

**Saint Peter
School News
November, 2024**

Dear Parents,

May you and your family receive many blessings during this special season of Thanksgiving. Cultivating and sustaining an attitude of thankfulness for the blessings of each day can be the secret to lasting and abiding joy. I am often inspired by the attitude of gratitude I see in our students for the special surprises of the day.

Keeping this attitude as our main focus helps us all become people of gratitude who appreciate one another and see the best in each other. In one of his General Audience's, our Holy Father Pope Francis spoke beautifully of gratitude: "Today, I would like to focus on the prayer of thanksgiving. And I take my cue from an episode recounted by the Evangelist Luke. While Jesus was on the way, ten lepers approached Him who begged him: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!". We know that those who had leprosy suffered not only physically, but also from social marginalization and religious marginalization. They were marginalized. Jesus did not back off from meeting them....He heard their prayer, He heard their cry for mercy, and He sent them immediately to the priests. Those ten lepers trusted, they did not remain there until they were cured, no: they trusted and they went immediately, and while they were on their way, they were cured, all ten were cured...And Jesus points out that that man was a Samaritan, a sort of "heretic" for the Jews of that time. Jesus comments: "Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" This narrative is touching. This narrative, so to speak, divides the world in two: those who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace...The prayer of thanksgiving always begins here: to recognize that grace precedes us. We were thought of before we learned how to think; we were loved before we learned how to love; we were desired before our hearts conceived a desire. If we view life like this, then "thank you" becomes the driving force of our day. And how often we even forget to say "thank you". ..To live is first and foremost to have received life! All of us are born because someone wanted us to have life. And this is only the first of a long series of debts that we incur by living. Debts of gratitude. During our lives, more than one person has gazed on us with pure eyes, gratuitously. Often, these people are educators, catechists, persons who carried out their roles above and beyond what was required of them. And they provoked us to be grateful. Even friendship is a gift for which we should always be grateful. This "thank you" that we must say continually, this thanks that Christians share with everyone, grows in meeting Jesus. The Gospels attest that when Jesus passed by, He often provoked joy and praise to God in those whom He met....We are children of love, we are brothers and sisters of love. We are men and woman who thank. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let us seek to remain always in the joy of encountering Jesus. Let us cultivate joyfulness. The devil, instead, after having deluded us – with whatever temptation – always leaves us sad and alone. If we are in Christ, there is no sin and no threat that can ever prevent us from continuing joyfully on our way, together with

many other companions on the road. Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope. The world needs hope. And with gratitude, with this habit of

saying thank you, we transmit a bit of hope. Everything is united and everything is connected, and everyone needs to do his or her part wherever we are. The path to happiness is the one Saint Paul described at the end of one of his letters: "Pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Thank you."

Student Council

We congratulate our newly elected leadership team and class representatives for 2024-2025:

President: Saray Rodriguez
Vice President: Janellys Abreu
Secretary: Angelis De Salas-Cordero
Treasurer: Jiovani Peña
Grade 8 Representative: Dulcemaria Ramirez
Gr. 7 Reps: Janelle Abreu and Amir Juarez
Grade 6 Representative: Nicole Bueno
Grade 5 Representative: Missael Fernandez
Grade 4 Representative: Gabriela Mendez
 We are most grateful to Mrs. Searfoss and Mrs. Cronan who will oversee the Student Council Activities.



Mission Representatives

In addition to installing our Student Council, we also installed our Mission Reps at that same mass. These representatives, under the leadership of Sister Margaret, will help promote awareness and response to local and global missionary needs. We were proud to install these representatives:

4th Grade: Elijah Castillo
5th Grade: Kayleeh Avila
6th Grade: Edlyannie Ortiz
7th Grade: Angel Vargas
8th Grade: Isabella Gonzalez



Berks County Spelling Bee

Nine of our students will soon compete in the Berks County Spelling Bee at Saint Catharine's. We are so proud of them and their coach, Mrs.

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Jackson: | Amir Juarez (7) |
| Armany Julbe (8) | Angel Vargas (7) |
| Dulcemaria Ramirez (8) | Nicole Bueno (6) |
| Saray Rodriguez (8) | Edlyannie Ortiz (6) |
| Adalis DeLaCruz (7) | Rocky Taveras (6) |



SPS Chess Club

We are so happy to announce that we are continuing with Chess Club. We are so grateful to Mrs. Fleig for providing us an instructor:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Olivia Benn (4) | Max Valerio (4) |
| Elijah Castillo (4) | Missael Fernandez (5) |
| Jackson Gallo (4) | Elijah Vergeon (5) |
| Braylon Laboy (4) | Malachi Brooks (6) |
| Gabriela Mendez(4) | Alejandro Cruz (6) |
| Joannie Menegildo (4) | Jorge Rodriguez (6) |
| Michael Rodriguez (4) | Rocky Taveras (6) |
| Yabian Soto (4) | Jotxiel Caraballo (7) |



Father/Daughter Dance

This 10th Annual event will take place on Friday, November 8. It is a fun and memorable evening of dancing and games for fathers and daughters.

