to the retired Religious you can place your offering next week in a plain envelope and mark it accordingly and our "countesses" will make sure it goes into the right fund.

I received a letter from a parishioner who did not sign his/her name regarding the difficulty parking in our lot for the 12:10 Mass. He/She writes: *"The church parking lot is being used more and more by others and we parishioners who are mostly seniors must walk farther and farther from the church in order to park."* It is 11:32 right now on Thursday and I can see a portion of the upper parking lot from the office window. It appears completely full of cars, including the handicap spaces. I can't imagine Mass-goers are here this early; rather, people doing business on Main Street are occupying the spaces. The fact that our own people can't park near the church entrance does get under my skin. We are unfortunate in that our property is not like that of other parishes whose lots are side by side with their churches and, frankly, in places where no one is interested in parking. We also live with a right of access with the Salvation Army to their loading dock. We cannot, therefore, put a gate or chain across the entrance. I have considered many a time doing just that across the upper portion of the lot. The difficulty there is that it needs to be someone's responsibility to draw it close after everyone in the morning and then be around to reopen it for noon Mass and funerals. How do you catch it at just the right time when we are all out but shoppers haven't yet begun to arrive? What about when a parishioner leaves her car in the lot while she shares a ride with

another parishioner to breakfast? Do we lock her in and then go over and let her out? That's a pain. It's a conundrum. The writer suggested signs prohibiting non-parishioners from parking. There were some there originally. I will see to new signs to disprohibit parking in the morning and overnight, warning people we will tow, especially when we have to plow snow. But I don't have much confidence in people in our society today to obey it.

A few weeks ago the Bishop's secretary called to say Bishop Lori would like to celebrate Mass here on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Bishop Lori makes it a practice to visit parishes throughout the year. We are welcoming him at the 10:30 Mass. Even if that is not the Mass you regularly attend, you might want to switch to be present with the Bishop.

Remember, Monday evening is our parish Penance Service. We will have plenty of priests available to hear confessions so the lines should move along. Penance services remind us that we are all culpable and together seek forgiveness, healing, and rejuvenation in the Lord's merciful love. Our Christmas schedule has made its appearance. There are Confessions scheduled for Christmas Eve for those who just have to wait for the last minute, but please consider coming on Monday.

Lastly, Mrs. Bukowski's eighth grade Confirmation class asked as a community service project to have a bake sale after the Sunday morning Masses. They have chosen the Dorothy Day House as the recipient of the proceeds. It's good to see the young people interested in the needs of the less fortunate. We have another occasion to indulge our sweet tooth and assist a worthy cause.

Fr. Mecca



*We offer our condolences to the family of*

*Rose Bosco  
who passed away last week.*

### \*\*\*SAINT PETER-SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS\*\*\*

Wednesday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m. on the Sacred Heart Campus Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School will present their Christmas Pageant. All are welcome to attend.

### \*\*\*SAINT PETER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION\*\*\*

#### **Classes this Sunday K – 8**

**Advent Confessions continue today**---All children in grades 3 – 8 (who have already celebrated First Reconciliation) who did not get to go to confession last Sunday will be able to go today. We will have 2 priests: one in the chapel on the third floor, and one in the nurse's office, main floor.

**Class Christmas Parties next Sunday!!!**---**Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> all children will attend the 9 am Children's Mass** and then will go down to the parish all for their class Christmas parties. Don't forget to bring something to share with your class (cookie, juice, etc.) No need to bring books next Sunday. Please look for your teacher and sit with your class in church. Each class will have a table in the parish hall for the party. Only parents of Kindergarten and First grade can stay for the party because of limits on number of people in the hall.

## DECEMBER 13, 2009

**High School Students' R.C.I.A.**---Class meets today. All students registered for this class will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the school from 10am – 12 noon.

**Christmas Eve Pageant**---There will be a rehearsal for all those children who want to be in the Christmas Eve nativity procession at the 4 PM mass on Christmas Eve. The dress rehearsal is in church on Wed. evening, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. We have a few costumes left, so please call the Rel Ed office this week if you need one. 743-1048

**Snow Cancellation Information 2009/10**---In the event that we have to cancel classes due to bad weather this winter, please check the following radio or TV stations on Saturday evenings or Sunday mornings.

**Stations:** Radio: **WLAD 800 AM** on the dial  
TV: **Channel 3** WSFB-TV  
**Channel 6** NBC – 30

There will also be a message on the office answering machine.

### \*\*\*PARISH EVENTS\*\*\*

#### *Advent Penance Service*

*This Monday, December 14, at 7:30 p.m.*

**December's Morning of Reflection**---will be held on **Friday, December 18 from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Parish Hall.** The topic is **"The Incarnation"**. In this Advent season as we prepare for Christmas we will look at the mystery of God-made-man through the lens of Scripture and Tradition. Join us for a quieting time during this hectic season.

**Men's Society**---will meet **in the Parish Hall this Tuesday, December 15, at 7:30 p.m.** All men of the parish are invited to join.

### *Christmas Schedule*

#### **Confessions:**

Saturday, Dec. 19, 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Dec. 24, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

#### **Christmas Vigil Masses:**

4:00 p.m. Children's Liturgy (Children's Choir)  
5:30 p.m. Organ and Cantor, Traditional Carols  
5:30 p.m. Spanish Liturgy – Parish Hall  
7:30 p.m. Brazilian Liturgy  
11:30 p.m. Traditional Carols and Seasonal Music  
12:00 Midnight Organ and Choir

#### **Christmas Day Masses:**

8:00 a.m. Organ and Brass  
10:00 a.m. Organ, Choir and Brass  
12:00 Noon Organ and Brass  
5:30 p.m. Spanish Liturgy  
7:30 p.m. Brazilian Liturgy

**Spiritual Direction**---is one means of deepening our relationship with God. A director walks the faith journey with you. It helps people tend a deep connection with the Holy, and it has been a suggested spiritual practice for over 300 years by such spiritual masters as St. Ignatius of Loyola, St. Theresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, etc. Yvette Lessard is a trained spiritual director, and she will be at the Rectory on Thursday, December 17. Please call the Rectory if you would like an appointment to see if this would be helpful for your spiritual life.

To make reparation to God for sin, the **Ninevite Prayer Group of Reparation** meets for half an hour **every Tuesday after the 12:10 Mass.** Prayers are recited and the life of a saint who did reparation/penance is considered. The Book of Jonah proclaims, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be destroyed!" The Ninevites put on sackcloth and ashes and Nineveh was not destroyed. Come join the prayer group Tuesdays after the 12:10 Mass

### \*\*\*OTHER EVENTS\*\*\*

**Immaculate High School**---cordially invites you to its **annual Christmas Concert**, to be held on **Monday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the school.** Join us for an evening of beautiful Christmas music from the band, chorus, concert choir and faculty members to make your holiday complete. Admission is free and all are welcome! Please call 203-744-1510 extension 157 for more information.

**Healing Mass**---will be celebrated by Reverend Charles Allen, Jesuit, Executive Assistant to the President of Fairfield University, at **St. Philip Church, Norwalk, on January 7 at 7:30 p.m.**

### VISOS - COMUNIDADE BRASILEIRA

#### MISSAS

Todos os sábados às 7:30pm e aos domingos às 7:30pm.6

#### 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.

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### *St. Peter Calendar*

Sun	Dec 13	<b>Rel. Ed. Classes.</b> Grades K – 8. Confession
Mon	Dec 14	<b>Hispanic Prayer Group.</b> 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Dec 15	<b>Prayer Group of Reparation.</b> After 12:10 Mass <b>Children's Choir.</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Brazilian Prayer Group.</b> 6:30 p.m. Church. <b>Men's Society.</b> 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.
Wed	Dec 16	<b>No Bingo.</b>
Thu	Dec 17	<b>Parish Choir.</b> 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Sun	Dec 20	<b>Rel. Ed. Christmas Party.</b> Parish Hall.
Mon	Dec 21	<b>Hispanic Prayer Group.</b> 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Dec 22	<b>Prayer Group of Reparation.</b> After 12:10 Mass <b>Children's Choir.</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Brazilian Prayer Group.</b> 6:30 p.m. Church.
Wed	Dec 23	<b>No Bingo.</b>
Thu	Dec 24	<b>Christmas Eve.</b> Masses at 4:00, 5:30 p.m. and 12:00 midnight Music begins at 11:30 p.m.
Fri	Dec 25	<b>Christmas Day.</b> Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Sun	Dec 27	<b>No Religious Education</b>
Mon	Dec 28	<b>Hispanic Prayer Group.</b> 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Dec 29	<b>Prayer Group of Reparation.</b> After 12:10 Mass <b>Children's Choir.</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Brazilian Prayer Group.</b> 6:30 p.m. Church.
Wed	Dec 30	<b>No Bingo.</b>
Thu	Dec 31	<b>New Year's Eve.</b> 5:30 p.m. Mass
Fri	Jan 1	<b>New Year's Day.</b> Masses at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. & 12:00 noon
Sun	Jan 3	<b>No Rel. Ed. Classes.</b>
Mon	Jan 4	<b>Hispanic Prayer Group.</b> 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Jan 5	<b>Prayer Group of Reparation.</b> After 12:10 Mass <b>Children's Choir.</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Brazilian Prayer Group.</b> 6:30 p.m. Church.
Thu	Jan 7	<b>Parish Choir.</b> 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Sun	Jan 10	<b>Rel. Ed. Classes Resume.</b> Grades K – 8
Mon	Jan 11	<b>Hispanic Prayer Group.</b> 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Jan 12	<b>Prayer Group of Reparation.</b> After 12:10 Mass <b>Children's Choir.</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Brazilian Prayer Group.</b> 6:30 p.m. Church.
Thu	Jan 14	<b>Confirmation Workshop.</b> 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. In the Parish Hall.
Sun	Jan 17	<b>Parish Choir.</b> 7:30 p.m. Music Room. <b>Rel. Ed. Classes.</b> Grades K – 8.

### Información Hispana!

**Intenciones de las Misas: Los Domingos a la entrada de la Iglesia a las 5:15 pm**

**Los Videos de las Primeras Comuniones estan en la oficina de la parroquia, por favor pasar a recogerlos.**

**Atención: se necesitan nuevos Catequistas que sean bilingues para la Catequesis de los niños en ingles los Domingos en la mañana.**

**Grupo de oración en San Pedro todos los Lunes a las 7:00 pm en el basement de 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 Catolica 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 por motivos de conflictos serán programados a otra hora. Gracias

**La registración para el programa de CCD** o instrucción religiosa para la preparación de los niños para Primera Comunion y Confirmacion se estan llevando a cabo en las oficinas de la parroquia de St. Peter y la de ccd en la Escuela de St Peter, para mayor informacion favor comunicarse con la secretaria de San Peter Church. Ahora inscripciones en la Iglesia despues de la Misa.

**El programa de RCIA** o educacion Religiosa para los adultos: para recibir los Sacramentos de Iniciación (Bautismo, Primera Comunion y confirmación) en la Iglesia Católica. Las clases comenzarán en Septiembre en la parroquia. Las edades desde 13 años en adelante incluyendo adultos. Información con el Padre Perez. Ahora inscripciones despues de la Misa.

**Grupo de Jovenes:** La comunidad Hispana de Sanrta Maria esta invitando a todos los Jovenes a que formen parte del grupo Juvenil que se esta llevando a cabo en el Centro Parroquial (Basement de la Iglesia) todos los Domingos inmediatamente despues de la Misa. Padres apoyen a sus hijos para que estos aprendan a caminar con el Señor Jesus. El grupo esta en Vacaciones de Verano.

#### **Curso de Estudio Bíblico**

Este Domingo Julio 6 comenzamos el grupo de estudio Bíblico para todas las personas interezadas en tomarlo. El curso se lleva a cabo en el Basement de la Iglesia y es de 4 a 5 de la tarde. Todos estan invitados a conocer mas de Nuestra Iglesia Católica a la que pertenecemos y a conecer al Dios que amamos y nos ama. Esperamos nos acompañen en este nuevo evento. Gracias.

**El Viñedo de Raquel:** El Viñedo de Raquel es un programa que se esta dando en Nuestra Diocesis. Es un curso para las personas que estan sufriendo las culpas de abortos cometidos. Es un programa que es confidencial y todo es en secreto. Por favor busquen la sanación que el Señor quiere darles.

**Dios los Bendiga.**

**NO BINGO**

**UNTIL JANUARY 6, 2010**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
CONTINUED SUPPORT**

