

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/MARCH

21	SAT	4:00 PM	✠ Vincent J. Blodgett
		5:30 PM	✠ Peter A. Herger
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
22	SUN	7:30 AM	✠ Anne Blodgett Lorenti
		9:00 AM	Our Parishioners
		10:30 AM	✠ Rev. Joseph P. Donahue
		12:00 N	✠ Butch Melody and Joe Halas
		5:30 PM	Spanish Mass
23	MON	<i>St. Polycarp, bishop and martyr</i>	
		7:30 AM	✠ Ellen O'Connor
		12:10 N	✠
24	TUE	7:30 AM	✠ Joan Cizk
		12:10 N	✠ Dennis Beirne
25	WED	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
		7:30 AM	✠ Wendell Gallagher
		9:15 AM	School Mass
		12:10 N	✠
		5:30 PM	Liturgy of the Word and Ashes
26	THU	7:00 PM	Spanish Mass
		8:00 PM	Brazilian Mass
		7:30 AM	Special Intention
27	FRI	12:10 N	✠ Theodore Piontek
		7:30 AM	✠ Souls in Purgatory
28	SAT	12:10 N	✠ Buddy Marques
		7:00 PM	Stations of the Cross
		8:00 PM	Spanish Stations of the Cross
		7:30 AM	✠
1	SUN	4:00 PM	✠ Marilyn Carrafiello
		5:30 PM	✠ Rosemary Murphy
		7:30 PM	Brazilian Mass
1	SUN	7:30 AM	✠ Gene Bailey
		9:00 AM	✠ Lucy D'Souza
		10:30 AM	Our Parishioners
		12:00 N	✠ Gerald Martin
		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 – February 15, 2009 \$9,469

Our weekly goal:..... \$10,500

Parking Lot Collection – February 15, 2009..... \$3,576

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

Kayla Serrano Yamil Serrano

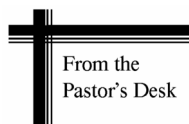
KINDLY REMEMBER THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Marion Aubin Eleanor Cassidy Lynn DiPasqua

Rev. Louis Dytkowski Mary Anne Fortin Michael Halpin

Lorraine Kain Thomas Liddane Tony Murphy Donald Ragaini

Kathleen Scott Isabella Valdiviezo Pat Waters



Lent begins on Wednesday. Someone said just the other day that Ash Wednesday seems late this year. As far as I'm concerned, Lent always comes around too early! I joke about Lent all the time because, like a lot of Catholics, I most associate this season with deprivation from my childhood experience. We had the worst meals on those Fridays during Lent. Unlike my Catholic friends' nice parents, mine would not serve pizza on Fridays. No, no, that was too much of a treat. Mother made lentil soup, pasta fagoli or fish. As an adult I eat and enjoy all three, but not as a child. I gagged on those white beans in the pasta fagoli. Those were painful dinners, and afterward we got into the car to go to church for Stations. I always like Stations, but my younger sister did not and would frequently complain. I'll never forget when at dinner she declared to my parents that she was not going because "it hurt her knees." I remember sheepishly looking up to see what my parents' reaction would be. (It was not nearly as bad as when on a Palm Sunday she announced she was getting married and the wedding would not be in church. I was at the table for that one, too. Everything hangs out at the dinner table for Italians.) Lent also meant a major cutback in snacking after dinner and candy until the appearance of the Easter baskets. On the brighter side, my mother, who is a big sweet eater (and always skinny as a rail) never completely eliminated desserts and always said Sundays were free days when you could eat anything!

Lent is not necessarily such a severe experience. In fact, I would say today most of us have a healthier outlook on Lent, seeing its more positive call to personal conversion. Lent is our collective retreat as a Church, we could say, a period of spiritual renewal preparing us for the celebration of our most fundamental belief that Jesus is risen from the dead. He is the God of life who restores us to life. We are called to be men and women of that new life we received at Baptism but sometimes mar by our sinful behaviors and attitudes. The three-fold disciplines of Lent—prayer, fasting and almsgiving—are meant to form us more in the image of Jesus' unselfish love. "What is the greatest commandment of the Law?" the scribe asked Jesus. "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind," Jesus replied and added, "The second is like the first: You must love your neighbor as yourself." We work on this commandment all year long, but Lent is a more intensive period of self examination and renewal.

There are multiple opportunities for spiritual renewal this Lent. We'll begin with the Sacrament of Reconciliation. You know the healing and regenerating power of this Sacrament in which we meet our Lord Jesus and receive forgiveness and Grace. The Sacrament draws us nearer to the Lord. Bishop Lori has initiated a "Confession Campaign" during this season of Lent in order to encourage all Catholics to come into personal contact with the life-giving power of our God. Included in our bulletin is Bishop Lori's pastoral letter, "Be Reconciled to God." Please take the time to read it. It is not a heavy theological letter. He writes plainly and directly and reminds us of the immeasurable value God's mercy has in our lives. Let me join the bishop in inviting all of us to celebrate this Sacrament of mercy, love and reconciliation sometime during Lent. We will, as with all parishes, have confessions every Tuesday during Lent from 7 to 9 p.m. I've been thinking that, because we are a multi-lingual parish, we probably should mark some Tuesdays particularly for confessions in one of

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

our three languages. I have not wanted to make a decision on that until I could confer with Msgr. Pedro. He has been in Brazil for three weeks on business for the Institute of which he is head. When he returns we'll talk about this. I'll then be able to tell you the schedule in next week's bulletin. For English speakers a schedule will not really make a difference since Msgr. Pedro and Fr. Perez can hear confessions in English. I'm limited to one language, however, and I don't think Fr. Perez would be able to hear in Portuguese.

Continuing on the subject of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we have placed the Lenten Confession card and the guide to Confession which the Diocese has printed by the door to the Reconciliation Room. Both are intended to assist the penitent who perhaps is unsure of how to go to confession or how to pray the Act of Contrition. The "Prayer for Fruitfulness of the Lenten Confession Campaign" is on the back of the card, and, in addition, we have printed it in today's bulletin. Perhaps during the weeks ahead we might pray it from time to time, requesting the outpouring of Grace from the Holy Spirit on all of us. Remember, confessions on Tuesday evenings begin not this week but next. Before I leave the topic, I should add that anyone who is reading this column at home or in a nursing home and would like to participate in the Sacrament should call the rectory and either Fr. Perez or I will make a date to come to you.

Our schedule for Ash Wednesday is printed here. There is an additional Mass at 9:15 a.m. with the students of the school that anyone can, of course, attend and a Liturgy of the Word at 5:30 p.m. We have arranged to go to Danbury Commons, Palace View and the Bishop Curtis Home for the imposition of ashes for those residents who cannot make it out to church. In addition, our homebound ministers will carry with them ashes all week and impose them when they make their regular Communion calls.

I made reference to the Stations of the Cross in the beginning. I encourage you to continue or begin this devotion in your lives with us each Friday during Lent at 7 p.m. Following Jesus through the events of his Passion makes us appreciate more his love for us. If you are retired, you may wish to join the students in the afternoon, but you should know that they use a more contemporary text geared toward the young that might not resonate with you.

In the vestibule throughout the season of Lent you will find envelopes for the Loaves & Fishes program. Organized by Catholic Charities, Loaves & Fishes invites us in charity to help feed the hungry who make use of our diocesan pantries and food kitchens. A traditional practice is to eat a simple meal once a week and contribute the difference of what we would have spent to provide a meal for someone else, but you don't necessarily have to do that. There are enough envelopes available that you can take one for each of the six weeks of Lent if you desire. I should point out that two programs here in town—the Morning Glory Breakfast Program and the Dorothy Day House of Hospitality—receive proceeds from Loaves & Fishes.

Lastly, our one evening parish mission with Fr. Lawrence Boadt, a Paulist Father and President of the Paulist Press will take place in two weeks on Friday, March 6. In place of the Stations, we will pray vespers, and Fr. Boadt will address us on the life of St. Paul within that context. Fr. Mecca

SAINT PETER-SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

Excitement filled the air on Valentine's Day knowing winter break was at hand. Saint Peter-Sacred Heart celebrated St. Valentine's Day by sharing in an ice cream social at Sacred Heart Campus. Our older students had great fun by remembering their "brothers and sisters" with special Valentine cards they made, as did the young students making cards for their "big brothers or sisters". A fun day was had by all.

As we prepare for the week ahead we want to leave you with some thoughts expressed by our 4th grade students' about Saint Peter-Sacred Heart School:

We learn about Jesus, and how we can learn from Jesus' teachings to become a better person.

We go to church together and pray to God.

We are a big friendly community which feels like we belong to a big family.

I was happy when St. Peter's and Sacred Heart became one school because I was able to make new friends.

The teachers are GREAT and they make learning FUN!!!

During these stressful economic times, let us share the goodness and love to all with whom we come in contact as did St. Valentine so many years ago. God be with you.

Mrs. Mary T. McCormack, Principal

SAINT PETER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

First Reconciliation---The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated for the first time by those children preparing for First Holy Communion in May. **The date is Saturday, March 21 at 11 a.m. in the church.** Please note – this is a change from the original schedule because of snow cancellation days, we wanted to give the children some extra time to prepare in their Sunday school classes.

First Communion Workshops---Please note the corrected flier that was sent home to parents regarding a time change in the remaining 2 workshops: Saturday, March 28, 2:30- 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 25, 2:30-4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Sorry for the confusion. Thanks you.

Reminder for Snow Cancellations---Please look on television stations, Channel 3 WFSB, Channel 8 WTNH, and Channel 4 & 6 WNBC on Sunday mornings if you think classes may be cancelled in bad weather. Or call the Rel. Ed office at 743-1048 and there will be a message on the answering machine.

PARISH EVENTS

Stop In... AND HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE 

Our monthly Coffee Hour, hosted by our Homebound and Eucharistic Ministers, is this Sunday, February 22, following the 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses. Join us in the Parish Hall.

Save the Date---

Friday, March 6, at 7:00 p.m. in Church
Vespers followed by a Presentation on the Life of St. Paul
by Reverend Lawrence Boadt



We offer our condolences to the family of
Joseph Sherry
who passed away last week.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

The church gives us the following regulations for Lent:

* Fasting and Abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are required for those 18 to 60 years of age.

* Abstinence from meat is required on ALL Fridays during Lent for all those 14 years of age and older.

Fasting is defined as eating, during the day, only one full meal and two light meatless meals. Eating between meals is not permitted, although liquids are permitted.

Abstinence is not eating meat at all during the entire day. Illness exempts everyone from these regulations.

Community Concerns Committee---will meet next Tuesday, March 3, at 7:15 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

The Diocesan initiative of the *Lenten Confession Campaign* which will allow Catholics to avail themselves to the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin next Tuesday, March 3. Every Tuesday every parish in the Diocese of Bridgeport will be open from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. and the Sacrament of Confession will be available. Confession is a wonderful opportunity to set aside our sinful ways and to draw nearer to the Lord. If you have been hesitant to come to the Sacrament or have been away from the Sacrament, this is a good time to reconnect with Christ and His Church. Pope Benedict tells us that this Sacrament is a "personal meeting with God, Father of goodness and mercy." So if you have been away from this Sacrament, come, "be reconciled to God"

Prayer for the fruitfulness of the Lenten Confession Campaign

O Father of Infinite mercy and compassion,
like the shepherd who searches for the lost sheep,
and the woman who looks for the lost coin,
You always seek us out when we sin that,
through the grace of the Holy Spirit,
we might be reconciled to You.

In the Holy Season of Lent,
draw Your people to the
Sacrament of Reconciliation
to experience the transforming joy
of Your Divine Mercy.
Let us know the power of
Your unconditional love
and the security of Your providential care.

Bless confessors so that they may be
your instruments in leading us
to true conversion of heart
and holiness of life.

Grant this through Christ Our Lord.
Amen.

Thank you, St. Peter Parishioners---Everyone here at ARC would like to thank you for your recent donation of clothing and toiletries for the special "Care Kits" we deliver to those in need in the greater Danbury area. We have packaged and delivered over 200

care kits so far this winter. Without your generous donation of items this month, we couldn't afford to meet this basic need in our community. Thanks to your generosity and kindness, we can continue to serve the homeless population in our region. One love, Rev. Phyllis J. Leopold, Executive Director

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

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford will hold a day or evening retreat on Ash Wednesday, February 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. The presenter is Sr. Elissa Rinere, C.P. The offering is \$30, which includes lunch or dinner. Information is available at 860-521-0440. Register online at www.holyfamilyretreat.org.

Healing Mass---Thursday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m. with Rev. Charles Allen, Jesuit, at St. Philip Church, 1 Father Conlon Place, Norwalk.

"White Mass" for Catholic Health Care Professionals---will be celebrated by Bishop William E. Lori on Sunday, March 22, at 8:30 a.m. at Saint Aloysius Parish in New Canaan. Breakfast will immediately follow at the Woodway Country Club in Darien. The guest speaker will be Edmund D. Pellegrino, M.D., Chairman of the President's Council on Bioethics and Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Medical Ethics and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at Georgetown University. His topic will be the new bioethical instruction of the Holy See, *Dignitas Personae*, posted now on: www.usccb.org/comm/Dignitaspersonae. This promises to be a very informative and interesting event. All are welcome. Breakfast tickets: \$25. For more information and tickets, contact Donna Schmidt at 203-416-1457 or email dschmidt@diobpt.org.

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. inciando-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.

SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Peter Calendar

Sat	Feb. 21	Food Pantry Collection. At all Masses.
Sun	Feb. 22	Rel. Ed. Classes Grades K – 8. Coffee Hour. Sponsored by the Homebound and Eucharistic Ministers. Following 7:30, 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. Masses.
Mon	Feb. 23	Food Pantry Collection. At all Masses. Hispanic Prayer Group. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall. The Book Discussion Group. 7:00 p.m. Rectory. Fr. Boadt's book <i>The Life of St. Paul</i>
Tue	Feb. 24	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Brazilian Prayer Group. 6:30 p.m. Church.
Wed	Feb. 25	Ash Wednesday. See Schedule below. No Bingo.
Thu	Feb. 26	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Sat	Feb. 28	First Communion Workshop. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Sun	Mar. 1	Rel. Ed. Classes Grades K – 8.
Mon	Mar. 2	Hispanic Prayer Group. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Mar. 3	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Brazilian Prayer Group. 6:30 p.m. Church
Thu	Mar. 5	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Fri	Mar. 6	First Friday Adoration. 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 N. Presentation on the Life of St. Paul by Reverend Lawrence Boadt. 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Famine begins.
Sat	Mar. 7	Youth Group Famine ends.
Sun	Mar. 8	Rel. Ed. Classes Grades K – 8.
Mon	Mar. 9	Hispanic Prayer Group. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Mar. 10	Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Brazilian Prayer Group. 6:30 p.m. Church Women's Guild. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Thu	Mar. 12	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Sat	Mar. 14	Confirmation Workshop. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Sun	Mar. 15	Rel. Ed. Classes Grades K – 8.
Mon	Mar. 16	Parish Council. 7:30 p.m. Rectory. Hispanic Prayer Group. 7:00 p.m. Parish Hall.
Tue	Mar. 17	Hibernian Mass. 11:00 a.m. Children's Choir. 6:30 p.m. Brazilian Prayer Group. 6:30 p.m. Church. Men's Society. 7:30 p.m. Parish Hall.
Thu	Mar. 19	Parish Choir. 7:30 p.m. Music Room.
Sat	Mar. 21	First Reconciliation. 11:00 a.m.

Información Hispana!

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

Atención: se necesitan nuevos Catequistas que sean bilingües para la Catequesis de los niños en inglés 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 están cordialmente invitados. El Señor Jesús 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 serán programados solo los Sábados a las 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 Comunión y Confirmación se están llevando a cabo en las oficinas de la Catequesis en la Escuela de St. Peter los Domingos a las 10:15 am.

El programa de RCIA o educación Religiosa para los adultos: para recibir los Sacramentos de Iniciación (Bautismo, Primera Comunión y confirmación) en la Iglesia Católica. Las clases comenzaron en Septiembre en la parroquia. Las edades desde 13 años en adelante incluyendo adultos. Información con el Padre Perez. No hay inscripciones hasta el mes de Agosto.

Curso de Estudio Bíblico

El curso Bíblico se está llevando a cabo en la parte baja de la Iglesia y es de 4 a 5 de la tarde. Todos están invitados a conocer más de Nuestra Iglesia Católica a la que pertenecemos y a conocer al Dios que amamos y nos ama. Esperamos nos acompañen en este nuevo evento. Gracias.

Para saber cuando se han cancelado las clases de catequesis por favor mirar en el canal 13 WFSB, canal 8 WTNH y los canales 4 y 6 WNBC los Domingos en la mañana y los días que haya mal clima y que usted piense que las clases pueden ser canceladas. También se puede llamar a la oficina de Catequesis al tel: 743-1048 y allí habrá un mensaje en la máquina contestadora

Durante el tiempo de cuaresma, se estarán escuchando confesiones todos los Martes a las 7 de la noche. En todas las Parroquias de la Diócesis de Bridgeport se oírán confesiones. Aprovechen esta oportunidad.

Dios los Bendiga.

Ash Wednesday Schedule

7:30 a.m.	<i>Mass with Imposition of Ashes</i>
9:15 a.m.	<i>School Mass with Imposition of Ashes</i>
12:10 noon	<i>Mass with Imposition of Ashes</i>
5:30 p.m.	<i>Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes</i>
7:00 p.m.	<i>Spanish Mass with Imposition of Ashes</i>
8:00 p.m.	<i>Brazilian Mass with Imposition of Ashes</i>

Liturgy of the Word with Imposition of Ashes

10:00 a.m.	<i>Danbury Commons</i>
1:30 p.m.	<i>Palace View</i>
11:00 a.m.	<i>Bishop Curtis Home, Danbury</i>

Stations of the Cross every Friday at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m.
Spanish Stations of the Cross every Friday at 8:00 p.m.

Friday, March 6 Vespers and Fr. Boadt at 7:00 p.m.

