

**Saint Peter
School News
March, 2023**

Dear Parents,

During this month of March, we continue our journey of Lent and our desire to grow closer to God. The school virtue we are working on this month is the virtue of "Love of God". Once we have a personal encounter with God, we cannot help but recognize his great love, tenderness, and deep care for each of us. This, in turn, propels us to love God and live according to his desires for us. This closeness to God is the strength we each need to have the stamina to face the challenges that arise. In his address to young people, *Christus Vivit*, our Holy Father, Pope Francis lovingly writes: "Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive! He is in you, and he never abandons you.

However far you may wander, he is always there, the Risen One. He calls you and he waits for you to return to him and start over again. When you feel you are growing old out of sorrow, resentment or fear, doubt or failure, he will always be there to restore your strength and your hope... Young people are not meant to become discouraged; they are meant to dream great things, to seek vast horizons, to aim higher, to take on the world, to accept challenges and to offer the best of themselves to the building of something better. That is why I constantly urge young people not to let themselves be robbed of hope... Jesus does not teach you, young people, from afar or from without, but from within your very youth, a youth he shares with you. It is very important for you to contemplate the young Jesus as presented in the Gospels, for he was truly one of you, and shares many of the features of your young hearts. We see this for example in the following: "Jesus had unconditional trust in the Father; he maintained friendship with his disciples, and even in moments of crisis he remained faithful to them. He showed profound compassion for the weakest, especially the poor, the sick, sinners and the excluded. He had the courage to confront the religious and political authorities of his time; he knew what it was to feel misunderstood and rejected; he experienced the fear of suffering and he knew the frailty of the Passion. He turned his gaze to the future, entrusting himself into the Father's safe hands in the strength of the Spirit. In Jesus, all the young can see themselves"... In the heart of the Church, Mary shines forth. She is the supreme model for a youthful Church that seeks to follow Christ with enthusiasm and docility. While still

very young, she accepted the message of the angel, yet she was not afraid to ask questions. With open heart and soul, she replied, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord"... Dear young people, my

joyful hope is to see you keep running the race before you, outstripping all those who are slow or fearful. Keep running, "attracted by the face of Christ, whom we love so much, whom we adore in the Holy Eucharist and acknowledge in the flesh of our suffering brothers and sisters. May the Holy Spirit urge you on as you run this race. The Church needs your momentum, your intuitions, your faith."

Sacrament of Reconciliation

During this holy season of Lent we celebrate and accompany our 2nd grade students as well as other students and CCD students who will receive this sacrament for the first time on Thursday, March 9th 6:30pm in church.

Sacramental Meeting--First Communion

There will be a parent meeting for the parents of children who will receive First Communion in May on Thurs., March 23 at 6:30pm in Church.

Creative Communications Poetry Contest

Many of our 8th grade students have been notified that their poetry will be published in *Creative Communications: A Celebration of Poets*. We congratulate the following students:

Miarelys Albino	Arlyn Hernandez
Zoe Alonzo	Jonathan Hernandez
Christopher Artilles-Colon	Maxine Mayo
Jarieu Bah	Arianna Mejia
Jonas Batista	Jaysalynn Mendez
Madison Carrillo	John Oleas
Nicole Castro-Ramirez	Nathalie Ortiz
Delayla Colon	Moises Perez-Barajas
Allison Diaz	Leonel Romero
Jessica Dominguez	Gabriel Tineo-Colon
Farran Gibney	Daniel Zapata

Kitchen Kapers Competition

We congratulate our students who shared their culinary talents with our school community and then moved on to the Berks County Competition*:

Armany Julbe(6)*	Erica Rodriguez-Rosa(7)*
Olivia Rodriguez (6)*	Gabriela Rosas (7)*
Jenelsie Espinal (7)*	Allison Diaz (8)
Isai Rivera (7)*	Ennybel Mejia (8)
Ianthe Morales (8)*	

At the County Level, Saint Peter's earned the following awards: Armany Julbe--1st Place
Olivia Rodriguez--1st Place
Jenelsie Espinal--3rd Place
Isai Rivera--2nd Place
Erica Rodriguez Rosa--3rd Place
Gabriela Rosas--1st Place
Ianthe Morales--1st Place

Mother/ Son Dance

Please join us for this fun event on Friday, March 10 from 7:00-9:00pm in the Social Hall. There will be food, games, and dancing.

