

MARCH, 2023

ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Respect • Responsibility • Reverence

STUDENTS, TIM & PAM HELFRICH HONORED



FEBRUARY'S STUDENTS of the month were celebrated during a ceremony following mass. This month, students learned about St. Valentine. He is known for defying an order of the emperor in the third century, secretly marrying couples within the church. February's students were chosen for their bravery, kindness, or for being a caring friend. Also recognized were Blessed Sacrament parishioners Tim and Pam Helfrich. The couple have been strong supporters of St. Peter Catholic School since moving to Ontario a year after our school opened. Congratulations to these students with big hearts and to the Helfriches for having a heart for Catholic education!

Couple supports, values Catholic education

Because February is the month in which St. Valentine's Day falls, it is a perfect month to honor a couple who have been married for over 50 years. Tim and Pam Helfrich of Ontario, were recognized for the consistent support they have given St. Peter's since moving here in 1981.

Both Tim and Pam attended and graduated from Catholic schools in the Eugene area. Tim went to St. Mary's through 8th grade, then went to high school at Mt. Angel Seminary. Pam went to St. Alice through 8th grade. They relocated to Ontario where Tim would continue to practice law, but with a new firm.

"One of the selling points was that there was a Catholic school," Pam said. "We both believe Catholic education is so important."

Tim would go on to help start a foundation for the school and Pam, an educator, would serve as chair of the PTO and later help with the school's library. They continue to attend fundraisers and contribute to the school.

Having served on numerous committees and fundraising events while their three sons attended the school, she noted that the atmosphere in a Catholic school is noticeably



HONORED FOR THEIR support of St. Peter's at February's end-of-the-month ceremony were Pam and Tim Helfrich (center) with Head Teacher Mirta Díaz and Fr. Joseph Thomas, CST.

different from moral and spiritual teachings to academic rigor and parental involvement.

"We're so grateful that Fr. Joseph is the principal and the school is under such strong leadership," Pam said. "It was so encouraging to be at the Barn Dance (fundraiser) and see so many young families there. There's a resurgence; a new energy that's good for the community."

CALENDAR

- March 2: Dress like your favorite book character Day
- March 3: Teacher Work Day
- March 6: 100th Day of School
- March 16: Quarter Ends; Bookmobile visit
- March 17: Teacher Work Day; PTO invites you to KC's Fish Fry at 5:30 PM
- March 19: St. Peter Mass, 12:30 PM
- March 20 - 23: Book Fair Week
- March 21: Pre-K conferences begin; no after-school for Pre-K
- March 22: Field trip 1st-6th grade; P-T Conferences; no after-school
- March 23: Students of the Month/Academic Awards after 8:30 AM mass; Parent-Teacher Conferences; no after-school
- March 24: Office closed
- March 27-31: Spring Break; School closed



Give up more than chocolate for Lent

February 22, 2023, marked the beginning of Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Instead of giving up candy this Lent, we should consider giving up something that is much more likely to help bring us closer to God as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of His son. Here's 10 suggestions of things to "give up:"

1. **Doubt:** Believe God has a plan for you that is beyond anything you could imagine. The future is brighter than you could ever realize.
2. **The need to please everyone:** I can't please everyone anyway. There is only one I need to strive to please.
3. **Envy:** I am blessed. My value is not found in my possessions, but in my relationship with my Heavenly Father.
4. **Impatience:** God's timing is the perfect timing.
5. **Sense of entitlement:** The world does not owe me anything. God does not owe me anything. I live in humility and grace.
6. **Bitterness or Resentment:** The only person I am hurting by holding onto these is myself.
7. **Blame:** I am not going to pass the buck. I will take responsibility for my actions.
8. **Gossip and Negativity:** I will put the best construction on everything when it comes to other people. I will also minimize my contact with people who are negative and toxic and bring other people down.

9. **A spirit of poverty:** Believe with God that there is always more than enough and never a lack.

10. **Excuses:** A wise man once said, if you need an excuse, any excuse will do.

Note: These suggestions were originally published as part of "40 Things to Give up for Lent: The List" by Rev. Phil Ressler at www.greaterthings.today.

Comments from Pope Francis during a Mass to mark the beginning of Lent 2023.

"Lent is the time, he said, "to proclaim that God alone is Lord, to drop the pretense of being self-sufficient and the need to put ourselves at the center of things, to be the top of the class, to think that by our own abilities we can succeed in life and transform the world around us."

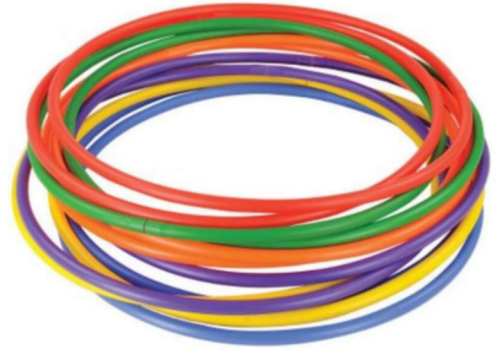
"How many distractions and trifles distract us from the things that really count! How often do we get caught up in our own wants and needs, lose sight of the heart of the matter, and fail to embrace the true meaning of our lives in this world!" he said.

"Lent is a time of truth, a time to drop the masks we put on each day to appear perfect in the eyes of the world," he said, and to "reject lies and hypocrisy. Not the lies and hypocrisies of others, but our own."

**Now
you
know:**

Kansas City Chiefs' star kicker Harrison Butker shared with a group of Knights of Columbus gathered that, "giving into societal pressure is the easier road to travel for sure, but that doesn't bring us to the side of the countless heroic saints who have shown us the better way. It is up to you to speak up, do more, be more. Be the light in the ever-darkening world."

The father of two is not only a KC, but also a proponent of the traditional Latin Mass.



EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS chose to give the profits of this year's *Catholic Schools Week Coin Drive* back to the school to purchase some new playground equipment and the snack pantry. These older students say they really want to instill school spirit in the younger grades and have them be proud of their school. Among the items purchased were jump ropes, bouncy balls, tetherballs, and hula hoops. On the horizon are a new volleyball net or parachute for P.E. activities.



THE PARTNERSHIP WITH Treasure Valley Community College's Physical Education Dept. resumed Feb. 28 after having been put on hold for the past two years due to the pandemic. Students go to the college gym during the winter months and can do activities outside or in the Fr. Kirkpatrick Center during warmer months. In the photo on the left, students were working on hand-eye coordination, a brain-and-body activity, switching from right to left hand use and back. At right, students engaged in yoga poses, stretching various muscles.