



Our thought, support, and prayer continue for junior Michael Doherty as he recovers from his serious injury in a recent football game. At the present time, Michael has been moved to a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta called Shepherd Center. We will keep you informed as events develop and the family issues official statements. We offer prayer and support. May all our holy Christian Brother saints, especially our newest saint, Brother Solomon, intercede with Almighty God on Michael's behalf!



## *The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter* *Dec 05 – 11, 2016*



Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, President of Cathedral High School in El Paso, gave the following advice to his faculty last week via his weekly newsletter. It's good enough to steal, uh...share:

*Advent is the liturgical time of year that reminds us to take our faith seriously. The time for those personal changes we keep putting off is **now**.*

*Permit me to offer some suggestions for Advent. Unplug the devices and plug into your family. Put aside the electronics and rediscover conversation with those who matter. Listen to them. Look at them. Be with them. Be inspired. Read the life of saint. Discover that they struggled just like you and, with God's grace, overcame adversity. Pray for the strength to do the same. Keep the attitude of gratitude. Spend time realizing how much we already have. Reject the manic materialism of this shopping season. Give to those who cannot repay you.*

*Experience reconciliation. Most parishes are offering reconciliation services during Advent. Rediscover the peace of Christ's mercy. Experience mercy. Forgive someone against whom you've held a grudge. Ask for forgiveness of someone you've hurt. Pray for the grace to do this.*

Great suggestions, Brother Nick! Thank you!

(By the way, Brother Nick was awarded the Distinguished Lasallian Educator Award for the San Francisco New Orleans Province of Christian Brothers at the Huether Conference of Lasallians prior to Thanksgiving – well deserved, as Nick has been an incredible Lasallian administrator for many years now – and he always asks how SPS is doing!)



*Evan lights Advent wreath candle at assembly*

May Week Two of Advent be a blessed one for us! Maranatha! Come Lord!

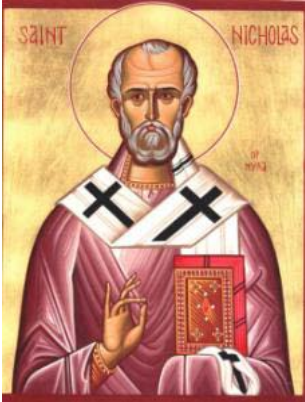
## *Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, Dec 8!*

### **Mon, Dec 5 (Regular; A B C D)**

- **This Day in History:** In 1901, **Walter Elias Disney** is born. Watch a Disney classic today!
- **Bathtub Party Day:** Relax with a good soak!
- **Sachertorte Day:** Forget your diet today and enjoy this classic Viennese chocolate treat.
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> & JV v. Lakeshore (6 & 7)
- **Cross Country Awards Banquet (6 at Benedict's)**

### **Tue, Dec 6 (Assembly and Pack Time; E F G A)**

- **Mass at 7 am; come join us**



- **Traditional Feast of St. Nicholas:** From American Catholic.org: *Eastern and Western Churches honor Nicholas; it is claimed that, after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. We can pinpoint only the fact that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of tongue, Santa Claus—expanding the example of generosity showed by this holy bishop.*

- **TDIH:** In 1884, in Washington, D.C., workers place a nine-inch aluminum pyramid atop a tower of white marble, completing the construction of the Washington Monument
- **Cross Country State Championship Assembly (8 am)**
- **Wolf Packs meet to prepare luminaria bags**
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity at Covington

### **Wed, Dec 7 (Regular; B C D E)**

- **Mass at 7 am**
- **TDIH: Pearl Harbor Day.** In 1941, The Empire of Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. This “day which will live in infamy” forced the US into World War II. We remember those who gave their lives, fighting for our freedom.
- **Letter Writing Day:** When was the last time you actually wrote a letter? Been too long? Then write one today!
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> & JV at Mandeville
- **Wrestling:** SPS at Holy Cross for dual meet
- **Theater II Class Scene Presentation (6 in theater). You are invited to attend.**

### **Thu, Dec 8 (Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception; Mass schedule; F G A B)**

- **Dress Uniform Day!**
- In his meditation for the **Immaculate Conception**, Saint John Baptist de La Salle tells the early brothers to “*Look upon Mary as the masterpiece from God's hands and ask him to free you from everything that might contribute to make you fall into the least fault, especially into any sins to which you are inclined.*” So great was this feast in the Brothers' history that in the rules of some early communities, the brothers are told that “everything that is most beautiful will be used” to celebrate it. And considering the austerity in which the early brothers lived, that's an important statement! May Our Lady, so important to our Lasallian heritage, shower us with blessings! May “everything that is most beautiful” on our campus, especially the students & faculty, give honor to her always.



- **TDIH:** In 1980, John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, the rock group that transformed pop music in the 1960s, is shot and killed by an obsessed fan in NYC. All he was saying was give peace a chance.
- **TDIH II:** 11660, a female actress appeared as Desdemona in Shakespeare's *Othello*, probably the first appearance by a woman actress in England. For years, female roles were played by boys or men. The British saw women on stage much earlier when a traveling troupe from France included women as well as men. But they were not received well — according to one audience member, the women were "hissed, hooted, and pippin-pelted off the stage." In 1632, William Prynne published a 1,100-page document condemning the theater, particularly female actresses. But by 1660, actors were confident enough to feature a woman as Desdemona in *Othello*. There is no record of who the actress was, but scholars guess that it was Margaret Hughes, whom Samuel Pepys described as "a mighty pretty woman."
- **National Brownie Day:** Enjoy this chewy, chocolate treat!
- **Snack Day:** Thanks, Mothers' Club, for having snack day on National Brownie Day!
- **Basketball:** Varsity in East Ascension Tournament
- **Luminaries – 6 pm.** Come join this annual Christmas display on our campus! Thanks to Student Council, Mothers' Club, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant, Liturgical Band, Marching Wolves, Jazz Band and all who help with this incredible "festival of lights" on our campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they were knowledgeable about it from their schools in New Mexico.



Mr. Lahey & Robert celebrate with post-blood giving juice.

**Fri, Dec 9 (Regular; Feast of St. Juan Diego; C D E F)**

- Today's feast celebrates Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, in Mexico City. She told Juan, "I will show and offer all my love, compassion, and help to the people. I am your merciful Mother. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy their suffering." She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. The skeptical bishop asked for a sign; Juan offered his coat, where the image of Mary (still existing today) was miraculously imprinted as Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Guadalupe" means River of Light. Mary gave birth to Jesus, Light of the World
- **TDIH:** In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," is published. It commemorates the courage of 600 British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during the Crimean War.
- **TDIH: In 1608,** British poet John Milton is born. Considered by some to be second only to Shakespeare, his

works include *Paradise Lost & Paradise Regained*.

- **TDIH:** In 1886, American industrialist Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn. He developed a method of deep-freezing foods and was a founder of General Foods Corp.
- **National Pastry Day:** Indulge with your favorite pastry today!
- **Soccer:** JV in Hahnville Tournament; 9th & Varsity v. Bonnabel
- **Basketball:** Varsity in East Ascension Tournament

***Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, Dec 8!***

## Sat, Dec 10

- **TDIH:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read some Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died in Italy. His will stipulated that his substantial estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity. Today, Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature (yeah!) and peace on the anniversary of his death. Each prize is valued at about \$1 million.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, The Treaty of Paris was signed between the US and Spain following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the US Senate and was signed by President William McKinley.
- **Human Rights Day** promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors the birthday of Melvin Dewey who created the numerical classification of books used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are really bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHiUQb5xg7A#t=26>. Visit the library and review the DDS!
- **ACT on campus this morning**
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> at John (11) and v. Brother Martin (1)
- **Soccer:** 8 in Brother Martin Tournament; 9<sup>th</sup> in Lafayette High Round Robin; JV in Hahnville Tournament;
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Holy Cross Tournament; Varsity in Catholic High tournament
- **Basketball:** Varsity in East Ascension Tournament
- **Marching Wolves in Mandeville Christmas Parade**
- **8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Christmas Dance (BAC)**

## Sun, Dec 11 -- Third (Gaudete – rejoice!) Sunday of Advent; the pink candle on the Advent wreath is lit to signify joy! I encourage Catholic families to attend mass and non-Catholic families to attend a place of worship of choice.

- **TDIH:** In 1941, Germany declares war on the US, bringing the US into the European WWII Theater of operations.
- **TDIH II: IN 2013,** we dedicated the **Alumni Veteran Plaque** in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to all SPS Alumni Veterans. The plaque is hung by the ROTC classroom. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read some of the names. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We give thanks for all who have so served our country, especially our SPS alums. Let's remember them! Alumni Director Al Nastasi is currently updating the plaque.

## Musings on Last Week:

- **Hornbeck Offshore Services PLTW Praise:** Five teachers from St. Joseph Academy in Baton Rouge (a 2016 Blue Ribbon school) spent Monday on our campus visiting our Hornbeck Offshore Services PLTW classes as they are considering adopting this national curriculum. They were impressed – naturally!
- **I Give Catholic:** Last Tuesday was a grand success, with SPS garnering 157 gifts totaling \$14,850. We were the second highest school in the number of gifts. Many, many thanks to our generous supporters, those faculty and students who made videos and the Development Team for organizing and promoting the event. Special thanks to Mimi Montiero who was tenacious in promoting this event with our constituencies.



- **Social Studies Speaker Series:** Mr. Will Boudreaux, a founder of Netchex, spoke to students last Monday, giving them practical, real-world business advice. Thanks to Brian Logarbo, Scott Evans and junior Christian Evans for their work promoting the speaker series.
- **AFJROTC Color Guard** presented the colors at the New Orleans Pelicans' BB game last Tue. Well, done.
- **Wolf Tracks:** Thanks, Danielle Lavie, for another great issue.
- **Advent & First Friday Devotions:** *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!* These words are being sung by our students in chapel at the beginning of each period's religion classes during Advent. It's a powerful moment in the faith life of our students. Ask your son about these services.
- **Wrestling:** The grappling wolves wrestled strong in Atlanta, finishing 7<sup>th</sup> out of 25 excellent teams.
- **Basketball:** A semi-finalist in the prestigious CYO Tournament! Kudos!
- **Soccer:** Wolves were strong against Mandeville & Newman – and younger Wolves looked good, too.
- **Cross Country Fun Run** was a big success! Thanks, CC!
- **Mothers Club:** Moms gave up Saturday in order to open the bookstore for Christmas shopping – very successful!
- **Fire Drill:** We again practiced this drill on Friday but were a little sluggish. We will do better next time!
- **Blood Drive:** Excellent response from our Wolves who gave “the gift of life.” 50 pints were donated.
- **Bitterwolf Funeral:** Mr. Gordon Bitterwolf, Class of 1954, died last week and his funeral was held in our chapel on Saturday. Mr. Bitterwolf is the father of SPS alum Mark Bitterwolf '83 and grandfather of current student Thomas '21 and future student Daniel '22 as well as Hunter and Grant Ward. He was a staunch supporter of SPS, loved to follow our successes and regularly wrote me to sing our praises. He was also the founder of Uniforms by Bayou, which supplies our uniform shirts, socks and ties. We extend sympathy to his family. I am confident that he will intercede with Almighty God for SPS. The family graciously requested donations to SPS in lieu of flowers. We are grateful.
- **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Many students went to confession. We are grateful to the priests who helped.
- **Robo-Wolves** were on the prowl Sat and returned with a **FIRST PLACE** trophy (out of 22 teams) in Vex Robotics competition at Holy Cross. Geaux Robo-Wolves! We are very proud of you!



*Pierre the Pelican poses with AFJROTC Color Guard Wolves who presented the colors at last week's Pelicans' game.*

**Advent Feedback:** One parent liked my Advent message last week enough to send me an article on one of the most important characteristics for success in health, work, and life as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford University. Beginning with the famous “marshmallow experiment” published in 1972 (children could choose to have one marshmallow now or two if they waited 15 minutes), researchers conducted follow up studies and tracked each child's progress in a number of areas. **They found that the children who were willing to delay gratification and waited to receive the second marshmallow ended up having higher SAT scores, lower levels of substance abuse, lower likelihood of obesity, better responses to stress, better social skills as reported by their parents, and generally better scores in a range of**

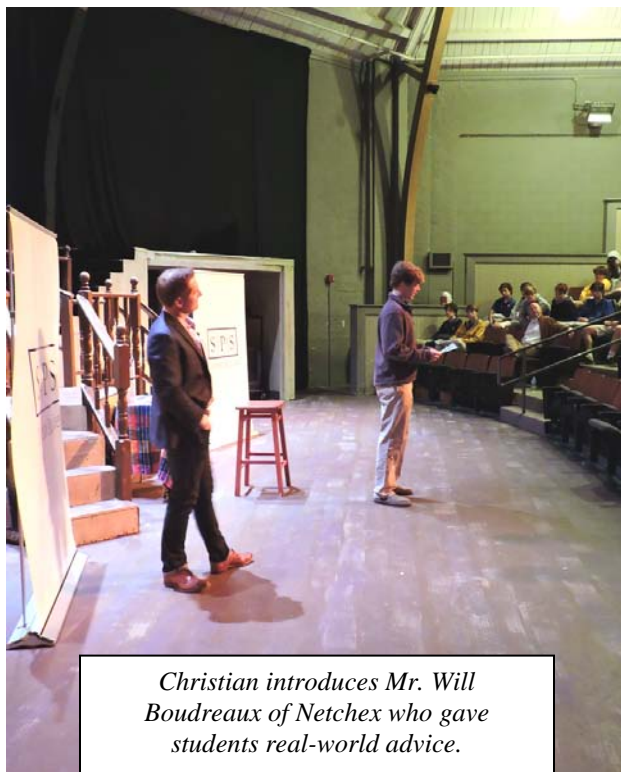
**other life measures.** The researchers followed each child for more than 40 years and over and over again, the group who waited patiently for the second marshmallow succeeded in whatever capacity they were measuring. **In other words, this series of experiments proved that the ability to delay gratification was critical for success in life.** Now if we could only get our students to buy into this! Here's the full article: <http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification>

**Alum Update:** Evan Bergeron '09 (brother of senior Thomas Harris & pre-freshman Jacob Harris) works for Alaska Crossings, a short-term intensive behavioral health program dedicated to helping youth learn and develop the skills they

need to succeed. Alaska Crossings combines therapeutic interventions with outdoor and expeditionary activities which provide a powerful catalyst for engaging in the process of change. Evan is currently on a 48 day “expeditionary activity” in the Alaskan wilderness with ten boys. His mom says he keeps in senior cross in his shirt pocket, close to his heart. We rejoice in the good that Evan is doing with the young people of Alaska – very Lasallian work – and pray for him.

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

- *My family decided we would also go to other open houses to see what they were like. The other schools were nice, but I just felt like something was missing. It’s hard to explain, but I just feel like St. Paul’s is a good fit for me.*
- *I have always thought about attending St. Paul’s, but it dawned on me when I went to Shadow Day that I had to go to your school. [Then I guess we will have to take him!]*
- *After Shadow Day, I realized that Saint Paul’s has a lot more to offer than a great soccer team. [Much more!]*
- *The classes I visited seemed like they were challenging. My parents tell me that’s a good thing. [I like these parents!]*
- *My favorite part of shadow day was when I got to drop in on the 3D modeling class. I was speechless. My dad learned that the students were using the Revit 3D modeling program. This is the same program that my dad uses at his job! How cool was that? [Pretty cool, indeed!]*
- *I think I would benefit from attending St. Paul’s by continuing my education, getting smarter, stronger, and growing into a well rounded young man. [And the world needs well rounded people!]*



*Christian introduces Mr. Will Boudreaux of Netchex who gave students real-world advice.*

**Admissions:** At this point, any new 8<sup>th</sup> 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 2022.

**Thanksgiving to Christmas:** I know I mentioned this last week, but it bears repeating: This period of the year can challenge us. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling crisis. We will handle this through Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance. **Please stress with your sons that we will enforce all rules during this time and teach to the very end of the semester.** We will show the students that we care, but be vigilant at all times.

“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>

## ***Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, December 8!***

**The Annual Fund:** Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school – if officially underway. I’m humbled, however, by the number of you who have anticipated the drive and have already sent in your donations. I spelled out the details of the drive in an email and a brochure that was mailed, but know that its success is critical to Saint Paul’s. Please keep this in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need almost everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit.

**SERVICE HOURS:** As a Lasallian Catholic institution, we are called to demonstrate "Concern for the Poor and Social Justice." Our school wide response to this calling is our Serve Ten program. Every St. Paul's student is required to complete a minimum of ten (10) service hours during the school year. Service hours must be completed and submitted by May 1st, 2017. Acceptable service is that in which you volunteer with a charitable organization (like the Covington Food Bank and local churches), assist the elderly, help someone less fortunate in the community, or assist at fundraisers for charitable organizations. . Assisting family is admirable, but does not count towards the service hour goal. Service hour forms can be found on the St.Paul's Edline homepage under "Links". Completed forms should be signed and turned in to the drop-off box in the library. Electronic submission of the forms as well as any questions relating to service hours can also be sent to Mr. Ramon ([j.ramon@stpauls.com](mailto:j.ramon@stpauls.com))



*Chapel Advent Wreath helps Wolves remember the reason for the season.*

**ADOPT-A-FAMILY:** This school year, we will be partnering with St. Tammany Project Christmas. We have "adopted" 40 children from 11 families in St. Tammany Parish. Each of these children has three wish list items that have been shared with the religion classes. As in the past, we will ask for monetary donations that will be donated through your son's religion teacher to fund the purchase of the wish list items. If your son is also interested in being on the shopping team for each grade level, please reach out to your son's grade level moderator or Mr. Ramon ([j.ramon@stpauls.com](mailto:j.ramon@stpauls.com))

**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](mailto:reneep@stpauls.com) or Lee at [leep@stpauls.com](mailto:leep@stpauls.com).

**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.

**A Word about Exams:** Semester exams begin on Dec 13. The schedule is printed below. 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 lasts several weeks and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college.

**Sweatshirts & Cold Weather:** 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.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

***Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, December 8!***

**Important Driver's License Requirement:** 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.

**The Paper Wolf:** Read the award winning The Paper Wolf! [www.thepaperwolf.com](http://www.thepaperwolf.com). Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

**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!



*Bryce multitasks: donating blood while checking his phone!*

**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.

**Painless Ways to Help SPS:** Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- AmazonSmile: This website, operated by Amazon, 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>.

- Office Depot: We recently received a \$700 store credit from customers who gave SPS ID at the checkout. Our number is officially 70041640 but saying Saint Paul’s will do. This will help a lot.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks to the Math Department for promoting this painless way to help SPS financially..

**Mission Collections, Adopt a Family Projects, and Other Worthy Causes:** We encourage our students to be generous with these causes. However, I again want to reassure parents that we DO NOT want to cause an economic hardship for our families. Please speak with your son about charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow’s Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give or give a lot. PLEASE let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too.

Let’s face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul’s. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I’ve launched our Annual Fund Drive, and if you can give, that’s great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul’s. In turn, we pray for financial health for all.



## *Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, December 8!*



*John spends SSR time on the field.*

**Last Tuesday's Assembly:** I hope the students enjoyed our Nov 29 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 had the boys stand and sing along with the recording. It was powerful. I reminded them that we were two weeks away from exams and to start preparing and encouraged them to make the most of this last month of 2016.

- Prayed in a special way, as the first Advent purple prayer candle was lit by junior **Evan Cook**, for those who have suffered loss since our last assembly: Mr. **Lionel Paul Tazier**, grandfather of pre-freshman Nicholas Cusimano; and, of course, we prayed for Michael Doherty.
- Recognized and congratulated the entire student body, especially the Student Council, for the outstanding Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Covington Food Bank which resulted in almost seven tons of food. I read a letter of gratitude from the Food Bank. They gave themselves a round of applause.
- Recognized and congratulated the eight students who gave up one of their Thanksgiving holidays to work the Covington Rotary Club's Feed the Needy Kick Off Luncheon, held in our Briggs Assembly Center: **Nick Ashton, Matthew Borgatti, Ford Brasher, Evan Cook, Grant Harrison, Will Murphy, Alex Nunez, and Liam Ordoyne**
- While we will honor our state championship cross country team at a special assembly next week, I told the students I would be remiss if I at least didn't mention them, so we gave a state champs a hearty round of applause.
- Recognized and thanked the 2016 Varsity Football Wolves for a great season: District Champs (again!) and State Quarterfinalist. Recognized the All District players on Defense: First Team (Brycen Brown, Bradley Mashburn, Christian Roberts, Tyler Tourelle), Second Team (Taylor Lacoste), Honorable Mention Defense (Brandon Barreiro, Jack Bonaldi, Paul Gremillion, Nick Knobloch, Hayden Ocman, Noah Seiden); First Team Offense (TJ Bedford, Trey Icamina, Karsen Matherne, Austin Means, Matt Myers); Second Team Offense (John'tae McDowell & Corey Williamson), HM Offense (Logan Davenport, Andrew Eikel, Grant Grosch, Own Hnatyshyn) Special recognition goes to Coach Ken Sears for being the District Coach of Year. Thanks, football wolves, for a great season.
- Recognized and thanked the AFJROTC cadets who faithfully posted the colors at every home game.

- Recognized and thanked Mr. Andrew Moran, Drum Majors Ruston Keller and Alvey Anderson and all of the Marching Wolves for providing great half-time entertainment and spirit through each game, home and away.
- And then, as if by magic, George Frideric Handel's *Water Music* started playing – which signaled that our Aqua Wolves were off and swimming in the State Meet – where they finished 3<sup>rd</sup> for the second consecutive year. Our team consisted of only eight swimmers: Jessie Cheng, Tonner Dougherty, Kyle Hladkey, Brenton Larmann, Myers Morgan, Drew Putfark, Alex Rawls, and Jordan Wyble. **Congratulations to Coach Emmitt Smith and Moderator Rachael Peak for a job extremely well done!!**
- Recognized and congratulated pre-freshman **Sean Noel** who won second place in the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest sponsored by the Homer Williams VFW Post 8720 in Abita Springs.
- Recognized and congratulated the Wrestling Wolves, who are off to a great start of their season. In particular, I recognized the following:
  - Varsity Wrestling -- Mandeville Open . First Place winners: Individual winners were **Brandon Stein, Connor Oviedo, Cole Houser, Shane Ulfers, and Grant Hughes with Jake Arena placing 4<sup>th</sup>**.
  - In the Brother Martin Junior High Meet: First Place (Sean Cripple, Carter Duet, Peyton Ward, Nick Raspino & Cole Ulfers); Second Place (Michael Rader, Ben Davidson & Jackson Lusc); Third Place (Jack Ballard, Miles Lindsey, Jacob Frazier & Matthew Gros) and Fourth Place (Sam Davidson, Shep Shaumburt, Ian Bertrand, Blain Cascio & Hal Fox)
  - In the Saint Paul's Junior High Tournament, First Place went to **Sean Cripple, Michael Rader, Carter Duet Peyton Ward, Ben Davidson, Rhett Barker, Jackson Lusc, Evan Ulfers, Cole Ulfers & Sam Avenel; Second Place went to Blain Cascio, Rannie Walker, & Sam Davidson; 3rd place went to Jacob Frazier, Brenon Leguin, Charlie Layman, Michael Oubre, Jonathan Sheffield, Gavin Sabathier, Matt Gros and 4<sup>th</sup> place went to, Jack Ballard, Devin Power, & Hal Fox**
  - Well done, Wrestling Wolves!
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- Recognized and congratulated the writers of The Paper Wolf for some spectacular writing. I projected a paragraph written by Jackson Cretin who was reviewing Habanero's Restaurant and pointed out the awesome alliteration, powerful verb usage and savory, sensory imagery in this writing. Here's the paragraph that I used: *I picked up one of the beautiful blue-green tortillas, and it smelled of bacon and chipotle peppers. As I took my first bite, all the flavors exploded out of it. I got a bite of the shrimp, and a small bite of the bacon-wrapped cream-cheese-stuffed jalapeños. The bacon and cream cheese created the perfect combination of crispy and creamy. Next, I tried the tortilla soup, and it was outstandingly cheesy with fresh fried tortilla strips on top and a deep, smoky flavor. Furthermore, the excess of everything made the food over-the-top good.* Well written, Jackson!
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- Recognized and congratulated freshman Sean Noel for winning second place in the Homer Williams VFW Post's Voice of Democracy essay contest. Well done, Sean!
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- Recognized and congratulated William Huertin and Ryan Flood for their athletic signings at Rhodes College (baseball) and Belmont Abbey College (lacrosse), respectively.
- 
- Promoted our annual blood drive on Dec 1.
- 
- I then asked the boys to sing the Fight Song for all the activities happening these days. I asked them to sing with one tempo – that of the band's recording. For the most part, they did so – finally!
-

- I then projected two complimentary emails we received recently. *Here's the first one from Mrs. Vita Dickens, Assistant Principal of Our Lady of the Lake Roman Catholic School: Please award the students listed below 4 service hours. They were amazing on Saturday evening. They risked missing LSU's kickoff to help clean up after our American Girl event: Connor McCarthy, Bam Barriero, Carson Matherne, Trey Icamina, Cade Icamina, Jared Kreeger, Michael Algero, Jack Vining, Owen Hnatyshin, Bear Palazzo, Andrew Eikel.* The second email was from Ms. Linda Ban, Academic and Career Advisor at Southeastern Louisiana University: *I have enjoyed every single student from St. Paul's that has come our way, here at Southeastern. They are prepared for College and are very well mannered; a delight!* I show emails like this to the boys so they know the respect that people have for Saint Paul's – and that they have an obligation not to do anything to tarnish that respect.
- 
- I then closed the assembly by having the boys sing "Wait for the Lord" which was very moving. I then encouraged the students to make the most of Advent and to join us in the chapel at 7 am on Wednesday mornings for mass. I told the students about Maranatha – the one word prayer which means "Come, Lord" and encouraged them to say it frequently during Advent.
- As the Advent candle was extinguished by junior **Nick Picone**, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. The students then sang along to the strains of "O Come O Come Emmanuel" and exited to same. It was a great assembly -- at least I thought so!

## ***Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, December 8!***

**H of the W:** Some library book & computer humor in honor of Dewey Decimal Day on Dec 10:

- *What did one math book say to the other math book?"Do you want to hear my problems?"*
- *What do planets like to read? Comet books.*
- *What part of a library computer does an astronaut like best? The space bar.*
- *Why did the library computer sneeze? It had a virus.*
- *Where do library computers take their pets when they get sick? To the Intervet.*
- *How do librarians file melted marshmallows? According to the Gooey (Dewey) Decimal System.*
- *What did the spider do inside the library computer? It made a Web page.*
- *When the cold wind blows, what does a book do? It puts on a book jacket.*
- *When the squirrels sneak into the library to use the computers, where do they go? On the Inter-nut.*
- *Where are there more nobles than in the royal court? In the library. All the books have titles.*
- *When a knight read a book, who was always at his side? His page.*
- *What do you do if a dragon bites your library book? Take the words right out of his mouth.*
- *When spiders go on the Internet, what do they visit first? Charlotte's Web Site.*
- *Why did the librarian slip and fall on the library floor? Because she was in the non-friction section.*
- *Why did the vampire check out a drawing book? He wanted to learn how to draw blood.*
- *Why was the T-Rex afraid to go to the library? Because her books were 60 million years overdue.*
- *Why is that book you want always in the last place you look? Because once you find it, you stop looking.*



Key Club members care for the campus vegetable garden which benefits the Covington Food Bank.

- *What building has the most stories? The library, of course!*
- *When a librarian goes fishing, what goes on her hook? A bookworm, of course.*
- *What does the mummy do when he goes to the library? He gets all wrapped up in a good book.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

## **A Look Ahead**

### **December**

- 1 – Blood Drive
- 6 – Pack Time (Luminaria Bags)
- 8 – Mass- Snack Day – Dress uniforms – Luminaria event in PM
- 10 – ACT on Campus
- 13 -16 Exams; Christmas holidays begin at 11 am on the 16<sup>th</sup>

### **January**

- 3 – Classes resume from Christmas holidays (yes, I know this is a day earlier than the public schools)
- 4 – 6 – Senior retreat

## **First Semester Exam Schedule**

**December 2016**

### **Monday, December 12 – GAB(C)**

Regular classes in periods GAB  
Review for Period A Exam

### **SPECIAL EXAM SCHEDULE (With SSR & CNN)**

(80 Minute Classes)

- 7:40 Chimes
- 7:45 – 9:20 Period G
- 9:27 – 11:02 Period A/SSR
- 11:02 – 11:42 Lunch
- 11:47 – 1:12 Period B
- 1:19– 2:04 Period A Exam Review
- 2:10 Dismissal

### **Tuesday, December 13**

#### **Special Exam/Prayer Service/President's Assembly/Snack Schedule**

- 8:15 -8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
- 8:30 – 10:00 Period A Exam
- 10:05-10:45 Advent Prayer Service (Gym)
- 10:55- 11:40 Period B Review
- 11:40-12:25 Lunch
- 12:30-1:00 President's Assembly (Gym)
- 1:00-1:15 Break
- 1:15 – 2:00 Period C Review
- 2:10 Dismissal

### **Wednesday, December 14**

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements  
 8:30 -10:00 Period B Exam  
 10:00-10:10 Break  
 10:10-11:40 Period C Exam  
 11:40-12:25 Lunch  
 12:30-1:15 Period D Review  
 1:20-2:05 Period E Review  
 2:10 Dismissal

Thursday, December 15

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announcements  
 8:30 -10:00 Period D Exam  
 10:00-10:10 Break  
 10:10-11:40 Period E Exam  
 11:40-12:25 Lunch  
 12:30-1:15 Period F Review  
 1:20-2:05 Period G Review  
 2:10 Dismissal

Friday, December 16

8:15-8:30 Prayer, Roll and Announc.  
 8:30 -10:00 Period F Exam  
 10:00-10:10 Break  
 10:10-11:40 Period G Exam  
 11:45 Dismissal



*Robo-Wolves finished in FIRST PLACE in weekend Vex Robotics competition against 22 schools at Holy Cross. Congratulations, Robo-Wolves! We are very proud of you!*

***Dress Uniform Day on Thursday, December 8!***

Whew! I've taxed your patience again this week!

As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to as I write and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

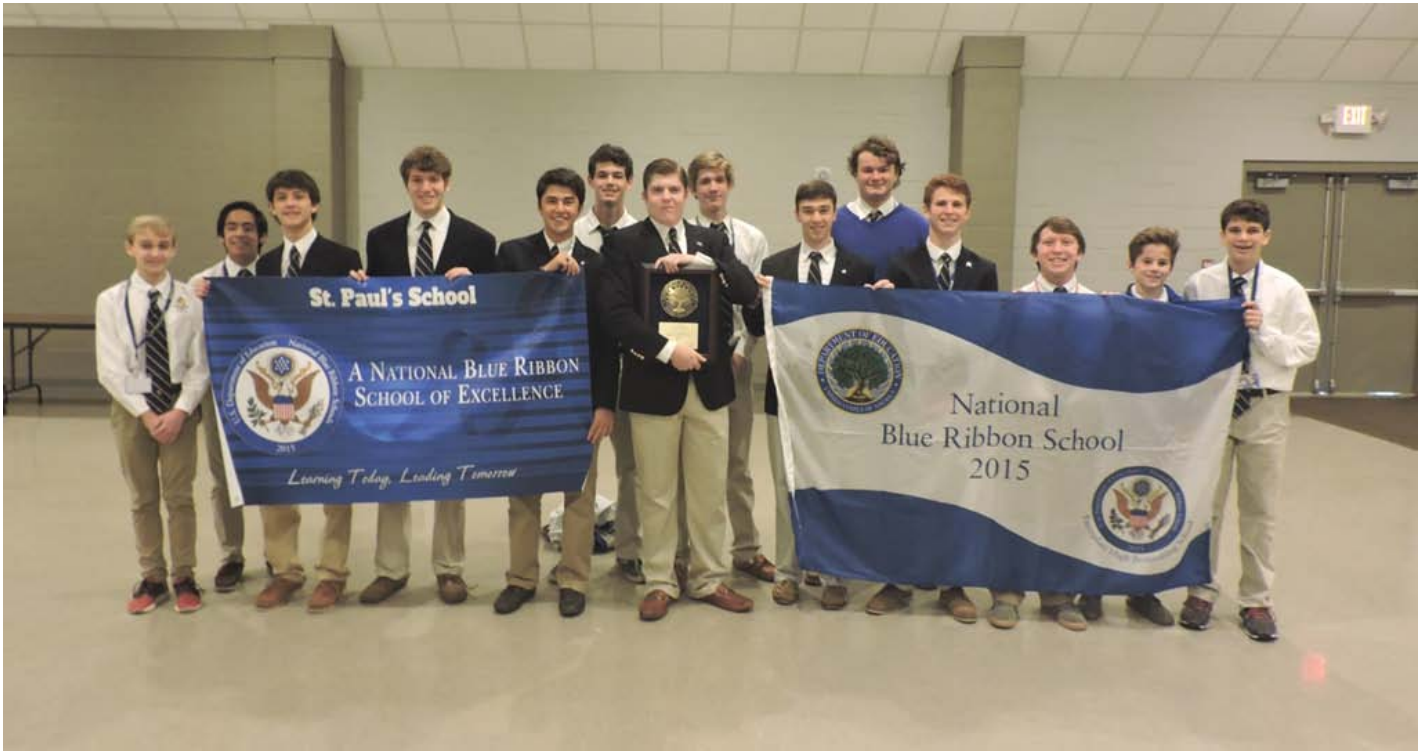
Pray that things go well! We're already reached the eighth week of the second quarter! Time marches relentlessly on, and the only thing we can do about it is decide how we use each second of each minute of each day of each week of each month of each....OK, you get the idea.

May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2016 - 17 edition of Saint Paul's – our 105<sup>th</sup> year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for Patience this Advent as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

***Thursday, Dec 8 is a Dress Uniform Day!***



*Did I mention that Thursday, Dec 8 is a Dress Uniform Day?*

*Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!*

*Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!*

*Now let's go out there and prepare the way of the Lord by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, and remaining faithful this Advent – and always!*



*Maranatha!*

