

**Saint Peter  
School News  
February, 2025**

**Dear Parents,**

As we enter the month of February, we celebrate the Virtue of Hope. It is our Monthly Virtue for February and it interweaves beautifully with the theme of the Holy Year just inaugurated by our Holy Father. In the midst of this, we celebrate Valentine's Day, a day when we show heartfelt appreciation for others in our lives.

This connects beautifully with Pope Francis Message in his latest *Encyclical on the Sacred Heart of Jesus*: "I turn my gaze to the heart of Christ and I invite all of us to renew our devotion to it. I hope this will also appeal to today's sensitivities and thus help us to confront the dualisms, old and new, to which this devotion offers an effective response. ... The pierced heart of Christ embodies all God's declarations of love present in the Scriptures. That love is no mere matter of words; rather, the open side of his Son is a source of life for those whom he loves, the fount that quenches the thirst of his people. As Saint John Paul II pointed out, "the essential elements of devotion [to the Sacred Heart] belong in a permanent fashion to the spirituality of the Church throughout her history; for since the beginning, the Church has looked to the heart of Christ pierced on the Cross"... Saint Bonaventure unites these two spiritual currents. He presents the heart of Christ as the source of the sacraments and of grace, and urges that our contemplation of that heart become a relationship between friends, a personal encounter of love..

.Bonaventure makes us appreciate first the beauty of the grace and the sacraments flowing from the fountain of life that is the wounded side of the Lord. "In order that from the side of Christ sleeping on the cross, the Church might be formed and the Scripture fulfilled that says: 'They shall look upon him whom they pierced', one of the soldiers struck him with a lance and opened his side. This was permitted by divine Providence so that, in the blood and water flowing from that wound, the price of our salvation might flow from the hidden wellspring of his heart, enabling the Church's sacraments to confer the life of grace and thus to be, for those who live in Christ, like a cup filled from the living fount springing up to life eternal". .. Saint Margaret Mary's account is powerful and deeply moving: "He revealed to me the wonders of his love and the inexplicable secrets of his Sacred Heart which he had hitherto kept hidden from me, until he opened it to me for the first time, in such a striking and sensible manner that he left me no room for doubt". In subsequent appearances, that consoling message was reiterated: "He revealed to me the ineffable wonders of his pure love and to what extremes it had led him to love mankind." This powerful realization of the love of Jesus Christ bequeathed to us by Saint Margaret Mary can spur us to greater union with him. We need not feel obliged to accept or appropriate every detail of her spiritual experience, in which, as often happens, God's intervention combines with human elements related to the individual's own desires, concerns and interior images. Such experiences must always be interpreted in the light of the Gospel and the rich spiritual tradition of the Church, even as we acknowledge the good they accomplish in many of our brothers and sisters. In this

way, we can recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit present in those experiences of faith and love. More important than any individual detail is the core of the message handed on to us, which can be summed up in

the words heard by Saint Margaret Mary: "This is the heart that so loved human beings that it has spared nothing, even to emptying and consuming itself in order to show them its love". This apparition, then, invites us to grow in our encounter with Christ, putting our trust completely in his love, until we attain full and definitive union with him. "It is necessary that the divine heart of Jesus in some way replace our own; that he alone live and work in us and for us; that his will... work absolutely and without any resistance on our part; and finally that its affections, thoughts and desires take the place of our own, especially his love, so that he is loved in himself and for our sakes. And so, this lovable heart being our all in all, we can say with Saint Paul that we no longer live our own lives, but it is he who lives within us."

**Sacramental Talk--First Penance**

There will be a meeting for all parents of students who will receive the sacrament of Penance this year on Mon., Feb. 3 in church at 6:30pm. Your attendance shows your commitment to share in the sacramental life with your children.



**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:

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|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Janellys Abreu    | Xavi Martinez         |
| Nathalie Buenano  | Valentina Ortiz       |
| Nelson Carmona    | Sarai Paniagua        |
| Ethan Colon       | Jiovani Peña          |
| Matthew Colon     | Lindsay Piña          |
| Viviana Cruz      | Dulcemaria Ramirez    |
| Angelis DeSalas   | Crisaily Salvador     |
| Erik Fonseca      | Gianni Sanchez        |
| Isabella Gonzalez | Mael Vargas-Paula     |
| Armany Julbe      | Joel Vilorio-Suarez   |
|                   | Chris Yopez-Gutierrez |



**Kitchen Kapers Competition**

Our students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade are invited to share their culinary skills by preparing various types of dishes. The winners of our school's local competition will then proceed to the Berks County CYO Competition on Feb. 8 to be held at ICA.



**Catholic Schools' Week 2025**

During the week of January 26-January 31, we celebrate the great gift our Catholic School. The CSW logo symbolizes the united community of Catholic schools – not a building or an institution, but people of faith serving God and others. No Catholic school can fulfill its educational role alone. As a community, Catholic schools are nourished and stimulated by the centrality of the word of Christ expressed through knowledge, service, scripture and sacramental tradition.

Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community is a theme on which to build a spirit of the gospel to benefit the human family. Please read the attached paper of our daily activities as we celebrate Saint Peter School during Catholic Schools' Week January 26 to January 31.



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

