

2014  
2015

# Saint Peter Catholic School

Lessons in  
**"Faith, Knowledge, Service"**  
Theme of Catholic Schools Week 2015







# Letter from Father Jim



Dear Parents, Teachers, Students, Staff, Friends  
and Alumni of Saint Peter Catholic School:

It has been a great pleasure to serve you and the children of God these past 15 months. Coming from a parish one third the size of St. Peter, there have been times I felt overwhelmed, then I would walk the halls or visit a classroom at our school and the children would bring me back to the love and grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It has been a greater privilege to see the volunteers and the staff who serve these children in this great school, each showing integrity and consistently demonstrating a Christian lifestyle. Teachers continue to develop new and more effective teaching methods, showing a personal interest in each student that extends beyond the classroom.

If you want to see God at work, come to a school Mass and watch the older children looking after the younger ones. Listen to them singing or playing an instrument with all their hearts. Come to a ball game where they play hard but with integrity. Watch the "Hoopsters" and the smiles on their faces, every child sharing their gifts and talents in building the Kingdom of God; sharing God with me and making me a better person because they have shown me the face of God.

It is my humble opinion that with your continued support of Saint Peter Catholic School, the future of the Church is looking up. The future of society, our community, and the city of Greenville is closer to God's Kingdom.

For me personally, it has been a joy to work with all of you. Know that you are an asset to the Christian Community and all family members of Saint Peter Catholic Church and School. May God bless you in every way as you continue to serve Him, the One this life is all about. Know that you are always in my prayers.

In Christ,  
Fr. Jim Buchholz  
Pastor





# From Our Principal



Saint Peter Catholic School is beginning its 69th year of serving the children of the Greenville Catholic Community. Our school is a family dedicated to the spiritual, academic, social and physical development of our students. We are an integral ministry of our church with approximately 560 students and a highly qualified staff of 60. Our school is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/AdvancEd. Through the generous support of Saint Peter Catholic Church we receive approximately \$23,864 in second collections that is combined with \$60,000 from the school annually to provide tuition assistance to families who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Our school has a rich history of passing on the faith with a solid educational foundation for life. Many of our alumni have gone on to achieve great things as followers of Jesus Christ. Through God's grace we have educated alumni who have become a Catholic Priest, attorneys, college professors, educators, engineers, investment brokers, law enforcement officers, a Grammy and Pulitzer Prize winning musician, physical therapists, physicians, and surgeons. This distinguished list of occupations represents only a fraction of the outstanding SPS Alumni and covers many generations. Because of the faith of their parents they were afforded a first class education at SPS.

SPS has state of the art technology and offers a rigorous Diocesan Curriculum that includes mathematics, science, language arts, social studies, Spanish, art, technology, music, a strings program, physical education, service clubs, and a wide range of highly successful athletic programs. Our tuition is the lowest in the area for non-public schools.

We hope that you will learn more about our family oriented school on our website ([saintpeterscatholicschool.com](http://saintpeterscatholicschool.com)) or in person. Feel free to contact us for tours or questions (252-752-3529). We will always be glad to accommodate you.

May God bless and keep you,  
Joseph A. Nelson, Ed.D.  
Principal

# Saint Peter Catholic School

2014-2015 MAGAZINE



**Saint Peter Catholic School**  
2606 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greenville, NC 27858  
[stpeterscatholicsschool.com](http://stpeterscatholicsschool.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is two-fold: First, as a Catholic School, we aim to “teach as Jesus taught” by instilling a solid Christian foundation built on attitudes, values, and virtues which Christ holds up to each child.

Secondly, as educators we strive to develop an instructional program responsive to school and community needs and to various abilities and talents of our students in order that development of the whole child takes place.

## CONTENTS

Faith.....	2
Knowledge .....	4
Service .....	6
Athletics.....	8
Arts .....	9
Alumni Spotlight.....	10
Annual Fund Giving Levels .....	12
Annual Fund Donors .....	12

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# Faith



The kids enjoy giving and receiving Father Jim's "Have A Nice Day" high-fives after Mass.

Our Catholic faith is the center of education at SPS and a very important part of each school day. Both Catholic and Non-Catholic students are actively involved in prayer, Mass, religion classes, and service to others. This is a welcome experience in today's challenging and fast-paced world.

*Below: Older students attend Mass with their younger "Prayer Partners." Fifth graders pair with third graders, fourth graders pair with junior kindergarten, and eighth graders pair with second grade. Not only do they attend Mass together, but Prayer Partners share what they are learning in religion classes and exchange prayer requests.*





Spring 2014 - Joe Blick with the eighth grade class after a Pro-Life Mass. The Mass was held in conjunction with the March for Life event in Washington D.C. which the class had planned to attend. To their great disappointment, storms and ten inch snow in D.C. forced them to cancel the trip. "We are a Pro-Life Church and school and we're proud of it," stated Joe Blick, religion teacher at Saint Peter School.



**FAITH**

**KNOWLEDGE**

**SERVICE**



**RIGOROUS ACADEMIC CURRICULUM \* COLLEGE PREPARATORY PROGRAM**

**DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES \* ATHLETICS PROGRAM**

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**JPII CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL IS PROUDLY PARTNERED WITH ST. PETER CATHOLIC SCHOOL AS PART OF THE REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OF GREENVILLE (GRADES JK-12)**



# Knowledge

Saint Peter Catholic School is a co-ed environment that serves grade JK through eighth grade. Approximately 560 students are enrolled, both Catholic and non-Catholic. There are two classes of each grade level. St. Peter Catholic School is fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/ AdvancED.



*Students in Mr. Hughes' Social Studies class work diligently on "Map Day" to reconstruct their assigned country in pronounced detail.*



*Students in third grade using Chromebooks watching a video on Author's Purpose via Scholastic Core Clicks.*



*Students work in the Media Center's Mac Lab.*



*Students in Mrs. Tew's class work on graphing teddy bear counters.*



*Learning centers in Mrs. Smith's Junior Kindergarten class.*



*Choosing a book at the Library's Book Fair is serious business...*





*Joe Hughes, Winner of the Monsignor Gerald Lawrence Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching.*



*Joe Hughes with student Marcus Sutton. Marcus placed 1st in the State in the Daughters of the American Revolution essay contest.*

## **Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching**

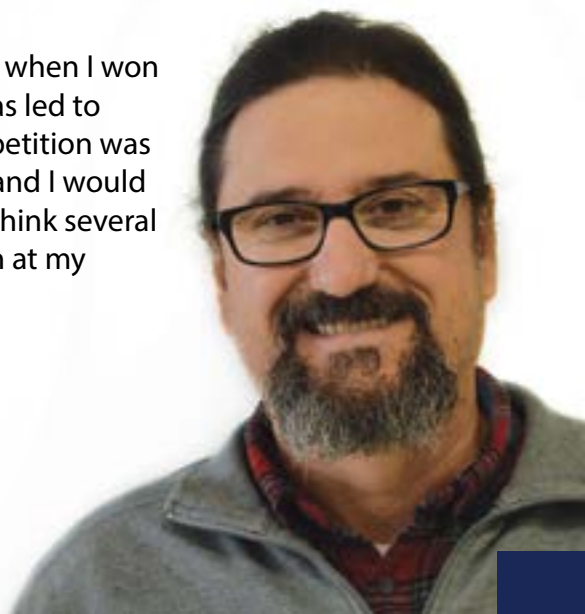
The Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Raleigh Diocese was endowed in 1992 and is considered a prestigious accolade. Winners of this award are considered highly skilled, full time teachers who have demonstrated commitment to their students, colleagues, schools, church, family, and communities. Our own Mr. Joe Hughes won this award in the 2012-13 school year.

Joe Hughes has been teaching 6th-8th grade Social Studies at Saint Peter Catholic School for twenty-three years. During that time, his students have amassed numerous 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards from local, regional and national History Day and D.A.R. contests.

Saint Peter principal Dr. Joe Nelson had this to say: "The student experiences provided by Mr. Hughes extend far beyond the classroom. Joe Hughes has mentored their participation in local, state and national History Day competitions, the annual March for Life, Daughters of the American Revolution Essay Contest, etc. He also serves as an outstanding role model for students by serving on the John Paul II High School Advisory Board, participating in the annual parish mission trip, and serving as lector and Eucharistic Minister at Saint Peter School Masses."

When asked about teaching and this award, Mr. Hughes stated, "My job is to try to get kids to love History - if I do that they will figure out the details on their own. I also try to help out wherever needed around here - whether building stuff for teachers, helping out Mr. Maimone (our maintenance director), or just having fun with the little kids."

"I was quite surprised when I won the Lewis Award. I was led to believe that the competition was very tough that year and I would not be receiving it. I think several people had a little fun at my expense!"



# Service



## Junior Beta Club

In 2002 Saint Peter Catholic School began its charter membership in the National Junior Beta Club. This club is an organization for middle school students who have exhibited academic excellence in all subjects. Our motto is "to lead by serving others." We strive to do small things with great love, as St. Therese of Lisieux teaches us. Throughout the year, members participate in many service projects for our school and community. A favorite project is the annual Christmas blankets for the neonatal wing at Vidant Hospital. Sponsors purchase approximately 70 yards of fleece fabric and our members spend one afternoon after school making blankets for the new babies.



*Junior Beta Club's undecorated Christmas trees are located in the cafeteria and all SPS students help to "decorate" the Tree of Warmth by donating children's articles of warm clothing such as gloves, mittens, hats, and scarves.*





## Soup for the J.O.Y. Soup Kitchen

What began as a short-term Lenten Service project for 3rd Graders in Mrs. Connie Stallings' and Mrs. Sharon Whitehurst's classes in 1998 has become an institution and rite of passage for the intermediate grades. Since that simple beginning, soup has been made every Thursday for 16 years, first by 3rd graders, and now by 5th graders. In recent years, the 3rd grade Prayer Partners of the 5th graders have been invited to share in this ministry, adding to the number of pots of soup made each week. Mrs. Nancy Williams (mother of three SPS Alumni) delivers and serves the soup at the J.O.Y. Soup Kitchen. As they say in the 5th grade, "Our soup is souper!"



## Students in Service to Teachers

Two St. Peter eighth graders, Ben Damm and Ethan Boyer, served as teaching assistants to Mr. Bell, the St. Peter art teacher, during a CAD (computer-aided design) seminar for teachers at the Diocese of Raleigh's Fall Professional Development Conference in Chapel Hill on September 22, 2014. They shared their knowledge of Sketch Up CAD software with 25 teachers from schools throughout the Raleigh Diocese. The students drew doghouses and hot-air balloons, just as sixth grade art students do at St. Peter when they are introduced to computer-aided design.



# Athletics at SPS



Athletics at St. Peter Catholic School include: Football, Cross Country, Volleyball, Basketball, Soccer, Baseball, Golf, Pep Squad, and Cheerleading



Saint Peter School participates in two athletic conferences and is host to the EIC Basketball Conference Tournament every five years. In March 2014 we welcomed 4 other Catholic schools from the East for a weekend of basketball fun. The weekend included an Opening Ceremony, 38 games at 4 local gyms, a Catholic Mass for all participants, a catered Dance at the Hilton for the players, and Championship games on the final day of the tournament — complete with trophies. Many volunteers and families from our community came together to make this event a success.



# The Arts at SPS



On May 9, 2014 at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Raleigh, St. Peter School participated in Catholic Schools LIVE, the first annual Arts Showcase of the Diocese of Raleigh. Our vocal ensemble performed and our visual arts program was represented by an art display featuring the work of 190 SPS students. A total of nine Diocesan schools

mounted art displays in a massive and varied exhibition in the lobby of Cardinal Gibbons High. The construction, assembly, and shipping of St. Peter's display supports, and the mounting of the student art was facilitated by a dedicated group including Art Teacher John Bell, and parent volunteers who worked during Easter vacation, on weekends, at night, and between classes during the school day.



*Saint Peter Catholic School Vocal Ensemble*

Saint Peter art and vocal music students will be participating in the 2015 Catholic Schools LIVE, which will occur on March 27, 2015 in Raleigh at A.J. Fletcher Theater. For more information go to Facebook and search CatholicSchoolsLive. If you would like to support this endeavor with your own gifts and talents, please contact John Bell or Jessica Merrill at Saint Peter Catholic School.



*Saint Peter School strings preparing and performing for an all-school Mass*

# Alumni Spotlight

## CAROLINE SHAW

This October, Saint Peter Catholic School Alumnus Caroline Shaw visited and performed in Greenville with her Grammy Winning group "Roomful of Teeth." Caroline also recently won the Pulitzer Prize in Music for her composition *Partita for 8 Voices* performed by the same group.



Left to right: Elizabeth Blount, Caroline Shaw and Page Watson after "Roomful of Teeth" Performance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church this fall.

If you or someone you know is a graduate of Saint Peter Catholic School, and would like to be included in future mailings and event notifications, please contact Nancy Sturgis: [nsturgis@spcsnc.net](mailto:nsturgis@spcsnc.net) or join the Alumni Association through our website [stpeterscatholicsschool.com](http://stpeterscatholicsschool.com)

find us on **facebook**

SPS Alumni



SPS 1996

**The year you graduated from SPS:**  
1996

### Education after SPS:

J.H. Rose High (2000),  
Bachelors in Music, Rice (2004),  
Masters in Music, Yale (2007),  
PhD in Music, Princeton  
(still working on it)

### Hobbies, awards, recognitions, organizations:

Watson Fellowship, 2004,  
Pulitzer Prize in music, 2013,  
GRAMMY for classical small ensemble recording, 2014

### Current occupation:

Musician (violinist, singer, composer)

### What is your most vivid memory from SPS?

Singing and playing violin in the Christmas and end-of-year music programs with Mrs. Burke and my mom. Brother Simon's ham radio cards and equipment all around his science room. Learning the multiplication tables with Mrs. Stallings in third grade. Mrs. Maxon's perfume!

### What is your fondest recollection from SPS?

There are so many! Mr. Hughes' history classes. "MathCounts" team with Mrs. Watson. Doing the logic games in the morning in Miss Callery's class...

### What would you like to see, or who would you like to talk with again from your days at SPS?

I would probably like to see and talk to Brother Robert and Brother Simon.

### What would you say to them?

Thank you. I was a little bit scared of you at the time (ha), but thank you. And hi!

### What do you see as the most valuable tool SPS gave you as you live your life today?

The importance of sharing and always learning.

### What would you like to say to the current students at SPS?

Be kind. Be generous. Be surprised and excited by the world.



## MARY JEAN O'DOHERTY

Mary Jean O'Doherty has been a source of pride for our retired Music teacher Mrs. Katherine Burke. She would download YouTube videos of several of the coloratura soprano's performances to play for her music students at SPS. The feeling of admiration was mutual from Mary Jean, "Mrs. Burke made music so much fun!" said Mary Jean recently.

In 2008 Ms. O'Doherty was the first recipient of the Australian International Opera Award for a scholarship to study at the renowned Cardiff University International Academy of Voice in Wales. In 2013 she was the first female prize winner at the Paris Opera Awards, and continues to perform and elicit kudos in operatic roles internationally.



**The year you graduated from SPS:**  
1995

### **Education after SPS:**

I studied at J.H. Rose, North Carolina School of the Arts, East Carolina University 2005 (Bachelors of Music in Flute and Voice and BA in Psychology) and Cardiff International Academy of Voice 2010 Artists Diploma Voice Performance.



SPS 1995

### **Hobbies, awards, recognitions, organizations:**

I won the Paris Opera Award in 2013, the Australian Opera Award in 2008, and was a Finalist in the Australian Singing Competition 2007.

### **Current occupation:**

I am a professional opera singer

### **What is your most vivid memory from SPS?**

I really loved the school music concerts as well as the school carnivals.

### **What is your fondest recollection from SPS?**

I loved being part of the school choir under the leadership of Katherine Burke. She is such a talented educator, and she really made learning dynamic and fun as well as nurtured our individual talents through small ensembles, and solos. I really credit Mrs. Burke for the love of music I have today.

### **Who would you like to see and talk to again from your days at SPS? What would you like to say to them or ask them?**

I love talking to my teachers and old classmates when I come home to Greenville. I would especially like to thank Mrs Burke for being my music teacher. I also had many other wonderful teachers at SPS including Mr. Hughes, Br. Simon, Mrs. Kujawski, Mrs. Lapicki, and my first grade teacher Mrs. Moore.

### **What do you see as the most valuable tool SPS gave you as you live your life today?**

It cultivated a love of learning in an environment that was both challenging and nurturing.

### **What would you like to say to the current students at SPS?**

Embrace every chance you can to learn something new!

# Annual Fund Giving Levels

## The History Behind Our Giving Levels

Our giving levels are in memory of the Brothers and Sisters who were instrumental in building and fostering our beloved school and keeping it open; even during times when its future was not assured. The following are memories of those individuals as told to the SPS Magazine by Mrs. Laurel Walsh and Mrs. Page Watson.

### SISTER BEATA

There was no doubt Sr. Beata was in charge! She had eyes everywhere. She served as both the principal and a teacher at St. Peter (then St. Raphael) from 1964-71.

### SISTER CELESTE

She was a bundle of love and energy, and so sweet and kind. Although she was frail she adored doing things with the kids. She used to say "Give me a piece of chocolate and a blackboard and I can teach anybody anything." She served as principal from 1977-80.

### BROTHER GERARD O'BRIEN, O.S.F.

Br. Gerard was a very devout Franciscan. He originally came to Greenville with Brother Robert to attend to St. Elizabeth's Church in Farmville. His presence in the school was frequent and dynamic. Assisting with religion classes, the children all knew and loved him.

### BR. PATRICK OHMANN, O.S.F.

He was a kind and gentle soul. He taught computer science and then moved to school development.

Br. Patrick (along with Brother Robert) is largely responsible for the building of the gym, art, music, and Primary and Intermediate classrooms building. He was an intense fundraiser. Brother Patrick Drive is named after him.

### BROTHER SIMON JAWORSKI, O.S.F.

He served as principal from 1997-2000. An energetic principal, his first love was teaching science. His intense interests in astronomy and ham radio operating are still remembered by his former students today (See our Alumni Spotlight in this issue). He is the only member on this list who is alive today – and frequently stills visits the school.

### BROTHER ROBERT LAFAVE, O.S.F.

Served as principal from 1986-1997. He brought the Franciscans to Greenville. With Br. Patrick's help, he spearheaded the campaign for the gym, primary, and intermediate classrooms building. He is most cherished for his undaunted effort to turn the school around from nearly closing with 125 students to its capacity of 560 where it remains today. The Brother Robert Endowment Fund is named after him.

# Annual Fund Donors

### Brother Robert (\$10,000 – 19,999)

Ms. Sheryllyn Woolard

### Brother Patrick (\$5,000 – 9,999)

### Brother Simon (\$1,000 – 4,999)

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Blount  
Drs. Scott and Dawn Kendrick  
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Sharts  
Drs. Jonathan and Vanessa Workman

### Brother Gerard (\$500 - 999)

BD Employee Giving Program  
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Violette Saad  
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Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Sturgis

### Sister Celeste (\$100 – 499)

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Gertrude Cunningham  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Curtis  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Deimantas

### Faculty & Staff 100%

*The Faculty and Staff at St. Peter Catholic School faithfully donate to the Annual Fund. Their participation is 100% every year. Because their donations are often made anonymously, many are not listed here, and we would like to acknowledge their generosity.*



# Annual Fund Donors

## **Sister Celeste (\$100 – 499) cont.**

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Mr. Patrick Guy and Dr. Hazel Duncan-Guy  
Dr. and Mrs. John Edmison  
Ms. Laura English  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ernesty  
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Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wynn  
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## **Sister Beata (up to \$99)**

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2606 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Greenville, NC 27858

OR

Go online to  
**[www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com](http://www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com)**  
and click on the "Donate Now" button  
located on the homepage (credit cards only)

Saint Peter Catholic School cannot exist without our constituents: the Parents, Alumni, Grandparents, and other Friends of our school. We dedicate this magazine to all of you and to your ongoing commitment to our mission.

We ask that you prayerfully consider continuing to support Saint Peter Catholic School by volunteering, providing donations/bequests and visiting us occasionally to see our faith in action. If you need more information please contact us at the school or visiting us online at [www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com](http://www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone (      ) \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Affiliation**

☐ Alumni    ☐ Current Parent    ☐ Parent of Alumni    ☐ Grandparent    ☐ Parishioner    ☐ Friend

**Fund Giving Level**

- |  |   |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Sister Beata (up to \$99)         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister Celeste (\$100-\$499)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brother Gerard (\$500-\$999)      | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother Simon (\$1,000-\$4,999)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brother Patrick (\$5,000-\$9,999) | <input type="checkbox"/> Brother Robert (\$10,000-\$19,999) |

☐ Check      ☐ Credit Card

Credit Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Gift Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Exp \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digits on back of card)

☐ This is an anonymous donation

☐ Please contact me to discuss how I may include St. Peter Catholic School in my estate plan or will.

*To make a gift of stock, plan an estate gift or discuss other options for supporting our school, please contact the Development Office at 252-752-3529 ext.280*







***Educational Excellence Since 1946***

*JK through Eighth Grade*

### **Mission Statement:**

Our mission is two-fold: First, as a Catholic School, we aim to "teach as Jesus taught" by instilling a solid Christian foundation built on attitudes, values, and virtues which Christ holds up to each child. Secondly, as educators we strive to develop an instructional program responsive to school and community needs and to various abilities and talents of our students in order that development of the whole child takes place.

- In addition to standard academic classes, we offer instruction in P.E., Spanish, Religion, Art, Music, and Computer skills.
- Extracurricular athletics include football, baseball, softball, golf, basketball, volleyball, track/cross-country, co-ed soccer and cheerleading.
- Accredited by Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/ AdvancED.
- Our graduating class of 2014 averaged more than 5 years above grade level on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.
- On-site Learning Resources Director, Guidance Counselor and Instructional Specialists.

2606 East Fifth Street

Greenville, NC 27858

(252) 752-3529

[www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com](http://www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com)

**Educational Excellence Since 1946**



## **Saint Peter Catholic School**

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Greenville, NC 27858

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Open House/Info Meeting  
for New Families**  
January 20

**Casino Night Fundraiser**  
January 24

**Catholic Schools Week**  
January 25-31

**Alumni Basketball Reunion**  
March 7 (afternoon)

**JPII Gala Event**  
March 7 (evening)

**E.I.C. Basketball Tournament**  
March 13-15, Jacksonville

*For more information on these events and more,  
please visit [www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com](http://www.stpeterscatholicsschool.com)*

**Readers:** If you do not wish to receive this magazine or would like to update an address,  
please contact Nancy Sturgis at [nsturgis@spcsnc.net](mailto:nsturgis@spcsnc.net) or 252-752-3529 ext. 280.