

Saint Peter School News September, 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to an exciting new school year!

Hopefully the summer months gave you some time for rest and relaxation. We look forward to a very promising school year filled with many successes. As a Catholic school, we strive to remain faithful to our mission of growing each day in holiness in all our encounters. We are blessed with incredible teachers who have embraced the mission of our school and wish to do all that is possible so each of their children grow in faith and achieve according to their own potential. In a recent address to a group of youth, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, called them to stay close to God and always persevere in hope in spite of failures and challenges—a call to resiliency based on faith in God and closeness to our Mother Mary: "It's wonderful to see you! Being together allows us to share the wonder that we are, even if just through a prayer, a look, and a smile. Indeed, we have all received a great gift, that of being God's beloved children, and we are called to fulfill the Lord's dream: to bear witness and live his joy. There is nothing more beautiful. Have you ever had an experience so beautiful that you couldn't keep it to yourself but felt compelled to share it with others? We all have this experience, an experience so beautiful that one feels the need to share it. That's why we are here today: to rediscover in the Lord the beauty that we are and to rejoice in the name of Jesus, a youthful God who loves young people and always surprises us. Our God always surprises us. Have you understood this? It is very important to be prepared for God's surprises! Friends, here in Venice, city of beauty, we live together a beautiful moment of encounter. Tonight, when each of us will be at home, and then tomorrow and in the days to come, where do we start to welcome the beauty that we are and to nourish — where do we start to grasp this beauty? I suggest two verbs, to start again, two verbs that are both practical and maternal: two verbs indicating movement that animated the young heart of Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother. To spread the joy of the Lord and to help those in need, she "arose and went". *Arise and go*. Do not forget these two verbs that Our Lady experienced before us. First of all, *arise*. Get up from the ground, because we are made for Heaven. Rise from sadness to lift our gaze upward. Rise to stand in front of life, not to sit on the couch. Have you thought, imagined, what is a young person who spends his or her life sitting on the couch? Have you imagined this? Imagine this; and there are several "couches" that take hold of us and do not let us get up again. Arise to say "here I am!" to the Lord, who believes in us. Stand up to welcome the gift that we are, to recognize, before anything else, that we are precious and irreplaceable....Acknowledge who you are and thank the Lord. You can say to him, "My God, thank you for life. My God, make me fall in love with life, with my life. My God, You are my life. My God, help me today for this, for that...Yet, often we find ourselves fighting against a negative gravitational force that pulls down, an oppressive inertia that wants us to see everything in a shade of grey. At times this happens. What should we do? In order to arise — let's not forget — we first must

let ourselves be picked up. May we allow the Lord to take us by the hand, since he never disappoints those who trust in him, but always lifts up and forgives...Once we have arisen, it is up to us to stay on our feet. First, we get up, then we stay on our feet, "remain" when we feel like sitting down, letting go or giving up. It is not easy, but this is the secret. Yes, the secret to great achievements is *perseverance*. It is true that at times there is this fragility that pulls you down, but perseverance is what carries you forward, it is the secret...Young person who wants to take your life in your hands, arise! Open your heart to God, thank him, and embrace the beauty that you are; fall in love with your life. Then go! Arise, fall in love, and go! Go out, and walk together with others."

Welcome, Mrs. Dawson

We warmly welcome Mrs. Dawson as our new 3rd grade teacher. Mrs. Dawson previously taught for sixteen years in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. We are so happy to welcome her to our Faculty. We look forward to her sharing her many gifts with her students.

Confirmation Preparations

Our 8th grade students, who will be receiving Confirmation, will attend a Retreat at HGA on Saturday, September 21 from 8:00am-12:00pm. There will be a special Rite of Welcome for our Candidates for Confirmation at the 4:00pm mass on Saturday, September 28.

Back to School Night

We invite all our families to come on Thursday, September 5 to meet our teachers and staff. We will begin at 6:30pm in the Church and then we will come to school for you to meet your child's teacher. We wish to see all of you at this meeting so we can all be united in your child's academic and spiritual journey. The class with the best participation will have an ice cream party.

PTO Meeting

Our first meeting for this year will be on Monday, September 9 at 6:30pm in school. We look forward to re-uniting with all our faithful members as well as welcoming new members.

Fall Family Bingo

On Saturday, September 14, we will have our fall family Bingo in the Social Hall. It will be a fun family day with nice prizes and selling of refreshments such as hot dogs, funnel cakes, and other snacks.

Skating Party

Our first Skating Party, a fun-filled family event will be on Thursday, September 19 from 6:30-8:30 at Skate-away on Lancaster Avenue in Shillington.

