

**Saint Peter  
School News  
March, 2024**

Dear Parents,

We are now in the holy season of Lent and continue to try to draw closer to Jesus who is our constant source of hope. Jesus wants us to stay close to him and He empowers us with the inner strength and hope we all need to reach the joy of Easter. We all try during this season to take part in special devotional practices. In school we will take part in weekly Stations of the Cross for grades 3 through 8 every Monday at 1:30pm in church. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, continues to inspire us in his Lenten message: "If our celebration of Lent is to be concrete, the first step is to desire to *open our eyes to reality*. When the Lord calls out to Moses from the burning bush, he immediately shows that he is a God who sees and, above all, hears: "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey". Today too, the cry of so many of our oppressed brothers and sisters rises to heaven. Let us ask ourselves: Do we hear that cry? Does it trouble us? Does it move us? All too many things keep us apart from each other, denying the fraternity that, from the beginning, binds us to one another... God has not grown weary of us. Let us welcome Lent as the great season in which he reminds us: "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery". Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken... It is time to act, and in Lent, *to act also means to pause*. To pause in prayer, in order to receive the word of God, to pause like the Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbor are one love. Not to have other gods is to pause in the presence of God beside the flesh of our neighbor. For this reason, prayer, almsgiving and fasting are not three unrelated acts, but a single movement of openness and self-emptying, in which we cast out the idols that weigh us down, the attachments that imprison us. Then the atrophied and isolated

heart will revive. Slow down, then, and pause! The contemplative dimension of life that Lent helps us to rediscover will release new energies. In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another: in place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers. This is God's dream, the promised land to which we journey once we have left our slavery behind."

### 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 7 at 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 Thursday, March 21 at 6:30pm in Church.



### 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\*:

Nyleah Connor (6) *	Alessandra Castañeda(8)*
Armany Julbe (7)*	Tiffany Rodriguez (8)*
Valery Mendez (7)*	Erica Rodriguez-Rosa (8)
Jiovani Peña (7)*	Gabriela Rosas (8)
Olivia Rodriguez(7)*	Anabel Salvador (8)*
Karina Andrade (8)*	Rosemeydi Ureña-Linares(8)



At the Berks County level, Saint Peter's won the following awards:

Jiovani Peña (7)--1st Place  
Armany Julbe (7)--2nd Place  
Gabriela Rosas (8)--1st place  
Tiffany Rodriguez (8)--3rd Place



### Saint Peter School Book Fair

We will enjoy this wonderful event during the week of March 18. Our librarian Mrs. Vida will be sending out information.



### Mother/ Son Dance

Please join us for this fun event on Friday, March 15 from 7:00-9:00pm in the Social Hall. There will be great music, fun games, delicious food, and dancing.

