

**Saint Peter  
School News  
December, 2022**

**Dear Parents,**

We are now preparing to begin the sacred liturgical season of Advent, a time to live and celebrate our re-encounter with God. It is a special re-encounter with a God who loved us so much that he came into the world as one of us. Advent is a time of conversion and hope. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis reminds us once more of the necessity to stay close to Jesus, most especially in prayer: "The Gospel of today's liturgy, the First Sunday of Advent, speaks to us about the Lord's coming at the end of time. Jesus announces bleak and distressing events, but precisely at this point He invites us not to be afraid. ... This is what he says: "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand". It is nice to hear this encouraging Word: stand up straight and raise our heads because right during those moments when everything seems to be coming to an end, the Lord comes to save us. We await Him with joy, even in the midst of tribulations, during life's crises and the dramatic events of history. We await Him. But how do we raise our heads and not become absorbed with difficulties, suffering and defeat? Jesus points the way with a strong reminder: "Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy... Be vigilant at all times and pray" "Be vigilant": *vigilance*. Let us focus on this important aspect of the Christian life. From the words of Christ, we see that vigilance is tied to alertness: be alert, do not get distracted, that is, stay awake! Vigilance means this: not to allow our hearts to become lazy or our spiritual life to soften into mediocrity. Be careful because we can become "sleepy Christians" – and we know there are many Christians who are asleep, who are anesthetized by spiritual worldliness - Christians without spiritual fervor, without intensity in prayer, without enthusiasm for mission, without passion for the Gospel; Christians who always look inwards, incapable of looking to the horizon. And this leads to "dozing off": to move things along by inertia, to fall into apathy, indifferent to everything except what is comfortable for us. This is a sad life going forward this way since there is no happiness... And let us add an essential ingredient: the secret to being vigilant is *prayer*. In fact, Jesus says: "Be vigilant at all times and pray" (*Lk 21:36*). Prayer is what keeps the lamp of the heart lit. This is especially true when we feel that our enthusiasm has cooled down. Prayer re-lights it, because it brings us back to God, to the center of things. Prayer reawakens the soul from sleep and focuses it on what matters, on the purpose of existence. Even during our busiest days, we must not neglect prayer. The prayer of the heart can be helpful for us, repeating often brief invocations. For example, during Advent, we could make a habit of saying, "Come, Lord Jesus"



Only these words, but repeating them: "Come, Lord Jesus". This time of preparation leading to Christmas is beautiful: we think of the nativity scene and Christmas, so let us say from the heart: "Come, Lord Jesus". Let us repeat this prayer all throughout the day: the soul will remain vigilant! "Come, Lord Jesus", is a prayer we can all say together three times. "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus", "Come, Lord Jesus".

**Confirmation**

We rejoice with our 8th grade students who will receive this special sacrament from Bishop Schlert on Thursday, Dec. 15:

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Jaysalynn Mendez  | Oscar Mingucha       |
| Miarelys Albino   | Ianthe Morales       |
| Zoe Alonzo        | John Oleas           |
| Jonas Batista     | Nathalie Ortiz       |
| Delayla Colon     | Aiden Peña           |
| Allison Diaz      | Moises Perez-Barajas |
| Jessica Dominguez | Leonel Romero        |
| Daniel Flores     | Daniel Zapata        |
| Ennybel Mejia     |                      |

**Confirmation Choir**

We are so very grateful for the beautiful singing voices of our students under the direction of Mrs. McCann who will enhance our special

Confirmation Liturgy:

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| Nicole Bueno (4)     | Emily Frias (5)      |
| Dario Carmona (4)    | Khalaya Johnson (5)  |
| Alejandro Cruz (4)   | Hadassa Perez (5)    |
| Cameron Merritt (4)  | Anaiah Pina (5)      |
| Naleigha Merritt (4) | Mia Rubio (5)        |
| Danilynn Muñoz (4)   | Nevaeh Sheetz (5)    |
| Abigail Tejada (4)   | Annalise Sierra (5)  |
| Grace Otto (4)       | Britney Martinez (7) |
| Xitlali Uribe (4)    | Jasmine Vargas (7)   |



**Diocesan Spelling Bee**

We are so proud of Milagros Solis(7) and Armany Julbe (6) who represented us at the Diocesan Spelling Bee at Sts. Peter and Paul in Lehighton.

**Mathletes**

We congratulate Mrs. Jones and her group of mathematicians who competed at the Mathletes competition at Berks Catholic High School:

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|------------------|-------------------|
| Jarieu Bah       | Jessica Dominguez |
| Madison Carrillo | Nathalie Ortiz    |
| Leonel Romero    |                   |



**Pancake Breakfast with Santa**

We will celebrate this on Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 until 1:00 in the Social Hall

It will be a day of pancakes, selling of small Christmas items, raffle of theme baskets, craft-making, face painting, and opportunities to have your picture taken with Santa.



**Christmas Show**

We hope you can join us for a simple Christmas presentation in our church on Friday, December 16 after the 8:30 mass.