



**July 31, 2018 A.D.**  
**(*St. Ignatius of Loyola*)**

**Dear St. Peter School Parents and Guardians,**

We are very pleased to announce that St. Peter School has selected a new middle school Latin instructor for the coming school year. I would like to offer a brief introduction for our new teacher, Mr. John Rotondi. As indicated at the close of the 2017-2018 school year, Mr. Schrader has moved on to advanced doctoral studies at Villanova and as a result we have conducted a search for a new instructor.

We are delighted to have selected Mr. Rotondi who brings with him a total of approximately 25 years of experience as a Latin student and teacher. Since 2016, he is also an Instituted Acolyte who functions as a subdeacon at Mater Ecclesiae Parish in Berlin, NJ. Mater Ecclesiae is designated as the only parish in the Diocese of Camden that exclusively celebrates the extraordinary form of the Mass using the Tridentine Liturgy. This form of the Mass is celebrated exclusively in Ecclesiastical Latin, and one may recall that in prior years the 12 pm Mass at St. Peter Church was celebrated in this rite.

Though an accountant by trade, Mr. Rotondi is well acquainted with the textbook series that we are currently using (Memoria Press) having had taught Latin within the context of a homeschooling cooperative at Mater Ecclesiae. This, combined with his own training at St. Mary Academy in Kansas, his experience training servers of the Latin Mass, as well his proficiency in Gregorian chant, makes him a solid choice for this position. Further, he is a two year recipient of the *Maxima Cum Laude Award* for the National Latin Exam, which further demonstrates his proficiency.

Mr. Rotondi is himself a product of Catholic schools, is the father of five children, and the parent of children attending Catholic schools in our Diocese. He comes to St. Peter well referred by his pastor, Fr. Pasley, and several acquaintances and former students of his.

Mr. Rotondi will assume his post as Latin instructor for grades 6-8; however, he will work closely with me in order to bring our Latin program to the next level with the inauguration of the *National Latin Exam* for our students. This assessment, given annually around the same time as the Iowas, provides our students with the opportunity to earn national and local recognition, and is an excellent predictor of future success on SAT verbal tests. I believe the implementation of this assessment will further distinguish the academic program at St. Peter from other schools and provide additional data to examine the impact of Latin on student literacy and ELA outcomes, both of which have improved considerably in relation to Iowa Assessments this past year.



# SAINT PETER SCHOOL

PREK-8TH GRADE ELEMENTARY | ESTABLISHED 1927

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph Saffioti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Joseph Saffioti  
Principal

“Hence in accepting the new, he (the teacher) will not hastily abandon the old, which the experience of centuries has found expedient and profitable. This is particularly true in the teaching of Latin, which in our days is falling more and more into disuse, because of the unreasonable rejection of methods so successfully used by that sane humanism, whose highest development was reached in the schools of the Church” (*Divini Illius Magistri*, par. 87).