

Saint Peter School News September, 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back to another year and the first school year for our Kindergarten children. Our teachers look forward to working with you to ensure that your child enjoys coming to school and that each student grows spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally. Pope Francis always spoke of accompaniment and we strive to imitate that in both our success and our challenges. I will soon start sharing messages from Our Holy Father, Pope Leo, but I wanted to share this hope-filled message from Pope Francis on his last address to youth: "Today, we too live in times marked by dramatic situations that generate despair and prevent us from looking to the future with serenity: the tragedy of war, social injustices, inequalities, hunger and the exploitation of human beings and the natural environment. Often the ones who pay the highest price are precisely young people. You sense the uncertainty of the future and are not sure about where your dreams will lead. In this way, you can be tempted to live without hope, as prisoners of boredom, depression and even be drawn to risk-taking and destructive behaviors. For this reason, dear young people, I would like the message of hope to come to you... Our life is a pilgrimage, a journey that pushes us beyond ourselves, a journey in search of happiness. The Christian life in particular is a pilgrimage towards God, our salvation and the fullness of every good thing. Our goals, achievements and successes along the way, if they remain only material, will, after an initial moment of satisfaction, still leave us hungry, longing for something greater. They cannot completely satisfy our soul, because we were created by One who is infinite; as a result, we have an innate desire for transcendence, a constant restless drive towards the fulfilment of higher aspirations, towards "even more". That is why, as I have often said to you, "looking at life from a balcony" is not enough for you young people... Dear young people, I am inviting you to set out on a journey, to discover life along the path of love, and to seek the face of God. My advice to you is this: do not set out as mere tourists, but as true pilgrims. Do not be like superficial sightseers, blind to the beauty around you, never discovering the meaning of the roads you take, interested only in a few fleeting moments to capture in a selfie. Tourists do this. Pilgrims, on the other hand, immerse themselves fully in the places they encounter, listen to the message they communicate, and make them a part of their quest for happiness and fulfilment. The Jubilee pilgrimage is meant to be the outward sign of an inward journey that all of us are called to make towards our final destination.... As we press forward, let us lift our gaze, in faith, to the saints who have gone before us on the journey, who have reached the goal and now encourage us by their testimony: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on, there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all those who have longed for his appearing". The example of so many saints, men and women, impels and sustains us. Courage! All of you have a special place in my heart. I entrust your journey

to the Virgin Mary, so that, following her example, you may be able to look forward with patience and

confidence to the fulfilment of all your hopes, even now, as you persevere in your journey as pilgrims of hope and of love."

Confirmation Preparations

There will be a special Rite of Welcome for our Candidates for Confirmation at the 4:00pm mass on Saturday, September 20. These students will also attend a Retreat at HGA on Saturday, September 27 from 8:00am-12:00pm.

Welcome to Mrs. De La Cruz and Sister Agnes

We warmly welcome Mrs. De La Cruz who will teach Art as Mrs. Moffatt has taken a position in Harrisburg. Sister Agnes will work part-time as a tutor in our Middle Grades.

Soft Pretzels every Wednesday

Once again this year we will sell soft pretzels every Wednesday for \$1.00 beginning on Wednesday, September 3.

Back to School Night

We invite all our families to come on Thursday, September 4 to meet our teachers and staff. We will begin at 6:30pm in 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 Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 6:30pm in school. We look forward to re-uniting with all our faithful members as well as welcoming new members.

PTO Fall Family Bingo

On Saturday, Sept. 13, we will have our fall family Bingo in the Social Hall. It should be a fun family day with nice prizes and selling of refreshments such as hot dogs, funnel cakes, pastelitos and other snacks.

Skating Party

Our first Skating Party, a fun-filled family event will be on Thursday, September 18 from 6:30-8:30 at Skate-away on Lancaster Avenue in Shillington.

Saint Peter School Spirit Night at Friendly's

On Monday, Sept. 22 our school will participate in a fundraising event which will also be a fun evening. Please join us between 5:00pm - 8:00pm at the Friendly's at 1535 Lancaster Avenue in Shillington. 10% of sales will be donated to Saint Peter School. We look forward to a fun time as a school community with parents and their children.

