



**ST. PETER'S**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# St. Peter's News

— OPEN HEARTS OPEN MINDS —

SPRING 2022

## Greetings from St. Peter's School!

I hope this letter finds you in good health and good spirits during this Easter season.

We are quickly approaching the conclusion of another school year, and like other school years, we experienced joyous celebrations and complex challenges to grow from. The COVID Omicron surge was difficult to endure at school and at home, yet because of our strong, faithful community, we continued to learn, grow, and stay united. Such difficulties helped us to greatly appreciate the return



to "normal" events, such as our Aztec Trek, STEAM Fair, camp retreat experiences, and weekly whole-school Masses with families. After enduring the hardships of these past two years, seeing our school community celebrating all together warms my heart!

At the same time, I appreciate how our St. Peter's community extends beyond our school building. Every day, we feel the love and support of benefactors, volunteers, alumni, and parents. Every student benefits from the generosity of previous generations—whether it is the in-kind work of the religious who taught and administered the school in past years, or philanthropists like you who make it possible for students to receive a St. Peter's education. There are a number of ways that you can help, such as donating towards our Fire Safety Project, the Love for Literacy Campaign, or Tuition Assistance. We are grateful for your continued commitment!

Lastly, it's time to announce the retirement of our beloved veteran educator, Mrs. Cyndi Gonzalez. Hired in 1974, Cyndi has taught generations of St. Peter's students. Back in 2002, Cyndi was the first St. Peter's teacher that I met when I was first hired! We will miss Cyndi dearly. You can wish her well at a Mass and Reception in her honor on Sunday, June 5th.

As always, you are in our prayers, and know that the spirit of St. Peter's School remains bright thanks to loving support from you!

In Solidarity,

Sandra Jimenez, Principal

## William G. Irwin Charitable Foundation Supports Fire Safety Project

St. Peter's is pleased to announce that the William G. Irwin Charitable Foundation has pledged \$15,000 toward completing our Fire Safety project. With their commitment and gifts made by alumni and friends during the 2021 St. Peter's Day of Giving, we have raised \$57,634 toward the \$75,000 goal.

You can help us move closer to the goal and get this important project underway by donating at <https://www.stpeterssf.org/ways-to-give>.

Remember that a gift of \$250 or more adds your name to the plaque that will be displayed in the School's lobby!

- Anonymous (2)
- Lyn C. Baker '44
- Rosa Carrillo '68
- Simon Chiu '84
- Olga V. Diaz '75
- Joan DelCarlo Donahoe '68
- Phillip Gallegos Family
- Louise Montalvo Garcia '70
- Miguel Guzman '87
- John Hurley in honor of Joseph Hurley '42
- William G. Irwin Charitable Foundation
- Kilduff Family in honor of Delanie Kilduff
- Mary Roche O'Rourke '49
- Angelita and Raul Paiso
- Julia Chairez Perez '68
- Ernest Pineda '64
- Sr. Marian Rose Power RSM
- Sr. Marian Rose Power Fund
- Joseph Robles '71
- Dorothy Ryan Reed '61
- Mary Ann Diaz-Romero '63 and William Romero
- Fred Tilton '55



# ACADEMICS AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

## Return to Whole School In-Person Masses, Sacraments, and Presentations



Choir with Mercy Volunteer Alivia Schmidt-Sanders



4th graders reenacting the Stations of the Cross

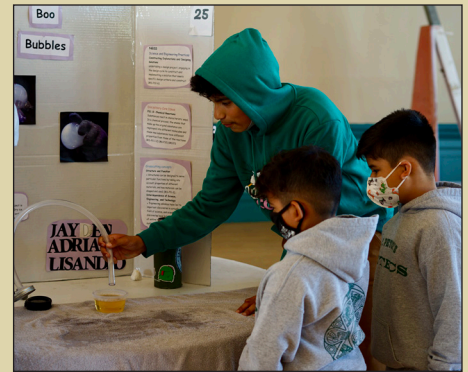


First Reconciliation with Fr. Rafael Bermudez

## Return of the Annual STEAM Fair

For the first time since the lockdown of COVID-19, Middle Schoolers were able to share their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) projects with students in the younger grades, on Friday, April 8th.

Many thanks to our Middle School teachers Mrs. Fresnoza, Mr. Suarez, Mr. Reyes, Ms. Tonna, and Ms. Sanders for making this possible. Next year, we hope to be able to bring back alumni volunteers to view the projects.



## 8th Grade Scholars Get Ready for High School



Daniela Perez, the **2021-2022 Victoria Butler Christian Living Award Recipient**, will attend Mercy Burlingame with an **ACHIEVE Scholarship**.



Isaac Perez, the **2021-2022 Jacqueline Macedo Greig Memorial Scholar**, will attend Washington High School.



Karina Ramirez, the **2021-2022 Ethel Lager Scholar**, will attend Archbishop Riordan High School.

*These full 8th grade Scholarships were awarded to members of the Class of 2022 last June. Our special thanks to Robert Cutone '54, members of the McCarthy and Mitchell/Noakes families, and Marilyn Panelli '55 for providing additional partial scholarships to St. Peter's students this year.*

# ST. PETER'S LEGACY

## SOMA Affordable Housing Named for St. Peter's Alumna

The new affordable residential complex at 691 China Basin Street has been named for Sr. Lillian Murphy RSM, St. Peter's Academy, Class of 1959.

The 152-unit building was constructed by Mercy Housing, where Sr. Lillian served as CEO for 27 years until her passing in 2019. Acknowledged and respected as a national leader, Sr. Lillian built Mercy Housing into a world-class organization.

Under her leadership, Mercy Housing



expanded from a small regional housing development organization with 250 homes to a nationwide leader that provides affordable homes for nearly 45,000 residents in 21 states.

You can read more about St. Peter's own Sr. Lillian Murphy in the column written by Carl Nolte '51 at <https://bit.ly/3PxeRA9>.

## We Mourn the Passing of Jim McCarthy, Co-Founder of BASIC Fund

St. Peter's wishes to acknowledge the tremendous impact made by Jim and June McCarthy, who founded the BASIC Fund, an organization that has provided scholarships for hundreds of St. Peter's students.

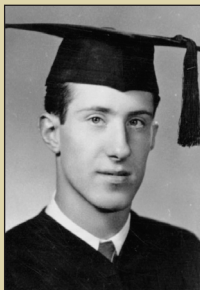
Mr. McCarthy, who passed away in April, benefitted from a lifetime of Catholic education and felt that it should be an option available for all children. What began as fundraising to provide scholarships at some local schools quickly expanded to over 300 schools across the Bay Area. Twenty-five years later, the BASIC Fund has helped more than 25,000 Bay Area children attend their school of choice. Former Principal, Sister Marian Rose Power, has been quoted to say, "Jim made miracles happen."

Please join us in prayer for Jim's wife June and his family, many of whom have been loyal volunteers at St. Peter's School.



*Credit for Photo: Canisius High School Today Date*

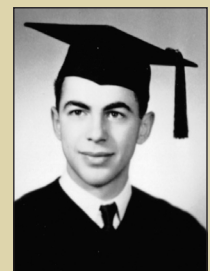
## Prayers for Alumni and Friends Who Have Passed Away



**Henry McKenzie**

We pray for George Heeg, Claire Fitzpatrick '47, James Healy, Robert Joseph Hughes '45, Mary Ilog, Henry McKenzie '47, Mary Roche O'Rourke '49, Anne Theresa Rosales '63, Joseph Tallerico '49, and Fred Tilton '55.

They will be honored along with other alumni and friends who have passed away at the School's Annual Memorial Mass, Sunday, November 13th at 3:00 pm.



**Joseph Tallerico**

# Cyndi Gonzalez - Retiring after 48 Years at St. Peter's School

## *Touching the lives of more than 900 young people and their families*

Cyndi was hired as a teacher at St. Peter's in 1974 by Sr. Diana Pets. Cyndi was married to St. Peter's alumnus Frank Gonzalez, lived in the Mission, and attended St. Peter's Church.

"When I first came to St. Peter's School, I liked the way the school looked and the openness of the facility. Over time, I came to truly love the School's community of families and my coworkers."

Raised a Lutheran, Cyndi soon converted to Catholicism. "I loved the beauty of the churches, the traditions, and the rituals." Now a Mercy Associate, Cyndi works with the Sisters of Mercy on special projects. She is a role model of faith for all at St. Peter's.



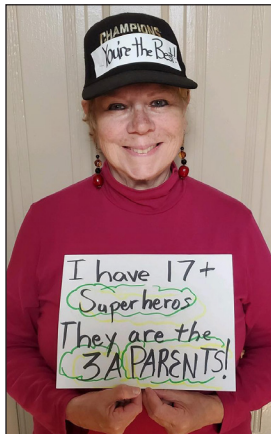
**Always ready for fun!**

Over the years, Cyndi established special service projects in honor of Veterans Day and brought students to read to elders in nearby nursing homes.

Her humor energized the day for her coworkers, and her party-organizing skills are appreciated by all.

Cyndi's memories and commitment to St. Peter's were documented when she and Frank were interviewed by students in 2018 for St. Peter School's 140th Anniversary year. <https://fb.watch/cCFX2Jd7kp/>

**Please join us Sunday June 5th at 3:00 pm at St. Peter's Church for a Mass and Reception in Cyndi's honor!**



Message for Parents during the 2020 COVID-19 Lockdown



Everyone appreciating Cyndi's positive spirit!



Cyndi became a Mercy Associate



Cyndi established special service projects in honor of Veterans Day



# A RETURN TO IN-PERSON FUN

## Class of 2022 at Caritas Creek Environmental Camp!

St Peter's is thrilled that our 8th graders were able to attend a 5-day retreat at CYO's Caritas Creek Environmental Camp, which they missed last year as 7th graders.

We are grateful to our teachers and parents for preparing the students, and to our partners -- Paula Pardini, Caritas Management Corporation, Koch Foundation, Catholic Charities, and Caritas Creek Camp -- who made the week possible.



Here are some of our students' favorite memories:

**Brisia:** *I enjoyed hiking and archery. The week at camp made me feel happy and relaxed and gave me a new way of looking at things.*

**Damaris:** *I liked that people opened up more.*

**Jayden:** *I got closer to my classmates and teachers. My favorite moments were at night when my whole cabin was talking. It made me feel happy because I was with my friends.*

**Andrea:** *Caritas was incredible! I was so nervous just thinking about it, but once I set foot on the campground, I knew I was going to be okay. I thank all of the staff who welcomed us so kindly and made us want to return.*



**Catholic Schools Week  
Thankful Thursday  
Mr. Guzman and buddy**



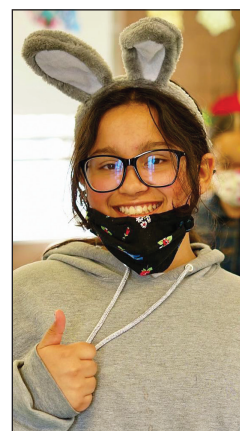
**In honor of Valentine's Day**



**Catholic Schools Week  
Cultures and Tradition Day**



**St. Patrick's Day  
with Ms. Tonna**



**Easter**



**ST. PETER'S**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
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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.

## Love for Literacy Campaign - Third Annual St. Peter's Day of Giving June 29, 2022

St. Peter's Day of Giving has offered alumni and friends ways to support the school in very tangible ways. This year we ask your help in raising at least \$7,000 to rebuild our classroom libraries with literature and nonfiction books that resonate with our students.



According to Mrs. Ria Fresnoza, Director of Academics: "One of the best research-based strategies to improve reading skills is to increase the time students have for independent, free-choice reading. Because our wonderful volunteer librarians, Sister Paulina and Sister Toni Lynn, retired during COVID, our school library has not been fully operational. Most of our library books are out-of-date and should be replaced with books that appeal to the interests of our students, meet their reading levels, or address their English development needs."

St. Peter's would love to develop classroom libraries that are diverse, culturally responsive, leveled for our English language learners, and high-interest to encourage our young readers. A donation of ANY size would help us purchase more books. First time donations will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, by the Sister Marian Rose Power Fund.

"I LOVE this idea! I'm totally in. It's very much needed." - Mrs. Cyndi Gonzalez.

You can send your check to St. Peter's School using the enclosed envelope or make a donation online at <http://www.stpeterssf.org/ways-to-give>. With a starting goal of \$7,000, our "Love for Literacy" Campaign will open on May 25 and close on June 29--The Feast of St. Peter.



Please join St. Peter's in our Tribute to Cyndi Gonzalez, Sunday, June 5, 2022.

Father Tom McElligot, who served as co-pastor from 1978-1985, will celebrate Mass at 3:00 pm. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Please RSVP to [jvela@sanpedro.org](mailto:jvela@sanpedro.org) or call St. Peter's School at 415-647-8662.

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