



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 25 – 31, 2021



Welcome to last full week of January! $1/12^{\text{th}}$ (or 0.08333...% if you prefer) of 2021 is almost history! Wow!

IF YOU ARE NOT A BETTER PERSON THIS JANUARY THAN YOU WERE IN DECEMBER, WHAT NEED HAVE YOU FOR JANUARY?

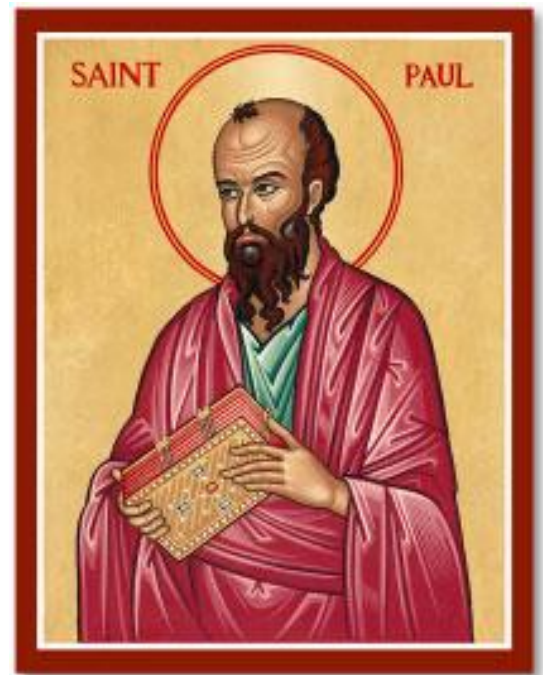
--a modification of words by *Rebbe Nachman*, an Hasidic rabbi who lived and taught in Ukraine from 1802 to 1810.

I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR MY OFFENSES AND OMISSIONS OF TODAY, AND I RESOLVE TO MAKE TOMORROW A BETTER DAY.

--SPS End of Day Prayer

Mon, Jan 25 (Conversion of St. Paul; all-school mass; A B C D)

- **Today's feast** recalls the wonderful story of Saul of Tarsus being struck down and hearing the words "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" May we all continue our daily conversions away from sin and toward God! We will have an all-school mass today in honor of this special feast. Father Matthew will celebrate in the gym and Josh will live stream it to the classrooms. Eucharistic ministers will bring Holy Communion to each classroom. Why the gym? **We want to have the senior class present in the gym, socially distanced.** Thanks to Jeff and Josh for making this happen.
- **This Day in History:** In 1961, President John F. Kennedy becomes the first U.S. president to hold a live televised news conference.
- **TDIH:** In 1924, the first Winter Olympics take off in style at Chamonix in the French Alps.
- **Basketball:** 8th at Pine Junior High
- **Bowling:** Wolves v. Albany at Tangi Lanes in opening match. Geaux Bowling Wolves!



Tue, Jan 26 (E F G A – possible President's Assembly)

- **TDIH:** In 1725, Pope Benedict XIII recognized the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools as an official Religious Congregation of the Church. De La Salle had died five years earlier and the Brothers' future was unsure. Church approval, therefore, provided them with legitimacy, purpose, & promise. We continue that work here at SPS.
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Fontainebleau (postponed to Feb 17 due to quarantine issue)
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Ponchatoula

Wed, Jan 27 (B C D E – 8th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast)

- **TDIH:** In 1973, the United States, South Vietnam, Viet Cong, and North Vietnam formally sign "An Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam" in Paris bringing America's most unpopular war to an end.
- **TDIH II:** In 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart** was born. Listen to some Mozart today!
- **Chocolate Cake Day:** Indulge and enjoy!
- **Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day (always last Monday of Jan):** Feeling a little stressed? Get some bubble wrap and squeeze away! Feel the stress disappear with each Pop Pop Pop!
- **UN International Commemoration of Holocaust Victims:** On each Jan 27, the UN remembers the Holocaust of WW II. The day also commemorates when Soviet troops liberated the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland on Jan 27, 1945. From the website: *This year's observance is centered "Journeys through the Holocaust". This theme recalls journeys taken during this dark period, from deportation to incarceration to freedom, and how this experience transformed the lives of those who endured it. These are stories of pain and suffering, yet ultimately also of triumph and renewal, serving as a guiding force for future generations. Each person who becomes aware of this history will no doubt reflect upon his or her own capacity to turn compassion for others into decisive and heroic action in their time of need. We must use teachable moments this week in to remind students of this horrible stain on the history of the world – and to pray such hatred never again occurs.*
- **Basketball: 8th & 9th v. Jesuit**
- **Wrestling: SPS at Brother Martin (canceled due to COVID – see below)**



"Wow! I wasn't expecting that!"
Ah, the wonderful world of chemistry!

Thu, Jan 28 (F G A B – 9th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast)

- **Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas**, a Catholic intellectual giant. My personal favorite St. Thomas story is when he said that he learned more by kneeling at the foot of the crucifix than from all his university studies.
- **TDIH:** In 1986, the space shuttle *Challenger* explodes after liftoff, killing seven astronauts aboard.
- **Fun at Work Day:** Have fun today at work! Fortunately, I have fun every day by working at SPS.
- **Blueberry Pancake Day:** Enjoy!
- **Kazoo Day:** To celebrate kazoo playing in America (first introduced at the George State Fair in 1852), toot away today!
- **Bowling: SPS v. Ponchatoula at Tangi Lanes**

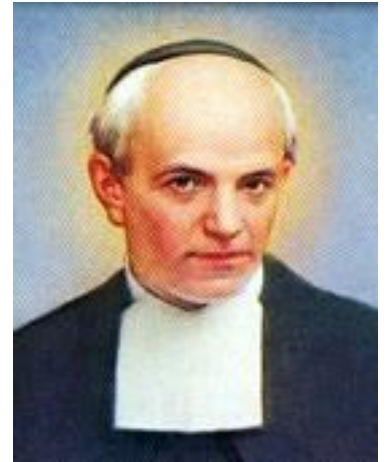
Fri, Jan 29 (C D E F – 10th Grade HR Breakfast; 8th grade retreat)

- **In Memoriam:** Today is the four-year anniversary of the passing of 2014 alumnus Graham Jordan, an outstanding student, athlete, and person. We continue to pray for and with his family, who are SPS neighbors. I invite you to visit Graham's Memorial Trees and plaque and offer a prayer for him and his family.
- **TDIH:** In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," is published. Enjoy rereading the poem today. "Nevermore!"

- **Puzzle Day:** Work a puzzle today! A crossword, jigsaw, or any type will do fine. Enjoy!
- **Corn Chip Day:** Eat a corn chip today! Did you know the corn chip was first marketed in 1961?
- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** Because of COVID, this annual event will be televised virtually with Archbishop Gregory Aymond as celebrant.
- **Soccer:** SPS at Fontainebleau
- **Basketball:** SPS at Slidell

Sat, Jan 30

- **Croissant Day:** Treat yourself to this French pastry!
- **Today** Lasallians throughout the world celebrate a special Christian Brother feast: Saint Brother Mutien Marie. In Mutien Marie, we have another example of the Church raising someone to sainthood not for extraordinary deeds as the world might recognize, but for extraordinary devotion to and **zeal for Catholic education on a daily basis**. Mutien was a Belgian brother who spent **58 years** teaching and prefecting at the Brothers' boarding school at Malonne. He was an effective teacher, a vigilant prefect, a catechist in the nearby parish and a great influence on his students by his patience and piety. Among the Brothers, it was said that he had never been seen violating even the smallest points in the Rule of the Brothers -- and I can assure you that there were many rules back then and the Brothers were the first ones to point out deviations by each other! St. Brother Mutien Marie -- pray for us!
- **Placement Test (Makeup):** We had a number of applicants miss the Jan 9th placement test due to illness of quarantine. We will give a makeup test this morning. Thanks to those who are helping me.
- **Soccer:** SPS v. Northshore (1 pm)
- **Track:** Indoor Meet at LSU
- **Rugby:** Wolves in games at City Park



*Teen Life Counts began this week for sophomores.
We pray that the message takes root in our students.*

Sun, Jan 31

- If today were not a Sunday, we would observe the **Feast of St. John Bosco**, founder of the Salesian Order of Sisters, Brothers and Priests. In many ways, John Bosco was similar to St. John Baptist de La Salle – he had a loving concern for young people and was devoted to meeting their educational needs. Today, the Salesians minister in the Archdiocese of New Orleans by conducting Archbishop Shaw High School and the Academy of Our Lady High School. We thank the Salesians for their work with the young people of the Archdiocese. Here's a sampling of John Bosco's words:

- *Do good while you still have time. God does not pay us for results, but for effort.*
- *Nobody can be truly happy in this world unless he is at peace with God.*
- *Put up willingly with the faults of others if you wish others to put up with yours.*
- January 31 also marks the 105th birthday of Thomas Merton, American Catholic writer and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemane, KY, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. A few of his words:
 - *We are not at peace with others because we are not at peace with ourselves, and we are not at peace with ourselves because we are not at peace with God.*
 - *Every moment and every event of every man's life on earth plants something in his soul.*
 - *And one of my favorites: My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*
- **Inspire Your Heart with Art Day:** Visit a museum (well, maybe not in the Age of COVID), browse an art book, view art on the Internet, listen to music, paint a picture, read poetry, write poetry – liberate the artist inside of you. Enjoy art today!

I call the following to your attention in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance.

Rise Up, O Men of God

ADMISSIONS FOR NEXT YEAR: I am VERY pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to all who helped make this happen. Thanks for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at Saint Paul's School! Thank you!

ANNUAL APPEAL: Many thanks to those who have responded. For clarity, I offer the following:

- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g., technology, special programs, etc. The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation, the \$4.5 million new gym, the \$4 million Benilde Hall renovation and now the \$2.5 million band building.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- Gifts of stock are welcome.

- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What's important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

ANNUAL APPEAL AND GRANDPARENTS: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.



Sophs pay attention during TLC!

APPLICATION LETTERS: More unedited comments:

- *I will not only try my best to achieve good grades, but I will also help others to achieve their goals.* [Wonderful!]
- *Who would not want to attend St. Paul's?* [I agree!]
- *My brother attends St. Paul's and I see him getting smarter every day.* [And you will, too!]
- *I feel like God is calling me to St. Paul's.* [He is! And thanks for answering God's call!]
- *I have a passion to serve others that are in need of help.* [This guy is a born Lasallian!]
- *The teachers I met seemed smart, kind and even a little funny.* [Smart, kind, and funny – a winning combo!]

ATTENDANCE: Make the following part of your New Year Resolutions: If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1980, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns**



Construction on new Band Building is underway!

BAND HALL HISTORY: In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a “recreation center” for the recreational needs of the students living in La Salle Hall dorm. At a cost of \$15,000, a building was constructed to provide ping pong, pool, games and TV for boarders. Eventually, arcade-type games and a snack bar were added. In addition, a nine-hole miniature golf (putt-putt) course was built in front of the building, complete with lighting for nighttime use.

The facility, known simply as “the rec hall”, served the recreational needs of the boarding students until the summer of 1995, when, once again, the needs of the school dictated change. The overall population of the school was growing, but the population of the boarding program was shrinking. Accordingly, the decision was made to move the “rec hall” into La Salle Hall itself and to move the band hall (which was located on the third floor of Benilde Hall) into the rec hall building, thus allowing us to construct five more classrooms in Benilde Hall. The miniature golf course had also deteriorated and was removed.

The building has served the Marching Wolves well since that time, but, again, needs dictate change. In addition to overall building deterioration, our band programs have been expanding of late and now include concert, jazz, and drum corps components in addition to the renowned Marching Wolves, now almost one hundred members strong! They are deserving of a better facility. This new facility will provide expanded space, restrooms, acoustics, and aesthetics to our music program. Construction has begun and this \$2.3 million project will be completed in the summer of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.



Support the Marching Wolves by helping fund the new band hall, already under construction!

We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.

BOOK STORE: All school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Hours?

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am and 11:15 – 12:45
- By appointment. Email spsbookstore16@gmail.com
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds fund activities throughout the year. **Recently, we received \$10,000 worth of Chromebooks for student use in main school building!**

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Last week we received our quarterly check of \$106.10 – which was considerably lower than previous checks. Now every \$106.10 helps, but I know we can do better. Encourage your sons to bring these items to their math teachers. Each one earns SPS 10 cents – which can add up quickly. Thanks, math teachers, for coordinating this painless fundraiser.

No, Really...

Take the Meals!

**Take advantage of the Free Meals
provided to our students!**

Reasons why you should take advantage of free school meals:

They are FREE and may help you stretch your household budget.

They save you time shopping and prepping meals.

They are available in school.

They are delicious, nutritious, fun and convenient.

Healthy food fuels students for learning.

Each meal served provides funding to your school's Nutrition Services department from the USDA.

You are helping keep our staff employed.

You are not taking food away from someone who needs it more. We have plenty to go around!

We love to provide meals to our students. It's what we do best!

The USDA is covering the cost of these meals during COVID-19.

Free Meals will be provided throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year.

CAFETERIA: A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT from the Federal School Lunch Program:

- ALL students may receive a FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH **throughout the rest of the school year!** Students MUST still obtain the meals with their ID card (no ID, no food) but it is FREE.
- Students MUST still order lunch during first block, but it will be FREE. Note: “extras” such as juice, ice cream, etc. are NOT free and students will be charged. The free lunch includes milk.
- This is a great opportunity for our students – and savings for you! And it helps keep the cafeteria staff employed! Encourage your son to take advantage of this!

CAFETERIA FREE BREAKFAST/LUNCH CLARIFICATION: ONLY the basic lunch / breakfast is free. If students purchase “extras” such as juice, water, or desserts, they will be charged for these. Make sure your son understands this policy. \

CALENDAR FOR **NEXT YEAR** (2021-22): Some important dates for those of you who plan:

Saint Paul's School 2021 - 2022 Calendar

Mon - Tue, Aug 2 & 3	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 4	Teacher Prep Day
Thu, Aug 5	School Opens with a full day of instruction
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 8	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 8	Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00 -- Tentative)
Sat, Oct 30	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 08	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 29	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Mon, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King Holiday
Fri, Feb 25	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 28 - Mar 04	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 11	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 13	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 15 – 22	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 25	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 27 – 29	Senior Final Exams
Sat, May 14	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tue – Fri, May 17 - 20	Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
Mon, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tue, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2021 assumes that we are in full operation. Naturally, any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or acts of nature may result in alteration.

- Mon, Feb 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 (canceled)
- Fri, Feb 12 Faculty Retreat (no classes for students)
- Mon-Fri, Feb 15-19 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Mon, Feb 22 Classes resume
- Fri, Mar 12 End of Third Quarter
- Fri – Fri Apr 2-9 Easter Holidays
- Mon, Apr 12 Classes resume from
- Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30 Senior Final Exams
- Sat, May 15 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 18-21 Final Exams for 9 - 11
- Mon, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Day
- Tues, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Day

- We are still determining final exam dates for 8th grade. Sorry for the delay. We will publish soon.
- Note that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177
- In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school.

CAR BURGLARIES: Mayor Mark Johnson and Covington Police Chief Culotta recently sent an email informing us that car burglaries are rising. Lock your car and do not leave valuables visible.

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING: Only Saint Paul's outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

DRIVING: I call the following to your attention:

- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let's start 2021 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!
- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: Don't forget these painless ways to help:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) & SPS receives 5% of purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

HONEY SALE: We now have a Beekeeping Club! Yes, really! And they are selling honey. The club is called SASS – which stands for Saint Paul's Apian Student Society! Very clever! The honey comes from hives in Abita and has received rave reviews. Proceeds will go towards acquiring more hives and expanding the beekeeping club's operation.

- 1 pint = \$14/pint
- 2+ pints = \$12/pint
- Half pint = \$8
- Note: The price includes a \$1 deposit on the mason jar.

If you are interested in buying honey, please text Dr. Shawn Mullet at 617-388-6643. If you know anyone beyond the Saint Paul's community who might be interested, please spread the word. Thank you for your support. By helping SASS, you are helping SPS students connect to the natural environment and experience what it means to run a small business in the community.



Quiz Bowl Wolves participate in on-line competition on Jan 23!

HONOR ROLL BREAKFASTS begin on Wednesday. Here is the schedule:

- Wed, Jan 27 – 8th grade
- Thu, Jan 28 – 9th grade
- Fri, Jan 29 – 10th grade
- Mon, Feb 01 – 11th grade
- Tue, Feb 02 – 12th grade

Due to the current indoor seating restrictions related to COVID-19 and based on the medical guidance of the CDC and our partner, Children's LCMC, each student is only allotted one guest. Students and guests must sit together and WEAR MASKS.

We know that current quarantined students will miss the breakfast. Like first quarter, we will schedule a make-up HRB at a future date.

ID CARDS, TEMP BRACELETS, AND MASKS: Students must wear all three of these DAILY. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing all three.** If he forgets, he must purchase replacements from Sgt. Pressley.

LHSAA: The annual convention is traditionally held during this last week of January. Due to COVID, the convention has been postponed until April. I know Trevor is disappointed that he won't get to travel to Baton Rouge to be with the other LHSAA principals to help level the playing field (one of the most overused cliches at the convention from my years attending.) Note: the LHSAA doesn't recognize Presidents as leaders of the schools so I no longer am relevant to them – even though I am Trevor's boss!)

LAST WEEK:

- **Basketball:** GREAT district wins over Mandeville and Ponchatoula! Geaux Wolves!
- **Formation Friday:** COVID can't stop Faculty Lasallian Formation last Friday! Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff for organizing. Hope the boys enjoyed the late start which allowed for this event.
- **Soccer:** COVID & weather played havoc with the games this week.
- **Wrestling:** Ditto soccer! In case you didn't hear the latest, here is what Coach P had to send Fri night: *Late this afternoon all schools that participated in the Louisiana Classic tournament this past weekend were contacted by the LDH regarding potential COVID exposure from the event. Apparently there have been multiple student athletes and parents who attended the event and recently tested positive for COVID. As of now no SPS student-athlete or coach has tested positive, and we are only aware of one athlete who was directly exposed to someone who did. With that being said, all who attended the event should quarantine themselves according to the guidance of LDH - effective immediately. From what we have been told by the LDH: Because the event was 7 days from tomorrow, any athlete who gets tested tomorrow and tests negative will be allowed to return to school on Monday, 1/25. No athlete who attended the event will be allowed to practice until at least Monday, 2/1 (the day after the 14-day quarantine period ends). Trainers Stipe and Abbie Duhe will be sending all who attended the event an email with the particular days that they can return to various activities. Every school who attended the event is in the same situation, so we will not be at any disadvantage in terms of competition. All varsity competition in the immediate future - including the Brother Martin dual meet - is off as of now. I spoke to the coach this evening, and they are in the same situation as we are. The junior high event scheduled for tomorrow was cancelled due to all the coaches of all attending schools being quarantined due to the event and all officials scheduled to officiate being quarantined due to the event.*

LOST & FOUND: Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Stress with your sons to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside Attendance Office.

MONEY: Please stress with your sons that they should NOT bring large sums of money to school. There is no need for students to have large cash amounts – which they talk about which tempts others.

PAPER WOLF: Read The Paper Wolf! (www.thepaperwolf.com) I do! We've got an outstanding, AWARD WINNING digital newspaper!

Compliment the outstanding staff.
Subscribe! Support the future of journalism! Geaux Paper Wolves!



RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2021 - 22: Yes, it is time to start planning for next year! We begin THIS WEEK registering current students for 2021-22. Here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be emailed registration materials early this week. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can add.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2021 - 22, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for 2021-22, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about transfer admissions.**

RIP: We extend our prayer and support to Administration Building Receptionist Andrea Francis who lost her father on Thursday in Vicksburg. Andrea will be gone at least through Tuesday, so please be sensitive to us being a bit short handed in the Admin Building



SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the one-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledges. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the candidates in last year's election were speeding and the running of stop signs? And SPS students/parents came in for their fair share of blame!
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington?
- Many of streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of automobiles, thus not designed for cars?

Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets." The Mayor is asking everyone to "relax, take a deep breath and slow down. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Please reinforce this with students whenever possible. And please set a good example yourself!

SOCIAL HOSTING /UNDERAGE DRINKING: With the Mardi Gras season looming, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as "social hosting." I have sent a brochure on this activity, which may have

legal consequences, to our parents. The brochure was provided to me by Mr. Hal Fox, owner of Fox Litho of Mandeville, and father of Hal. Here's the link: <http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246>

SOCIAL MEDIA:

- **Parents: please stress with your sons the consequences of inappropriate social media posting. Cyber-bullying is against the law and has legal implications. And the school will take strong measures against any inappropriate posting.**
- **Students: THINK before you post!**

STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL: Ben's Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. You are encouraged to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. The space will be supervised by faculty.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. RAENELL HOUSTON: From Dr. Houston to all Catholic schools: *I respectfully request that you use prudent judgement and follow all civil parish guidelines for... events that take place outside of the regular school day and outside of typical school operations. If compliance with local civil guidance cannot be guaranteed and/or an event is likely to lead to a high risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the event should be rescheduled for a later date when it is safer to do so.*

TEEN LIFE COUNTS: A guest speaker from the Jewish Family Service's Teen Life Counts began visiting sophomore religion classes last week and will continue this week. Teen Life Counts is an educational suicide prevention program designed to help teens learn the warning signs of suicide and how to seek help if they believe a friend is in danger. Through participation, our students learn to be more sensitive to their friends' comments and feelings as well as to be more aware of how they can appropriately deal with personal challenges they may experience in their own lives. Because of the exploding suicide rate in St. Tammany Parish, St. Paul's takes this issue especially seriously. We strive to do everything possible to keep our students safe. Our sophomores have participated in Teen Life Counts for many years. We believe it is a beneficial experience for both them and their families. For additional information about the program, visit <http://www.jfsneworleans.org/programs-services/teen-life-counts/> Thanks to Christine Woodard for arranging.

TUTORING: Tutoring offered by National Honor Society members is underway and occurs every day at lunch in the library for the remainder of the school year. All students are welcome to utilize this free tutoring service. Essay proofreading services also provided. Encourage your son to use this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so!**

UNIFORM SHIRTS: We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking.

VAPING: The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, all too often ignore the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can't police outside of school – parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers



Anthony enjoys his FREE lunch – and the only time we can see his maskless face is when he is eating!

of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Hilarious church bulletin bloopers, which I haven't used in a while – but I still laugh!

- *During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.*
- *Please welcome Pastor Don, a caring individual who loves hurting people.*
- *One of our members donated the new loudspeaker system in honor of his wife.*
- *The sermon this morning: Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: Searching for Jesus!*
- *The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.*
- *22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.*
- *Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary...*

enjoys sinning to join the choir.

- *Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High"*
- *The rosebud on the altar is to announce the birth of David Belzer, the son of Rev. & Mrs. Julius Belzer.*
- *This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.*
- *Next Sunday, the special collection will defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the carpet should come forward and do so.*
- *The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning."*
- *"Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones."*
- *Great news! Doctors have performed a CAT scan on Pastor McLaren's head and report that they have found nothing!"*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

YEARBOOKS: How do you submit a senior ad (**Feb 21 deadline**) or purchase a yearbook?

- Go to www.yearbookforever.com
- Search for “Saint Paul’s” exactly as displayed here.
- Select “Purchase a 2020-21 Product” in the list.
- Select “Buy Personal Ad” or "Buy a yearbook" option on the right side of the page.
- Follow the rest of the on-screen instructions and submit your results.
- ***Seniors do not need to purchase a yearbook. The yearbook is included in tuition.**

A LOOK AHEAD AND SECOND SEMESTER PERIOD ROTATION: Here is the period rotation for most of second semester to use when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. This is subject to change if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur:

January

25 – ABCD – Mass – Feast of St. Paul
26 – EFGA – President’s Assembly (Tentative)
27 – BCDE -8th HR Breakfast
28 – FGAB -9th HR Breakfast
29 – CDEF -10th HR Breakfast – 8th on retreat

February

1 – GABC -11th HR Breakfast
2 – DEFG – Pack Time -12th HR Breakfast
3 – ABCD – PreACT 10th
4 – EFGA – PreACT 9th
5 – BCDE – PreACT 8th
8 – FGAB
9 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
10 – GABC
11 – DEFG
12 – Faculty Retreat
22 – ABCD
23 – EFGA – Pack Time
24 – BCDE
25 – FGAB
26 – CDEF

March

1 – GABC
2 – DEFG – President’s Assembly
3 – ABCD
4 – EFGA
5 – BCDE
8 – FGAB
9 – CDEF – Pack Time

10 – GABC – ACT for 11th
11 – DEFG
12 – ABCD –End of Q1
15 – EFGA – 9:00AM Late Start
16 – BCDE
17 – FGAB
18 – CDEF
19 – GABC - Mass
22 – DEFG
23 – ABCD
24 – EFGA
25 – BCDE - Junior Retreat
26 – FGAB – Junior Retreat
29 – CDEF
30 – GABC – Senior Retreat
31 – DEFG – Senior Retreat

April

1 – ABCD – Senior Retreat
2 – Good Friday
12 – EFGA
13 – BCDE
14 – FGAB
15 – CDEF
16 – GABC
19 – DEFG
20 – ABCD
21 – EFGA
22 – BCDE
23 – FGAB
26 – CDEF
27 – GABC
28 – DEFG – Senior Exams
29 – ABCD – Senior Exams
30 – EFGA – Senior Exams

May

3 – BCDE
4 – FGAB
5 – CDEF
6 – GABC
7 – DEFG
10 – ABCD
11 – EFGA
12 – BCDE

- 13 – FGAB
- 14 – CDEF
- 17 – GABC
- 18 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11
- 19 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11
- 20 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11
- 21 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11

Whew! Enough for now. Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2020-21 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Made It the End of-January 2021 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

Now let's go out there to be light, HOPE, and love to the students entrusted to our care by doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God, beseeching our Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the Lasallian Mission, living courageously and respecting all people!



Masks can't hide the smiles of these sophomores who are happy to be at SPS!



Blessed Brother Scubilion!
Help us respect all people!

Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, FSC was a French Brother who spent 34 years of his religious life ministering to the enslaved people on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Pope Saint John Paul II beatified him in 1989. From the Christian Brothers Website (www.lasalle.org): *As a devout young man in his native village in Burgundy, Jean Bernard Rousseau was serving as a catechist when he was introduced to the Brothers, who had just opened a school nearby. He entered the Paris novitiate in 1822.*

After ten years in elementary schools throughout France, Brother Scubilion left France in 1833 to dedicate the remaining thirty-four years of his life to the enslaved natives on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Remembered as the “catechist of the slaves,” he inaugurated evening classes for them, which were well attended, even after a long day of exhausting labor. He devised special programs and techniques, suited to their needs and abilities, in order to teach the essentials of Christian doctrine and morality, and prepare them to receive the sacraments. He won them over by his kindly manner and his respect for them. After the emancipation of the slaves in 1848, he continued to care for them and to help them

adapt to their new life of freedom and responsibility. In the last years of his life, despite failing health, he assisted the local pastor in visiting the sick, winning over sinners, encouraging vocations, and even effecting what seemed to be miraculous cures. At his death he was venerated on the island as a saint.





