

DECEMBER, 2022

ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Respect • Responsibility • Reverence



ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE was our November saint. We honored long-time supporters and parishioners Dr. Andy and MaryAnn Peterson, along with students of the month. These individuals each emulate St. Andrew's generosity, faith, and strength. Students honored for quiet leadership while being respectful and often doing what needs to be done without being asked were (from left, top) Sophia Rodriguez, Andrew MacKenzie, Dextyn Marek, (bottom) Holden Mejia, Bentley Watts, Eisleigh Barfield, Carmen Christison, and Lucas Navarrete.

Learn more about the Petersons on Page 4

Baked goods & learning: Good stuff!

Candice Barber's 3-4 grade class made bread from scratch and homemade butter: a class project that not only included lots of lessons and learning, but one which was also incredibly

yummy on a cold winter day.

"They put their fraction skills to the test and experimented with yeast," Ms. Barber said, noting some of the math and science skills taught through the project,

which included, perhaps the most importantly, the life skill of reading a recipe.

Students also related the class project to the body of Christ, learning about the Eucharist.

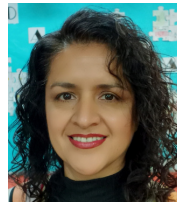


CALENDAR

- Dec. 6: St. Nicholas' feast day
- Dec. 7: PTO meeting at 6 pm
- Dec. 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Students will attend noon mass
- Dec. 13: Butterbraids and Scrip pick-up 3:30 to 5:30 pm
- Dec. 15: Students of the Month assembly after 8:30 am Mass; Christmas Program & bake sale to benefit the Baby Closet, 6 pm at Kirkpatrick Center (no after-school program)
- Dec. 18: Shepherders' Breakfast by Knights of Columbus, 8 to 11:30 am, benefitting SPCS
- Dec. 21: Pajama Day; Glove Drive ends; no afterschool program.
- Dec. 22: Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 4: Winter Break ends - classes resumes



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE HEAD TEACHER MIRTA DÍAZ



Dec. 12: The Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe

December arrives and wraps us around a blanket of warmth, hope and joy. I am reminded that when our family arrived in Ontario, we were not empty-handed, but had our Catholic faith and traditions packed together with our hopes and dreams.

For my family, this included the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The anticipation begins each late November as we prepare for the novena Dec. 3-12 to celebrate the apparitions of our Lady of Guadalupe.

During these nine days, the community of faith gathers to attend Mass, pray the rosary and finish the evening by sharing stories and laughter.

Dec. 12 is the longed-for day, a day in which we remember that in 1531, our Father sent Mother Mary to central Mexico, dressed in



symbols only our ancestors understood. The Aztecs called her Coatlxopeuh; "woman who crushes the serpent." The name evolved into Guadalupe.

With some celebrants dressed in their native hometown's clothes to remember that Mary chose

to appear before a humble man, Juan Diego, there is a procession with songs to praise our Mother and pray for her intercession. Cold weather cannot stop families of "Guadalupanos" from walking as we show our love and homage to our Mother. We return to the church to celebrate Mass, followed by a shared meal.

We remember our Mother's words to Juan Diego, and in him to us all: *"Listen and understand, my littlest son, let nothing frighten and afflict you or trouble your heart. Am I not here, I, who am your mother? Are you not under my shadow?... Am I not your health? Are you not by chance held on my lap?"*

Our mother's loving words seem to warm us. We know she will bring us to her son; our hope, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now you know:

The word "Catholic" was first used by Ignatius of Antioch around the year A.D. 110. It is from the Greek word katholikos, which means "toward the whole." Ignatius was suggesting that the Church is a gift offered by Christ to all people. The Catholic Mass is universal; the same everywhere!

Insights on benefits of Catholic education

"The first step in education is learning to recognize the Creator's image in man, and consequently learning to have a profound respect for every human being and helping others to live a life consonant with this supreme dignity. We must never forget that "authentic human development concerns the whole of the person in every single dimension, including the transcendent dimension, and that the person cannot be sacrificed for the sake of attaining a particular good, whether this be economic or social, individual or collective."

- Pope Benedict 16th, World Day Of Peace , 2012

The former pope's words explain one of the key reasons those who support Catholic education do so. Catholic schools prepare students to be faithful disciples of Christ through the development of the whole person – spirit, mind, and body - through spiritual and academic formation based on the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Following a unique set of principles, Catholic schools:

- Operate as communities rather than bureaucracies
- Incorporate spirituality into every aspect of the curriculum
- Teach that service to others is a basic tenet of the faith
- Are diverse and inclusive
- Have teachers and leaders who say they believe the ministry of Catholic education is a vocation or calling
- Are committed to academic excellence

Petersons honored for commitment

When Dr. Andrew Peterson and his wife, MaryAnn began to send their children to school, they wished there was a Catholic option. Working with a few other Catholic families in the area, they made their wish come true in 1979. their eldest child, Amy, started second grade in the newly formed St. Peter Catholic School. The Petersons six children and later, their grandchildren living locally, would attend the school which recognized the couple for their long-time support during the November Student of the Month assembly.

"It's hard to imagine what our school would be -- or whether it would even be here

-- without their constant love and dedication," said Fr. Joseph Thomas, C.S.T., our school's principal, noting the Petersons helped to ensure sustainability by getting the first Barn Dance organized.

The couple have often helped to fill a need over the years, whether it's MaryAnn answering the phone, serving as a "lunch lady," or washing windows. And, one might think the school had hired Andy as its groundskeeper given how often he can be seen tending to our campus with the seasons.

Please thank these parishioners when you see them for their selfless and consistent commitment to St. Peter Catholic School!