



Gaudete! Rejoice! Advent is almost over! The Lord is near!



For the past two years, I've quoted Brother Tim Coldwell, former Provincial of the former New Orleans-Santa Fe Province of Christian Brothers, on the occasion of his Gaudete Sunday message to the Brothers. His words are worth reading again as we enter the final week of the first semester (more reason for rejoicing):

Holiness isn't looking like we shower daily at Lourdes. It's doing the daily with enthusiasm, fervor and zest. Bring a smile and a laugh and a peace to your reading, teaching, administering, worshipping, counseling, socializing, or adoring. Fr. James Martin [a Jesuit writer] says it better: "Joy evangelizes!"

What a great Gaudete Sunday week thought! On this third week of Advent, therefore, when the pressures of semester's impending end, the rush of the holidays, and the world being filled with unspeakable acts of evil bring stress to us all, I must remember to rejoice – so whatever happens this week, I intend to “bring a smile and a laugh and a peace” to it – and I invite you to do the same as we look forward to Friday at 11:15 AM! In that way, we will be holy! In that way, we will have Gaudeted (yes, I made that word up!) In that way, we will be better prepared for December 25. In that way, we will bring light to those whose lives are filled with gloom. Somehow, as difficult as it may be sometimes, we must rejoice!

Mon, Dec 15 – (Special Hour of Code schedule; G A B C(review); Hour of Code in C)

- **TDIH:** In 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence
- **TDIH:** In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announces that the US would recognize Communist China and sever ties with Taiwan, reversing long standing US policy.
- **TDIH:** In 2005, ten million Iraqis take part in the first democratic election since defeat of Saddam Hussein.
- **National Cat Herders Day:** For all of you cat lovers, herd 'em up today! But this is also a day to attempt an impossible task – like herding cats.
- **Hour of Code:** During the last hour today, the whole school will participate in this national event. Students will access web sites that teach them computer coding in a fun and engaging way. Our country is facing a severe shortage of computer programmers, and this event is designed to get students thinking about computer programming careers – while having fun in the process. Students are asked to “bring a device” capable of accessing the Internet.

Tue, Dec 16 – (Period C exam; Prayer Service; President's assembly; D & E review; 1:30 dismissal)

- **Hanukkah** begins at sundown today and ends at sundown on Dec 24. As Christians prepare to celebrate the great feast of Christmas, we extend our very best wishes to our Jewish brothers and sisters who are celebrating Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Unlike Christmas, which is always on December 25, Hanukkah is a movable feast. Hanukkah celebrates the victory of the Maccabees and the rededication of the Jerusalem Temple. It also commemorates the miracle of the oil that burned for 8 days. We wish our Jewish brothers and sisters a blessed and joyful celebration of Hanukkah!



- **TDIH:** In 1773, the “Boston Tea Party” occurs when a group of Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships in Boston Harbor and dump 342 chests of tea into the water. The three ships holding the British tea were built in America and owned by Americans according to [Boston Tea Party Ships & Museums](#). The museum also states hundreds took part in the event, with 116 individuals taking credit for it. The Sons of Liberty carefully planned and executed the Boston Tea Party according to the museum, which could have attributed to the absence of violence and confrontation. The three-hour event occurred on Dec. 16, 1773, because "American colonists believed Britain was unfairly taxing them to pay for expenses incurred during the French and Indian War," according to Historic Tours of America
- **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day:** Feel free to celebrate!

Wed, Dec 17 (D & E exam; F & G review; 1:30 dismissal)

- **Today** begins the "final days of Advent", characterized by the "O Antiphons" taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. Today's antiphon: ***O Sapientia:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*
- **TDIH:** In 1903, Orville & Wilbur Wright fly the first powered, controlled, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC. The flight wasn't much - 12 seconds, 120 feet. But it was the first controlled, sustained flight in a heavier-than-air craft, one of the great moments of the century.



Hungry Wolves enjoy Mothers Club Snack Day.

Thu, Dec 18 (F & G exam; A & B review; 1:30 dismissal)

- ***O Adonai:** O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai: come; stretch your hand & set us free.*
- **TDIH:** In 1777, the new United States celebrates its first national day of thanksgiving, commemorating the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga after the surrender of General John Burgoyne.
- **Bake Cookies Day:** Indulge!

Fri, Dec 19 (A & B exams; 11:15 dismissal)

***O Radix Jesse:** “O branch of Jesse’s stem, you have been raised up as a sign for all peoples; kings stand silent in your presence; the nations bow down in worship before you. Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.*

- **TDIH:** In 1843, Charles Dickens publishes "A Christmas Carol." Re-read this classic today, or at least recall the story, and don't be a “Bah! Humbug!” Scrooge today! God bless us, everyone!
- **National Re-gifting Day:** Reduce, reuse, and recycle ... regift!
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV, & Varsity at Brother Martin
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. St. Martin's (6)
- **Faculty/Staff Christmas Luncheon** in cafeteria following dismissal! All are invited.

Sat, Dec 20

- ***O Clavis David:** “O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of Heaven: Come, break down the prison walls of death for those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death; and lead your captive people into freedom.”*

- **Underdog Day:** Cheer for your favorite underdog today. Fortunately, SPS is not usually an underdog!
- **Soccer:** SPS 8th Grade Tournament; 9th at Catholic; JV at Lakeshore
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi at Rummel
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Holy Cross (9) & Jesuit (11) at Jesuit

Sat, Dec 20– Sun, Jan 4 -- Christmas (not winter) Holidays! You are on your own for athletic events, TDIH, National Whatever Days, H of the W and W of E.

Mon, Jan 5 -- School resumes at 7:45 am; regular; ABCD

Christmas (Not Winter) Holidays: I worry about our students over the holidays b/c of the temptations to which they will be exposed. Parents, please take time to encourage your sons to make healthy choices over the holidays. Towards that end, I offer the following from Psychemedics (our drug testing company) newsletter which arrived at the beginning of December:



Andrew & Oliver prepare luminarias.

Regular Marijuana Use Changes Brain, Lowers IQ, Study

Confirms: From the Psychemedics Newsletter: *Early age marijuana use could have long-term consequences on your brain and it may even lower your IQ, according to a new study conducted at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Researchers found that compared to nonusers, people who smoked marijuana starting as early as age 14 have less brain volume, or gray matter, in the orbitofrontal cortex. That's the area in the front of your brain that helps you make decisions. "The younger the individual started using, the more pronounced the changes," said Dr. Francesca Filbey, the study's investigator. "Adolescence is when the brain starts maturing and making itself more adult-like, so any exposure to toxic substances can set the course for how your brain ends up." Researchers also found increased brain connectivity in chronic users, important for adaptive learning abilities. It also helps your mind make associations. This*

wiring of the brain starts to deteriorate with chronic marijuana use. Dr. Susan Weiss, associate director for Scientific Affairs at National Institute on Drug Abuse said the study provides more strong evidence about the dangers of marijuana. "This is a complex and interesting study that adds to the growing body of evidence that heavy marijuana use, particularly at a young age, is linked to significant adverse brain changes," said Weiss. "These mounting scientific findings certainly challenge the widespread belief that marijuana is a harmless drug."

The Annual Fund: Thanks to all who have responded so far. I'm humbled by the response. But I need everyone to participate. No gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large! Let me know if you have questions. If you would like me to meet with you, I'd be happy to do so.

The Annual Fund and Grandparents: 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 don't want to ask grandparents without your consent. I've already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

AmazonSmile: This is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The difference is that when using AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice – which we hope will be Saint Paul’s School! Click here to shop on AmazonSmile:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895>.

Musings on Last Week:

- **Immaculate Conception Mass:** The mass was wonderful, with students well-behaved. Thanks to campus ministry, liturgical band, maintenance and all who helped make this possible.
- **Cross Country Awards:** A good time was passed by all. Congrats CC.
- **Drama Evening:** The Theater classes put on a very entertaining evening of short scenes from two of the Marian Players’ signature shows. All of the boys got a chance to be on stage and perform before a live audience.
- **Basketball:** Congrats on strong showing in DLS Tournament. 8th grade won two games v. Bogalusa Jr Hi. And the SPS 9th grade tournament was a success.
- **Soccer:** Congrats on great wins over Brother Martin, Covington, and a strong showing in the Clinton tournament. And 9th beat Northlake Christian’s JV!
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi wrestled hard on Sat and Varsity won the Parish Tournament for 17th consecutive year. Congrats!
- **Mothers Club:** The MC outdid itself this week with both a snack day, luminarias refreshments, and a sumptuous Christmas dinner for the Brothers on Saturday.
- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to those who brought students to shop and to wrap. Donations have been very generous.
- **Leyland Cypress:** Thanks to all who decorated the Leyland Cypress in SPS blue lights. It’s a beautiful addition to our Christmas decorations. And if you haven’t seen the Mothers Club’s decoration of the chapel, stop by. Very nice!
- **Luminarias:** Last Thu was, once again, inspirational. Thanks, Student Council! And thanks to MC for refreshments and liturgical & jazz bands for music. By the way, the student council chose the word **LOGOS** for the stadium display. The word is Greek for “word.” They chose the **LOGOS** for the following reasons: in John 1:1, the evangelist writes “In the beginning was the Word: the Word was with God and the Word was God.” And in John 1:14, he writes “The Word became flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory, the glory that he has from the Father as only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.” And know you know. Congratulations, Student Council, for an original and meaningful word! Last year, WGNO TV produced a video on our luminaries. It’s worth a look, so here’s the link: http://youtu.be/_pwpDjiufPU.
- **ACT:** Don Pressley and his crew of proctors administered the test to a large group on Sat.
- **Class Presentations:** I had the privilege last week of watching some excellent student presentations in English II H. Our guys are getting better and better in making these presentations – valuable skills.
- **Mock UN:** 8 Wolves plus Jan Gardner represented SPS at the convention in Baton Rouge over the weekend. They returned even more excited about their involvement in Youth in Government.



Luminaria night – a magical sight on the SPS campus!

- **Jazz Band:** The jazz wolves performed at Mandeville Trailhead on Sat, bringing Christmas cheer. Special thanks to Mark '80 and Liam Dixon, owners of The Broken Egg in Mandeville, who treated the entire Jazz Band to lunch at the restaurant following the band's performance. Now that's Christmas generosity!



Habitat Wolves show Christmas spirit!

It's a Wonderful Life Rerun: I printed this the last two years but it's worth another read, as *I AWF* is one of those Christmas classics that many enjoy seeing over and over. And Denny's Theater III (film) class studies Frank Capra's Christmas Here's what Capra said about the film: *It's a Wonderful Life wasn't made for the oh-so bored critics or the oh-so jaded literati. It was my kind of film for my kind of people. ... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure. To show those born slow of foot or slow of mind, those oldest sisters condemned to spinsterhood, and those oldest sons condemned to unschooled toil, that each man's life touches so many other lives. And that if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole.*

A film that said to the downtrodden, the pushed around, the pauper, "Heads up, fella. No man is poor who has one friend. Three friends and you're filthy rich." A film that expressed its love for the homeless and the loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores. I wanted to shout to the abandoned grandfathers staring vacantly in nursing homes, to the always interviewed but seldom adopted half-breed orphans, to the paupers who refuse to die while medical vultures wait to snatch their hearts and livers, and to those who take cobalt treatments and whistle -- I wanted to shout, "You are the salt of the earth. And It's a Wonderful Life is my memorial to you!"

Last Week's Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Dec 09 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Listened to an incredible version of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" – a traditional Advent song which dates back to the 12th century – which was sung by local St. Tammany musician and former SPS Physics teacher Gene Lipps. I explained that the words are based on Isaiah's biblical prophecy and that the word "Advent" comes from the Latin "Ad", meaning "toward" or "to" and "venire" which means "to come." Hence, Advent is a prayer of wanting our Savior "to come to or toward" us. I encourage the students to make the most of these special days. Finally, I reminded them that we were one week away from exams and to start preparing and encouraged them to make the most of this last month of 2014.
- Prayed in a special way, as two Advent purple prayer candles were lit by junior **Christian Fortner**, for those who have suffered loss since our last assembly: **Mrs. Dorothy Martino Breal, grandmother of pre-freshman Hunter Dupre and Mr. Foster Pettit, grandfather of Carson Caulfield. We also prayed for Mrs. Albert Messer, grandmother of sophomore Marshall Roy** who was having surgery that morning for a brain aneurysm. We also gave thanks for Zac's return to SPS – even on a limited basis.-- thanksgiving
- Recognized and congratulated **Coach Donnie Midkiff** on his marriage to his wife, Julie Marie.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Student Council and the entire student body** for an outstanding Thanksgiving Food Drive for the Covington Food Bank. Over 8 TONS of food were donated to the CFB.

- Finally recognized and congratulated SPS students who were part of St. Tammany Parish Hospital's Intern Program: **Luke Avenel, Jeffrey Bodin, Jack Cheng, Rutger Fury, Nickolas Gordon, Oliver Guice, Briggs Simpson, Benjamin Toups and graduate Thomas Ruli**. SPS students accounted for 9 of the 20 participants in this intense and competitive program. The program director called our students "outstanding" and hopes they return next summer.

- Recognized and congratulated the Aqua Wolves who swam to an exemplary 5th place finish in the LHSAA Division I State Swim competition. With only 8 swimmers registered to compete, the Wolves pulled ahead of many larger and higher-seeded teams to finish in the top 5 for the 3rd year in a row. During the competition we succeeded in breaking 2 school records and numerous personal bests, and we ended the meet over Rummel and Brother Martin. **Harrison Prieto, Jacob Elliot, Griffin Guzan, Jack Cheng, Jack Dubreuil, William Munn, Brenton Larmann, & Kyle Hladky** constituted the team.



Seniors Michael and Matthew enjoy Mothers Club Snack Day.

- Recognized and congratulated the **Cross Country Wolves**, who finished 4th in state: **Spencer Albright, Eric Coston, Max Egan, Henry Elliott, Alex Harp, Patrick Napier, Stephen Schlottman, Tristan Smith and Colin Sullivan**. At the meet, Eric Coston finished 2nd and & Spencer Albright finished 7th; both were named to Times-Picayune All Metro Team.

- Recognized and congratulated a group a group of students who assisted Our Lady of the Lake School with their American Girl program. According to OLL, the boys helped "TREMENDOUSLY" "with the clean-up of the event. Thanks to **Brad Clawson, Joe Mason, Chris Lowder, Tyler Maurin, Drew Bennett, Leland Van Deventer, Trey Icamina, Brock May, Parker Layman, Connor McCarthy, Brad del Rio, and**

Andrew Mercante. A common thread among the boys is that they are the offensive line for the varsity football team. And they arrived back home from Shreveport after a grueling playoff game VERY late on Friday night and were at OLL bright and early on Saturday morning. Now that's service!



Jazz Band entertains on Luminaria night.

- Recognized and congratulated **William Dugan, Parker Hagood, Sam Kenney, & John Larson** for earning the rank of Eagle over the past semester. I

then had all of our Eagle Scout students stand for recognition and congratulations. They are wonderful examples of dedication to the scouting program and SPS benefits by their loyalty to the scout oath.

- Recognized and congratulated the **Wrestling Wolves, Soccer Wolves and Basketball Wolves** who are all having great seasons.
- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly! We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the activities going on around school.
- As the prayer candle was extinguished by junior **Matthew Wallace**, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. The students exited to the strains of “O Come O Come Emmanuel.” It was a great assembly – at least I thought so!

Admissions: At this point, any new 8th grade applications for next year will be on a “wait list” basis. We are VERY pleased with the quantity and quality of the Class of 2020.



Work begins on the new gym with the site being prepared.

Gym Construction: Work began in earnest last week. There’s no turning back now. We will see increased activity over the weeks – and experience inconvenience from time to time. Most will appreciate this a year from now; I’m praying I live through it! **Now, I just have to figure out how to pay for it. [Hint, hint] Naming opportunities are available. Contact me if so inclined.**

Application Letters Excerpts: Here are some more memorable lines from next year’s application letters:

- *My older brother and sister are very happy at Hannan. I felt a lot of pressure from within to make things easy and go to school with them. I visited both schools and felt in my heart the best place for me was St. Paul’s. The traditions, athletics and programs are things I want to experience. After talking to my family, they want me to attend the school that is best for me and are very supportive of my decision.*
- *One of the main reasons I want to go to St. Paul’s is the feeling that you’re not being babied anymore.*
- *I was very impressed with the shallow day program. [Hilarious! The day was pretty deep!]*
- *My tour leader for open house had a 36 on the ACT, which I before thought was a score reserved for people like Albert Einstein and Bill Gates. I can now see that even I am capable of achieving such a score, with the aid of St. Paul’s teachers and faculty.*

Calling All Oenophiles: The Lasallian Education Fund of the San Francisco New Orleans district will be offering a Brother Timothy Cabernet wine sale from December 5 – 19, 2014. Funds raised from the sale of this great wine can be designated to benefit SPS and must be used for financial assistance. (Brother Timothy Diener was the longtime wine master of Christian Brothers Winery.) Hess Winery partners with the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans to produce limited Brother Timothy signature wines every season. Interested? Here’s the link: <http://lcbfoundation.org/wine-for-scholarships/>

“Text Neck,” the posture formed by leaning over a cell phone while reading and texting, is a big problem, according to the author of a newly published study in the National Library of Medicine. Kenneth K. Hansraj, chief of spine surgery at New York Spine Surgery & Rehabilitation Medicine, says the bad posture can put up to 60 pounds of pressure on the upper spine — sometimes for several hours a day, depending on how often people look at their devices. For more info, go to: <http://wwno.org/post/keep-your-head-text-neck-takes-toll-spine>

Senior Parents: Senior Retreat is just around the corner. You should have received an email with all the details from Renee Miller and Lee Pierre, retreat coordinators. If you didn’t receive this email, please email Renee at reneep@stpauls.com or Lee at leep@stpauls.com.

Lost and Found: Last week, we had phones, wallet, watches, gym bags, and innumerable items of clothing turn in – especially sweatshirts, which tend to get shed when a cool morning warms up in the afternoon. It’s discouraging how our students don’t take care of their belongings. Please speak with your sons about responsible stewardship.

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 a number of khaki pants available – all for the taking.



The lobby wolf is decorated for Christmas!

A Word about Exams: Semester exams begin on Dec 16. The schedule is posted on our web site under “news” and also at the end of this newsletter. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams which will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam. Encourage your son, therefore, to take his exams seriously. **It’s time to start reviewing.** A good review avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college.

Care and Vigilance: We’ve got one week left to go. The best way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end and proctor exams diligently. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

Saint Peter Parish Confirmation Info: St. Peter Parish will soon be registering students for Confirmation preparation classes for sophomores and unconfirmed juniors and seniors. Registration and a parents' meeting will take place on Sunday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall. The parents should come with a COPY of their son's Baptismal certificate and the \$100 fee. The fee is negotiable for any family for whom that may be a hardship. A late registration will take place on Sunday, January 18th at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall, with classes beginning on Sunday, January 25th at 6:30 p.m. in St. Mary's Hall.

Sweatshirts & Cold Weather: Only Saint Paul’s outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. I have a number of pre-owned SPS sweatshirts in good condition. **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. Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

A SERVE TEN Reminder: Five service hours are due. Students must fill-out and turn in completed "Serve Ten" forms to the Counseling Department in order to get credit for their service hours. We have been advertising MANY service opportunities. Remember that service hours are mandatory, not optional.

Current Student Re-Registration for 2015-16: For those of you who plan ahead, here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2015-16, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We have people inquiring about space for second semester.**

Important Driver's License Requirement: Effective September 16, a new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license.

PLEASE: Our Attendance Office is being taxed to the max. Under ordinary circumstances, it is difficult enough to keep track of the students. When you call Erin and request "immediate" dismissal for a student, it places an unfair burden on her. If a student must leave school early, please send a written note with your student and have him check in with the attendance office when he comes to school to get a dismissal slip for the time requested. This is the policy in our handbook – which you pledged to uphold at the beginning of the year when you signed. And we just can't stop everything to deliver an assignment, a lunch, a message – we just don't have the personnel. Thanks for understanding.

Christmas Holidays: School will be closed from Dec 19 in the afternoon through Sunday, Jan 4. Teachers will not be available for grade discussions during this time. The business office, counseling office, and administration offices will be closed. Please anticipate any needs, e.g. transcripts, driver's license forms, etc. **I'll be in my office on most days catching up and you should feel free to call me. I'll help if I can, but I don't always know how!** Thanks for understanding the need for the staff to have an uninterrupted Christmas break.

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: Parents – 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, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

H of the W: More Christmas jokes to honor the season:

- *Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.*
- *Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!*

- *Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.*
- *Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A: A subordinate clause.*
- *Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? A: He wanted to sleep like a log.*
- *Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"*
- *Q: What goes Ho, Ho, Swoosh, Ho, Ho, Swoosh? A: Santa caught in a revolving door!*
- *Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Because it "soots" him!*
- *Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? A: Pour Santa flush on him.*
- *Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer now works for Proctor and Gambel? A: It's true: Comet cleans sinks*
- *Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? A: Claustrophobic.*
- *Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? A: Because every buck is dear to him.*
- *Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive"? A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"*
- *Q: What's a good holiday tip? A: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until the birds have gone south for winter.*
- *Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A: It's Christmas, Eve!*
- *Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? A: The letter "D"!*
- *Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A: Santa Claustrophobia!*
- *Q: What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Black mail!*
- *And for the musically literate: Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and have time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.*
- *A Russian couple was walking down the street in St. Petersburg, when the man felt a drop hit his nose. "I think it's raining," he said. "No, that felt more like snow to me," she replied. "I'm sure it was just rain, he said." They were about to have a major argument about whether it was rain or snow. Just then they saw a minor communist party official walking toward them. "Let's not fight," the man said, "let's ask Comrade Rudolph whether it's raining or snowing." As the official approached, the man said, "Tell us, Comrade Rudolph, is it officially raining or snowing?" "It's raining, of course," he answered and walked on. But the woman insisted: "I know that felt like snow!" To which the man quietly replied: "Rudolph the Red knows rain, dear!"*
- *OK, I'll stop*



Evan and Eli sort toys for Covington PD's Toys for Tots program.

Whew! I've worn you out again this week! **But the newsletter goes on Christmas vacation so you get a break for the next two Sundays! The next newsletter will appear on Jan 4.**

As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to right now and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, I can think of no better way to end than to reprint the Lasallian Prayer for Peace which we recited from Oct 21 to Nov 21 and which the Brothers pray at the end of their daily mass:

We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace! Amen.



Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Ready to Rejoice for Christmas as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

Have a blessed Christmas season! Thank you for the First Semester! Maranatha!



Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart! Let's do ordinary things extraordinarily well and make courageous choices this Advent – and always