



**ST. PETER'S**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# St. Peter's News

— OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS —

Spring 2021

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well and enjoying a bit more serenity and freedom as the restrictions from COVID-19 are eased.

The pandemic certainly tested all of us this past year. Looking back, I can appreciate our challenging experiences as opportunities to GROW. Just as we encourage our students to have a growth mindset, our entire faculty and staff had to keep up our own growth mindset more than ever as we adapted to infection mitigation protocols and navigated hybrid classrooms. Currently, 80% of our students participate in in-person instruction and 20% continue with full-time distance learning.

Through all the obstacles, our students continue to bring us joy and make us proud with all their accomplishments. Recently, we celebrated two First Communion Masses, and our students successfully completed virtual Student Council campaigns and elections. After being postponed for a year due to COVID, our student-designed mural project in our schoolyard is beautifully progressing, under the guidance of Christy Majano, St. Peter's Class of 1996. Though they could not attend in-person, our 7th graders were able to enjoy the annual Caritas Camp experience virtually this spring. We continue with our weekly virtual school masses, and we are busy preparing for our 8th graders' Baccalaureate Mass and Confirmation in June. Plus--our 8th graders have heard from their high schools! After graduation, St. Peter's Students will be off to Catholic High schools including Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, Riordan, and ICA; and public schools including Lowell, Leadership, and KIPP.

Even after our students graduate, they continue to make us proud. The Class of 2017 (my oldest son's group!) is soon graduating from high school. We have heard from a number of students from this class, and they have plans to attend SF State, San Jose State University, CSU Bakersfield, UC Davis, UC Merced, Boston University, and City College of SF. Many are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

Class of 2017--if you didn't let me know your post-high school plans, I want to hear from you!

Of course, none of these accomplishments would be possible without the commitment from our teachers and staff. This brings to mind not only our current faculty and staff, but also those from the past who helped build the foundation that we have at St. Peter's today. At this time, I particularly remember Betty Cirelli, a St. Peter's alum and long-time supporter and employee of our school. Sadly, Betty Cirelli passed away in March. Her love of the students, sense of humor, and dedication to the school touched us all deeply, and she will be remembered as one who lived out our St. Peter's spirit!

As this most unusual school year comes to a close, I reflect on how we at St. Peter's School have been able to maintain our Open Hearts and Open Minds, and I am deeply grateful for all the support that our school has received. Thank you for all your love and prayers. I am hopeful and excited for the next school year!

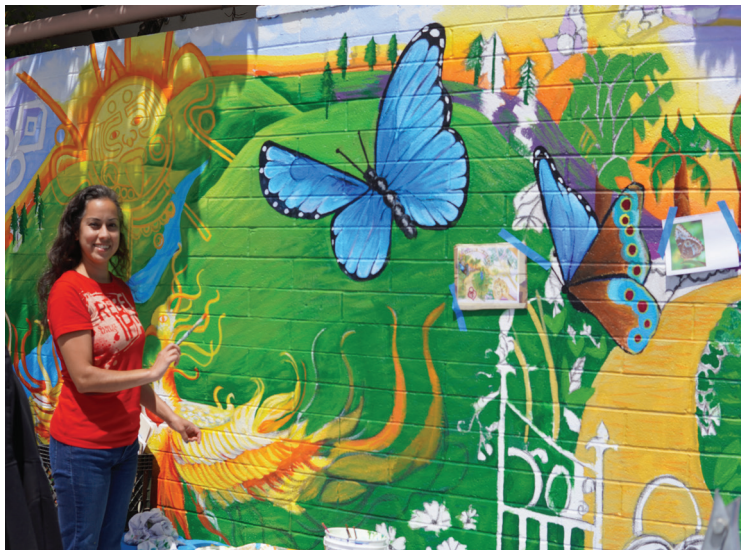
In Solidarity,

Sandra Jimenez  
Principal



## Alumna Returns to St. Peter's for Mural Project

This spring, Christy Majano '96, a Creative Arts educator and Precita Eyes muralist, worked with our 8th graders to design and paint a schoolyard mural which they entitled, "Open Hearts, Open Minds."



"I feel deeply grateful and honored to have the opportunity to lead the first student-collaborated mural at St. Peter's School. I hope that everyone involved has been moved by the process and feels empowered to bring beauty into their communities in their own unique ways."

According to students, the mural follows the life stages of the Blue Morpho Butterfly and honors the "growth mindset" of St. Peter's students--a cycle of learning that continues into adult life.

Among the other symbols the students designed into the mural are praying hands and a petal-shaped cross acknowledging the legacy and ongoing dedication of the Sisters of Mercy. A phoenix, the mythical bird that symbolizes rebirth, serves to remind graduates that--with faith and perseverance-- they can overcome any challenges they may encounter along their journey in life.

You can see more of Christy's work at <https://www.instagram.com/art2empower/>. The St. Peter's Mural Project is made possible with funding from a 2019 grant from "Step Up to the Plate 2019" and the Sovereign Knights of Malta.



## Welcome Ricardo Romero



Ricardo Romero joined St. Peter's as Marketing Coordinator in January to build a system that attracts additional families to enroll at the School. With deep roots in the St. Peter's parish, Ricardo studied Management & Business Economics at UC Merced and recently provided administrative support to our pastor,

Father Moises Agudo, and volunteered in the Parish's CCD program.

"I am truly blessed and honored to be able to be a part of such a caring and resilient family that makes up the St Peter's School community. Growing up in the Mission, I found that I felt most at home when I was at St. Peter's church, and that same feeling has carried on into my time here at the school. "

## 8th Grade Scholars Get ready for High School

Guadalupe Cabrera Gonzalez, the **2020-2021 Ethel Lager Scholar**, will attend Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory.



Brenda Hernandez, the **2020-2021 Jacqueline Macedo Greig Memorial Scholar**, will attend Immaculate Conception Academy, a Cristo Rey School.

Giovanni Serrano, the **2020-2021 Victoria Butler Christian Living Award Recipient**, will attend either Lowell or Abraham Lincoln High School.



These full-8th Grade Scholarships will be awarded to members of the Class of 2022 in June. Our special thanks to Robert Cutone '54, who has joined the McCarthy and Mitchell/Noakes Families, and Marilyn Panelli '55 in providing partial scholarships at St. Peter's.

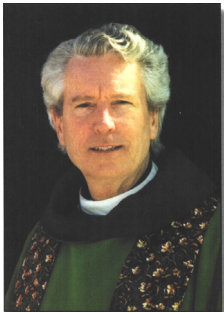


## Spring Alumni Gatherings on Zoom



Sr. Ana Maria with her family and Sisters of Mercy at St. Peter's Memorial Mass in 2017.

Even during the pandemic, St. Peter's Alumni were still able to connect virtually. St. Peter's "Zooming Back to School Days" featured a conversation with Sister Ana Maria Pineda RSM Class of 1963. Carl Nolte '51 moderated, asking her to share her experiences about being a St. Peter's student in the 60s and her inspiration for joining the Sisters of Mercy. Other participants contributed fond memories of life in the Mission-movies at El Capitan, parish life, and treats at St. Francis Fountain.



At the St. Peter's Virtual Coffee Hour, Principal Sandra Jimenez, teacher Cyndi Gonzalez, alumni, and friends shared School updates and tributes to the generosity, love, and service of former pastor, Father Tom Seagrave on April 30, his birthday. You can watch the recordings on YouTube:

- Virtual Coffee Hour - April 30, 2021 - Birthday of Father Tom Seagrave  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QRqBEySvVnE>
- Memories of Father Tom Seagrave - Virtual Coffee Hour - April 30, 2021 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p7MgmsypvM>



## What a wonderful person! Betty Cirelli



As many of you know, our beloved **Betty Graziani Cirelli** (pictured on the left), St. Peter's Academy Class of 1950, passed away this past March. From 1979 to 2019, Betty worked at St. Peter's School as a teacher's aide, bookkeeper, volunteer, and Eucharistic minister. She was honored for her service at the 2016 Alumni and Memorial Mass and Reception which she had established in the 1980s along with other St. Peter's alumni. She was predeceased by her sister **Amelia "Dolly" Espinal** (pictured on the right), St. Peter's Academy class of 1956, who passed in 2019.

Betty's and Dolly's families honored them by requesting donations in their names be made to St. Peter's in lieu of flowers. What an amazing legacy!

Please consider including gifts to St. Peter's School in the memorial announcements for your loved ones who have gone home to God. It is simple to do and speaks to your commitment to education and to the values you and they held dear.

*"What a wonderful person she was! It was a pleasure to stuff alumni envelopes with her and talk and laugh. I miss her, but am happy for her in heaven."* Joanne Ceballos, Class of 1964 St. Peter's Academy.



**ST. PETER'S**  
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### Mission Statement

#### *Open Hearts, Open Minds*

St. Peter's Catholic School community nurtures the whole child to develop a lifelong passion for learning and to live out the Works of Mercy.

## SECOND ANNUAL ST. PETER'S DAY OF GIVING

Last year's **St. Peter's Day of Giving** campaign helped St. Peter's to purchase additional Chromebooks so that students had the proper devices to continue their learning during the pandemic.

This year, we ask alumni and friends to help us guarantee the safety of all children and adults on campus by contributing toward upgrades to our Fire Alarm, Sprinkler, and Clock systems. Total cost is close to \$100,000.

Fortunately, we are nearly halfway to our goal with \$34,000 from two anonymous donors and a grant proposal under consideration.

**Gifts may be made using the enclosed envelope or online at <http://www.stpeterssf.org/ways-to-give>.** With a starting goal of \$10,000, a **GoFundMe campaign** will open on June 8 and close on June 29--The Feast of St. Peter.

*Perhaps there was a fire fighter in your family or another person you would like to honor with a gift . A plaque will list names of those who donate \$250 or more.*



*Future fire fighters!*

Help St. Peter's Go Green: Please go to <http://www.stpeterssf.org/update-your-info> to receive your newsletter and invitations via email. Also follow us on Instagram @stpetersf and Facebook: St. Peter's Catholic School