

**Saint Peter
School News
January, 2022**

Dear Parents,

Blessings and God's peace be with you during this holiday season! As we reflect on the meaning of Christmas and the visit of the 3 Kings for the Feast of the Epiphany, I share with you a homily by Pope Francis about encountering and finding Jesus and how to keep our eyes open to the daily encounters He sends our way: "The light of God shines on those who receive it. Isaiah, in the first reading (cf. 60:2), tells us that that light does not prevent the darkness and the thick clouds from covering the earth, but shines forth on those prepared to accept it. And so, the prophet addresses a challenging summons to everyone: "Arise, shine" (60:1)... We also need to *shine*, to be clothed in God who is light, day by day, until we are fully clothed in Jesus. Yet to be clothed in God, who like the light is simple, we must first put aside our pretentious robes. Otherwise, we will be like Herod, who preferred the earthly lights of success and power to the divine light. The Magi, instead, fulfil the prophecy. They arise and shine, and are clothed in light. They alone see the star in the heavens: not the scribes, nor Herod, nor any of the inhabitants of Jerusalem. In order to find Jesus, we also need to take a different route, to follow a different path, his path, the path of humble love. And we have to persevere. Today's Gospel ends by saying that the Magi, after encountering Jesus, "left for their own country *by another road*" (Mt 2:12). Another road, different from that of Herod. An alternative route than that of the world, like the road taken by those who surround Jesus at Christmas: Mary and Joseph, the shepherds. Like the Magi, they left home and became pilgrims on the paths of God. For only those who leave behind their worldly attachments and undertake a journey find the mystery of God. This holds true for us too. It is not enough to know *where* Jesus was born, as the scribes did, if we do not go there. It is not enough to know *that* Jesus was born, like Herod, if we do not encounter him. When his place becomes our place, when his time becomes our time, when his person becomes our life, then the prophecies come to fulfilment in us. Then Jesus is born within us. He becomes *the living God for me*. Today we are asked to imitate the Magi. They do not debate; they set out. They do not stop to look, but enter the house of Jesus. They do not put themselves at the center, but bow down before the One who *is* the center. They do not remain glued to their plans, but are prepared to take other routes. Their actions reveal a close contact with the Lord, a radical openness to him, a total engagement with him. With him, they use the language of love, the same language that Jesus, though an infant, already speaks. Indeed, the Magi go to the Lord not to receive, but to give... Precious in the eyes of God is mercy shown to those who have nothing to give back. Gratuitousness! Gratuitousness is precious in God's eyes. In this Christmas season now drawing to its close, let us not miss the opportunity to offer a precious gift to our King, who came to us not in worldly pomp, but in the luminous poverty of Bethlehem. If we can do this, his light will shine upon us."

Honor Roll

We congratulate our students who received 1st or 2nd Honors on their first Report Card:

First Honors

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|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Maily Garcia (3) | Edlyannie Ortiz (3) |
| Rubi Sanchez (3) | Mariangel Polanco (3) |
| Rocky Taveras (3) | Legend Spradley (3) |
| Hadassa Perez (4) | Amaya Bruno (4) |
| Liliana Santiago (4) | Joxtiel Caraballo (4) |
| Annalise Sierra (4) | Amir Juarez (4) |
| Janellys Abreu (5) | Lisbeth Perez (4) |
| Viviana Cruz (5) | Tristan Santiago (4) |
| Ana Fria (5) | Alexa Torres (4) |
| Isabella Gonzalez (5) | Ian Ureña (4) |
| Jiovani Peña (5) | Juhesin Garcia (5) |
| Dulcemaria Ramirez (5) | Diego Ortiz (5) |
| Gianni Sanchez (5) | Saray Rodriguez (5) |
| Chris Yopez (5) | Gia Smith (5) |
| David Zavala (5) | Mael Vargas (5) |
| Gabriela Caloca (6) | Yarissel Peralta (6) |
| Juan Castañeda (6) | Isai Rivera (6) |
| Jenelsie Espinal (6) | Gabriela Rosas (6) |
| Mariana Jeronimo (6) | Javier Sandoval (6) |
| Britney Martinez (6) | Jovanna Zabala (6) |
| Tiffany Rodriguez (6) | Madison Carrillo (7) |
| Milagros Solis (6) | Allison Diaz (7) |
| Josander Tavaraz (6) | Ennybel Mejia (7) |
| Jarieu Bah (7) | John Oleas (7) |
| Jessica Dominguez (7) | Nathalie Ortz (7) |
| <u>Second Honors</u> | Rynez Otto (7) |
| Diangelys Garcia (3) | Moises Perez (7) |
| Maria Martinez (3) | Leonel Romero (7) |
| Monserrat Martinez (3) | Eryn Rivera (8) |
| | Angalie Sierra (8) |

Week Without Violence Art Contest

Congratulations to Mrs. Doney and her art students who entered an art contest in which they creatively created pictures of what a week without violence would look like:

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| Zoe Alonzo (7) | Dyamar Almodovar (8) |
| Jonas Batista (7) | Luis Alvarez (8) |
| Madison Carrillo (7) | Amayah Diaz (8) |
| Nicole Castro (7) | Kalob Diaz (8) |
| Delayla Colon (7) | Gabriella Gomez (8) |
| Jessica Dominguez (7) | Anthony Gomez (8) |
| Edwin Irizarry (8) | Alyna Guerrero (8) |
| Maxine Mayo (7) | Derick Mangual (8) |
| John Oleas (7) | Hillary Mogro (8) |
| Nathalie Ortiz (7) | Camila Pagan (8) |
| Aiden Peña (7) | Eryn Rivera (8) |
| Gabriel Tineo (7) | Angel Torres (8) |
| | Sahemy Ureña (8) |

Saint Peter School Book Club

Under the guidance of our wonderful librarian Mrs. Vida a group of teachers and students read and discuss specific books. It is a very nice sharing of insights by our members:

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| Mrs. Vida | Juan Castañeda (6) |
| Mrs. Serafoss | Isai Rivera (6) |
| Sister Anna | Tiffany Rodriguez (6) |
| Eryn Rivera (8) | Jaliyah Rosa (6) |
| Arianna Smith (8) | Jovanna Zabala (6) |

