

**Saint Peter
School News
December, 2024**

Dear Parents,

We are now entering the sacred liturgical season of Advent, a time to live and celebrate our re-encounter with God. It is a special re-encounter with a God who loved us so much that he came into the world as one of us. In his most recent encyclical, Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, inspires us to live within the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I will share excerpts of this beautiful letter, *On The Human And Divine Love Of The Heart of Jesus Christ* throughout the year:

"'He loved us', Saint Paul says of Christ in order to make us realize that nothing can ever "separate us" from that love. Paul could say this with certainty because Jesus himself had told his disciples, "I have loved you". Even now, the Lord says to us, "I have called you friends". His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship. For "he loved us first". Because of Jesus, "we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us". The symbol of the heart has often been used to express the love of Jesus Christ. Some have questioned whether this symbol is still meaningful today. Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart...In this "liquid" world of ours, we need to start speaking once more about the heart and thinking about this place where every person, of every class and condition, creates a synthesis, where they encounter the radical source of their strengths, convictions, passions and decisions. Yet, we find ourselves immersed in societies of serial consumers who live from day to day, dominated by the hectic pace and bombarded by technology, lacking in the patience needed to engage in the processes that an interior life by its very nature requires. In contemporary society, people "risk losing their center, the center of their very selves". Indeed, the men and women of our time often find themselves confused and torn apart, almost bereft of an inner principle that can create unity and harmony in their lives and actions. Models of behavior that, sadly, are now widespread exaggerate our rational-technological dimension or, on the contrary, that of our instincts". No room is left for the heart..... If we devalue the heart, we also devalue what it means to speak from the heart, to act with the heart, to cultivate and heal the heart. If we fail to appreciate the specificity of the heart, we miss the messages that the mind alone cannot communicate; we miss out on the richness of our encounters with others; we miss out on poetry. We also lose track of history and our own past, since our real personal history is built with the heart. At the end of our lives, that alone will matter."

Confirmation

We rejoice with our 8th grade students who received this special sacrament from Bishop Schlert :

Valery Mendez	Diego Ortiz
Nathalie Buenano	Jiovani Peña
Nelson Carmona	Lindsay Piña
Ethan Colon	Dulcemaria Ramirez
Matthew Colon	

Angelis DeSalas
Viviana Cruz
Erik Fonseca
Isabella Gonzalez
Jaison Jordan
Xavi Martinez

Olivia Rodriguez
Saray Rodriguez
Mael Vargas-Paula
Joel Vilorio
Chris Yopez-Gutierrez
David Zavala

Confirmation Choir

We are so very grateful for the beautiful singing voices of our students that enhanced our special Confirmation Liturgy:

Gleisy Bueno (4)	Rita Ramirez (5)
Elijah Castillo (4)	Jesus Reyes (5)
Esther Corona (4)	Valerie Torres (5)
Joannie Menegildo (4)	Scarlett Bueno (6)
Gabriela Mendez (4)	Alejandro Cruz (6)
Ashley Polanco (4)	Yolenny Moronta (6)
Monica Ramirez (4)	Grace Otto (6)
Max Valerio (4)	Naiyaliz Rodriguez (6)
Jennifer Arevalo (6)	Khalaya Johnson (7)
Kayleeh Avila (5)	Diego Nuñez (7)
Zion Cooper (5)	Hadassa Perez (7)
Missael Fernandez (5)	Mia Rubio (7)
Samantha Martinez (5)	Jossanny Santos (7)

Mathletes

We congratulate Mrs. Jones and her group of 8th Grade Mathematicians who competed at the Mathletes competition at Berks Catholic High School:

Dulcemaria Ramirez
Saray Rodriguez
Gianni Sanchez

STEM Scouts

We are so grateful to Mrs. Kris Kerchner who faithfully continues this year with a group of students who meet weekly to learn specific scientific topics and do STEM Activities. Students in grades 3 through 5 were invited to participate and the members are:

Daniela Santiago (4)
Missael Fernandez (5)
Jaryleen Lantigua (5)
Samantha Martinez (5)
Iker Moreno (5)
Esau Pedroza (5=)
Danna Peralta (5)
Rita Ramirez (5)

Pancake Breakfast with Santa

We will celebrate this on Saturday, December 7 from 10:00 until 1:00 in the Social Hall. It will be a day of pancakes, selling of small Christmas items, raffle of theme baskets, craft-making, face painting, and opportunities to have your picture taken with Santa.

Christmas Show

We hope you can join us for a simple Christmas Presentation in our church on Friday, December 13 after the 8:30 mass.

