



Our thought, support, and prayer continue for junior Michael Doherty as he recovers from his recent football injury. At the present time, Michael remains at The Shepherd Center in Atlanta. 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* *January 30 – February 05, 2017*



Welcome to the last days of January and beginning of February! 1/12<sup>th</sup> (or 0.08333...% if you prefer) of 2017 is almost history! Wow!

Today begins Catholic Schools Week, when Catholic schools throughout the US celebrate and affirm the Catholic identity of our schools. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith, Knowledge and Service."

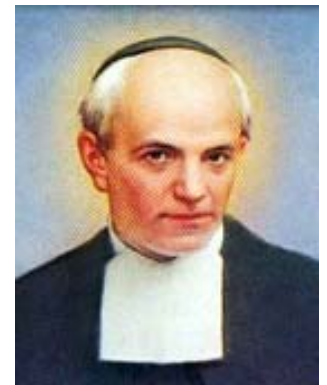
Historically, we cannot overstate the contribution of Catholic education to this country. Today, Catholic schools continue to produce outstanding achievement, in spite of the many challenges to their existence. Here in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, for example, the strategic plan designed to save the Catholic school system already has caused changes. Archbishop Aymond has stated that the Catholic school system in New Orleans will look very different twenty-five years from now than it looks today.

We remember and celebrate, too, that Saint Paul's is not just a private school or a Christian school -- we are a Lasallian Catholic school. We remind ourselves of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, who Pope Pius XII proclaimed Patron of All Teachers by virtue of his contribution to education. To be faithful to our Lasallian Catholic nature, we must remember that Saint La Salle insisted upon quality schools which not only "ran well" but were "places of salvation" (both spiritual and temporal) for the students by teaching them the "Truths of their Religion." In such a way, the Founder believed, the schools would "touch the hearts" of the students who attended.

St. La Salle said that "to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to your care is the greatest miracle you can perform and one which God expects of you." He also insisted that those who work in Catholic schools must look upon themselves as "ministers of God's grace" and "co-workers with God." **As I wrote to the faculty, Saint La Salle would accept nothing less from the early brothers; we must offer nothing less today.**

### **Mon, Jan 30 (Regular; C D E F)**

- **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 perfecting 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!



- **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!
- **Croissant Day:** Treat yourself to this French pastry!
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Albany at Tangi Lanes in Hammond
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Bob Hope (TX) at ULL

## Tue, Jan 31 (Wolf Pack; G A B C)

- **Feast day of St. John Bosco**, founder of the Salesian Order of Sisters, Brothers and Priests. In many ways, John Bosco was similar to John Baptist de La Salle – he had a loving concern for young people and was devoted to meeting their educational needs. Today, Salesians minister in New Orleans by conducting Archbishop Shaw and the Academy of Our Lady. We thank the Salesians for their work. Here's a sampling of some 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 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 marked the 101<sup>st</sup> birthday of Thomas Merton, American Catholic writer and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, 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.*



Sophs and their parents enjoy HR Breakfast.

- **National Inspire Your Heart with Art Day:** Visit a museum, 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!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Hammond

## Wed, Feb 1 (Regular; D E F G)

- **Mass at 7 am; attendance is better; encourage the students to attend; it's over by 7:30**
- **TDIH:** In 1884, the Oxford English Dictionary (OED), the most comprehensive and accurate dictionary of the English language, is published. From History Channel Website: *The OED is the definitive authority on the meaning, pronunciation and history of over half a million words. The OED provides a chronological history, quoting a range of sources. The OED is famous for cross-references and etymologies. The verb "set" merits the OED's longest entry, at approximately 60,000 words and detailing over 430 uses. No sooner was the OED finished than editors began updating it. In 1984, Oxford Press embarked on a 5-year project to create an electronic version. The effort required 120 people just to type the pages from the print edition and 50 proofreaders to check their work. In 1992, a CD-ROM version of the dictionary was released. Today, the dictionary is available online to subscribers and updated quarterly with over 1,000 new entries and revisions. At a whopping 20 volumes weighing over 137 pounds, it would reportedly take one person 120 years to type all 59 million words in the OED.* Celebrate the OED today! Spend some time on the OED website ([www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com))

- **National Working Naked Day:** Do what you want at home, but SPS is NOT celebrating this day.
- **National Signing Day:** Six Wolves will sign with several colleges today. We are proud of them. They are: T.J. Bedford, Texas State, football; Christian Roberts, Millsaps, football; Dylan Futrell, Birmingham Southern, Lacrosse; Trey Icamina, Millsaps, Football; Hayden Ocman, Rhodes, Football; and Bam Barriero, Rhodes, Football
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Ponchatoula at Tangi in Hammond

#### Thu, Feb 2 (Regular; A B C D; Feast of the Presentation)

- **Feast of the Presentation.** This feast, told in Luke's Gospel, celebrates the child Jesus being brought to the Temple "according to the law of Moses." It was also the occasion of Simeon ("a righteous and devout man") proclaiming the famous "nunc dimittis" -- "now, Lord, you may dismiss your servant...for my eyes have seen your salvation..." Since the 10th Century, this feast has also been called Candlemas because candles were blessed and carried in procession, a devotional based upon Simeon's words that Jesus is the light who reveals God to all nations. In his meditation for this feast, St La Salle tells the brothers "How good it is to give oneself to God! Even in this life, God rewards and fills with very tangible consolations the soul that consecrates itself to God. The more you give to God, the more God blesses you." Today, let's renew our own consecrations to God -- and encourage our students to do, so, too.
- **TDIH:** In 1887, Groundhog Day was celebrated for the first time at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, PA. From the Official GH Day web site: *Pennsylvania's earliest settlers determined if the sun did appear on Feb. 2 so wise an animal as the groundhog would see its shadow and hurry back into its home for another 6 weeks of winter.* Let's hope Punxsutawney Phil sees no shadow!
- **TDIH:** In 2014 on this day, a memorial mass was celebrated in the G-Plex for **David Decareaux '94**, and his two sons. You may remember the tragedy: David and his sons were camping, got lost, and died of hypothermia. We continue to remember David and his family in our prayer.
- **Crepe Day:** Enjoy this French classic! In France, today is called la Chandeleur, Fête de la Lumière, or jour des crêpes. Not only do the French eat a lot of crêpes on Chandeleur, but they also do a bit of fortune telling while making them. It is traditional to hold a coin in your writing hand and a crêpe pan in the other, and flip the crêpe into the air. If you manage to catch the crêpe in the pan, your family will be prosperous for the rest of the year.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Holy Cross at All Star Lanes in Kenner



TJ enjoys chemistry class with Mrs. Duplantier

#### Fri, Feb 3 (Feast of St. Blaise; regular; E F G A)

- **St. Blaise:** Catholic practice calls for "Blessing of Throats" in honor of Blaise, who legend says saved a young boy from choking as Blaise was being hauled off to prison for his Christianity. He was martyred in 316.
- **TDIH:** In 1959, a small plane crash killed American rock and roll legends: Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and JP "The Big Bopper" Richardson. Singer songwriter Don McLean wrote a song about the event, "American Pie," in which he dubbed Feb 3, 1959 **the day the music died.** (*So bye, bye, Miss American Pie, drove my Chevy....*)
- **TDIH:** Four Chaplains Memorial Day. On this day in 1943, four US Army Chaplains gave their lives to save other soldiers when their troop ship, the USAT Dorchester was torpedoed in WW II. The chaplains gave up their own life jackets when the supply ran out, joined hands, said prayers and sang hymns as the ship sank.
- **Catholic Schools Week Mass:** A student delegation

will represent SPS at the official Catholic Schools Mass at St. Dominic Church at 10 am with Archbishop Gregory Aymond as celebrant.

- **OLL Pep Rally:** Marching Wolves will once again perform at OLL's Catholic Schools Week pep rally.
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup>, JV, & Varsity v. Covington (5, 6, 7) **and Baseball:** JV at Lakeshore (3:30)

## Sat, Feb 4

- **TDIH:** In 1945, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and Premier Joseph Stalin meet at city in Yalta in the Crimea to discuss and plan the postwar world--namely, to address the redistribution of power and influence. Many believe this to be the birth of the Cold War.
- **Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (always 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of Feb):** Well, this one is up to you to decide to celebrate!
- **National Thank Your Mailman (or postal carrier to be gender correct!) Day:** Some fun postal facts:
  - In 1775, the Second Continental Congress established the first organized mail service in America.
  - Benjamin Franklin was first Postmaster General.
  - Postage stamps were invented in 1847.
  - On April 3, 1860 the famous Pony Express officially took off.
  - In 1863, free city delivery started and in 1896, free rural delivery began.
  - In 1963, the Zip Code began.
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Bro Martin & Holy Cross at Bro. Martin; SPS 9<sup>th</sup> Grade Invitational
- **Rugby v. Jesuit at City Park**
- **Baseball:** Varsity at Lakeshore (11)

## Sun, Feb 5

- **TDIH:** In 1971, Apollo 14, the 3rd US manned Moon expedition, lands and Alan Shepard & Edward Mitchell walk on Moon for 4 hrs. Alan Shepard was USA's first man in space in 1961 in a sub-orbital flight in a space capsule called Friendship 7. This was part of the Mercury Program, which had Americans just orbiting the earth. Mercury gave way to the Gemini and Apollo programs.



*Newly inducted Mu Alpha Theta members*

- **Superbowl Sunday:** Go Falcriots! Go Patricons! In other words, I don't care who wins!

**Feb:** Can you believe we begin February this week? How are our New Year resolutions coming along? So far, I'm not doing well! Here are some celebrations for Feb: Adopt A Rescued Rabbit Month, American Heart Month, Avocado and Banana Month, Bake for Family Fun Month, Beans Month, Dog Training Month, Exotic Vegetables and Star Fruit Month, Grapefruit Month, Boost Self-Esteem Month, Expect Success Month, Library Lovers Month, Bird Feeding Month, Black History Month, Care About Your Indoor Air Month, Cherry Month, Children's Dental Health Month, Haiku Writing Month, Hot Breakfast Month, Mend A Broken Heart Month, Parent Leadership Month, Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, Time Management Month, Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month, Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month, & Youth Leadership Month – something for almost everyone!

**2017 - 18 Registration:** Please note the following:

- **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders:** We emailed registration information last week. **Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders planning to return for 2017 - 18 will have until Feb 03 to re-register.** We will offer unregistered spots to new 9<sup>th</sup> grade applicants during February. I need to know your intentions about next year so I know how many new 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept.

- **Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grades:** We will email registration materials next week. Feb 24<sup>th</sup> will be deadline in order to receive priority in scheduling.
- **Current 12<sup>th</sup> grade:** You don't need to register for SPS for 2017 - 18! Rejoice!
- **Registration will involve the payment of the \$300 registration fee.**

**Annual Fund:** Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. 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 (e.g. engineering). The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation and the \$4.5 million new gym.)
- 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!**
- While we don't send requests to grandparents, every year a number of grandparents do donate to the school. **AND WE NEED GRANDPARENT SUPPORT! If you would like to inform your son's grandparents of the drive, please do so – or provide me with an address and I'll personally appeal. I'll send them a nice “thank you” note, too!** Even a small donation (\$5!) is welcome.
- 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!

**Cold Weather:** ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. If you cannot afford one, contact me.

**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.



*Seniors enjoy their penultimate honor roll breakfast.*

**Better Late Than Never Dept:** On January 16, our Jewish brothers and sisters celebrated Tu B'shuvat, the Jewish New Year for Trees Day. This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle. Our Jewish brothers and sisters mark the day of Tu B'Shevat by eating fruit, particularly from the kinds singled out by the Torah in its praise of the bounty of the Holy Land: grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates. On this day, we remember “man is a tree of the field” (Deut 20:19), and reflect on the lessons that trees can teach us. Here's a New Year's “examination of conscience check list” for trees:

- *Did I grow towards the sun as a tree should, reaching up higher and higher towards that*

*which I can never grasp, but which nurtures me all the same the more I strive towards it?*

- *Did I shelter the seedlings that live in my shade -- so they will grow up to be a next generation like myself?*
- *Did I make sure my roots remain firmly planted in the soil that nurtures them, and did I drop my leaves there in the fall to give back life to that which sustains me?*
- *Did I ensure that my fruits were sweet and nourished all that enjoyed them? Did all walk away from me with a smile?*
- *Did I bend gently in the wind, accepting what G-d sends but never breaking or giving up hope?*
- *Did I grow in strength and wisdom with each new ring this year?*
- Come to think of it, not a bad checklist for us humans either!

### Musings on Last Week:

- **Career Day:** All went well! Thanks, Alumni & Development Team! Juniors were responsive. These alums spoke:
  - 1.) CPA-Michael Sciortino 2003, Sciortino Financial, LLC
  - 2.) Engineer-Phil Nuss 1972, Trinity Yachts
  - 3.) Attorney-Rene' Frederick 1993, Rene' Frederick & Associates, LLC.
  - 4.) Veterinarian-Dr. Jason Farrell 1993, Hickory Small Animal Hospital
  - 5.) Vocation/Lasallian Volunteer- Jeff Ramon 2008, Saint Paul's School Campus Minister
  - 6.) Architect-Justin Greenleaf 2004, Greenleaf Architects
  - 7.) Dentist-Joel Burvant 1999, Burvant Family Dentistry
  - 8.) Construction/Contractor-Adam Martin 2006, Kent Design and Build.
  - 9.) Restaurateur-Chris McDonald 1997, Ain't Life Grand Investments, Mugshots/Glory Bound
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Thanks for your cooperation with the special schedules. The combined levels in the BAC worked well. A few parents lamented the loss of the more "intimate" cafeteria setting, but the overwhelming majority understood and, overall, things worked well. As usual, I gave a vocabulary lesson. I encouraged the boys to be *pertinacious ripsnorters (remarkable, wonderful, superior people who hold strongly to a purpose or course of action, in this case the Lasallian core principles)* and never to be *mutable ninyhammers (inconstant simpletons.)* At the senior breakfast, Mr. Todd Richard, representing the SPS Renaissance Board and Board of Trustees, gave wonderful, real world advice to our seniors.
- **Bowling:** Wolves bowled hard but fell to a strong Holden team.
- **Mu Alpha Theta:** The induction ceremony went well, honoring our hard working math students and their equally hard working faculty.
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity had big wins over F' Bleau & N'Shore but lost to nationally ranked Madison Prep. 9<sup>th</sup> & JV also won.
- **Soccer:** Tough loss for the Wolves last week but they bounced back with a senior night game win v. F' Bleau. On to the playoffs.
- **Wrestling:** Dale Ketelsen Memorial Tourney was successful. Congrats, Wolves – 1<sup>ST</sup> Place with Shane Ulfers being named Outstanding Wrestler! And pre-freshman Peyton Ward was named Outstanding Wrestler in the Holy Cross Jr High Tournament. Congrats, Wrestling Wolves!
- **Conversion of St. Paul Prayer Services:** Once again, successful. Students liked the prayer choices. I hope your son told you about it.
- **Science Fair:** Congrats to the Fighting Science Wolves! Details will appear in a future newsletter.



*Juniors enjoy HR Breakfast!*

- **Swim Team Awards Ceremony:** A 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in State showing deserved appropriate celebration, which took place in our cafeteria last Friday evening.
- **March for Life:** Wolves were howling for life as they had a powerful experience in DC.
- **Biomed Class:** Dr. Lawrence Gensler, gastroenterologist and father of SPS alums Will and Chris, spoke to Human Body Systems Class. He discussed the anatomy and physiology of the digestive system and disorders that commonly affect this system. He brought video of GI bleeding, polyps, and an ERCP procedure that demonstrated the removal of stones from the common bile duct. Dr. Gensler extended an invitation to the students to come and observe the procedures live at Lakeview Regional Medical Center. We are grateful to the hospital for their partnership with SPS.
- **Baseball Boosters** worked hard on Sat getting the field ready for the season, which opens this week.
- **Lacrosse:** Varsity & JV were undefeated on Sat and they compete for the tournament championship!

**SPS Social Media:** Want up-to-date news on all of the good things happening at Saint Paul's School? Get event and classroom pictures, latest scores, calendar reminders, and spiritual uplifting by liking our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana/> or following us on Twitter @SPSWolfpack. The strength of the Wolf is in the pack! Many thanks to Mimi Montiero for maintaining our social media information.

**New Year's Resolutions:** Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions!

- If your son is absent, phone Erin before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns.**
- Have your son check Lost & Found which contains: coats, sweaters, shirts, lunch boxes, belts, etc.

**PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let's start the second month of 2017 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. \_



*Juniors eager to explore their futures at Career Day*

**Lost and Found:** The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it's probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

**Cash Back Programs:** Keep the following in mind when you shop:

- Amazon Smile: 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 receive a store credit for each of your purchases. Give SPS name or number 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..

**And Speaking of Edline:** Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son’s grade and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.*

**Tutoring:** The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It’s easier to be tutored early in the than to wait until later in the quarter. Get a jump on exam study by visiting our NHS tutors! The tutors are friendly and helpful! To borrow a line from a popular commercial “put these men to work!”

**Kehoe-France Northshore Tennis Tournament:** Registration is underway for this annual event, which benefits the Humane Society of America as well as KFN school. The tournament is the weekend of Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5th at Tchefuncte Country Club. For more info, contact Mr. Brad Humphreys at KFN at [bhumphreys@kehoe-francens.com](mailto:bhumphreys@kehoe-francens.com). Or sign up at [www.kehoe-francens.com](http://www.kehoe-francens.com). Registration forms are available at KFN, The Tennis Shop (4626 Hwy 22), or at SPS administration building.

In addition, they need some student help on Saturday of the tournament last year. Service hours will be awarded. If your campus minister would allow service hours to be earned again this year, please let me know. Duties would include filling coolers, replacing trash bags, serving lunch and. Call tennis pro gopher duties Kehoe France for info.

**Archdiocese of New Orleans Family Life Apostolate’s FATHER-SON HUMAN SEXUALITY PROGRAM**  
Archdiocese of New Orleans Family Life Apostolate presents a FATHER-SON HUMAN SEXUALITY PROGRAM for fathers and their 12-14-year-old sons on Sunday, March 19, 2017 from 5-8 PM in St. Mary’s Hall at St. Peter Catholic Church, Covington. Fathers and sons are invited to grow together in God’s gift of human fertility and the wonder of growing up and becoming a man. The program is based on the teachings of Pope Saint John Paul II’s “Theology of the Body”. Presenters include peers, health care professionals and fathers. Cost is \$25. For more information, please contact St. Peter Office of Religious Education, 985.893.2446 or email [ore@stpeterparish.com](mailto:ore@stpeterparish.com).



*Key Club members tend campus vegetable garden to supply produce to the Northshore Food Bank (formerly Covington FB)*

**Jan 17 Assembly:** I hope the students enjoyed our Jan 17 assembly. Here’s what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to a recording of the 2011 SPS student body singing songs from the mass exactly six years ago last week. This recording was made at the mass in January of 2011 that started our Centennial Celebration that year. I reminded the students that the celebrant, Archbishop Gregory Aymond, said he had never seen such level of participation and singing at a high school mass. I asked the students if the same would be true today? I asked them if we are we a better school today at 106 years old than we were at age 100? Academically? Spiritually? More Lasallian? Kinder? More Peaceful? If not,



then we are going backwards – and that’s not good. But I expressed to them my belief that we are better today than in 2011 – and we will be even better each succeeding year if we are faithful to our Mission, pray as if everything depended upon God, and worked as if everything depended on us. While the music was playing, **junior Adam Moenich** lit the candle to remind us of God’s presence among us. We also prayed for the following who have left this earth recently to begin life in God’s Kingdom: **Mr. David Gallaty, Sr., grandfather of Josh Tourelle ’17; Mrs. Adelynn Boudin, grandmother of Quinten Boudin ’19; Mrs. Mary Stanton, grandmother of Nick ’19 & Michael ’16 Stanton; Mr. Bill Leahy, grandfather of Bill Leahy ’20; and Mrs. Judy Martin, SPS Social Studies Dept Chair for over 28 years.** We also prayed for our new president and vice president and our outgoing president and vice president. Finally, we prayed for Michael.

- Recognized and congratulated the student proctors who helped administer the placement test to applicants for next year: **Louis Marion, Steve Slaton, Trey Juneau, Blake Bollinger, Thomas Miller, Justin King, Scott Sonnier, Matthew Russo, Brendan McNeil, Owen Crombie & Jack Donham ’15**
- Recognized and congratulated the Senior Class of 2017 for the seriousness with which they took the senior retreat and the acceptance of the senior crosses
- Recognized and congratulated The Varsity Wrestling Wolves for being District and Parish Champions –again. The Wolves dominated the competition, winning 62 out of 70 individual matches. Here’s how we did:
  - **St. Paul’s 67, Mandeville 9**
  - **St. Paul’s 54, Fontainebleau 17**
  - **St. Paul’s 72, Covington 9**
  - **St. Paul’s 84, Lakeshore 0**
  - **St. Paul’s 74, Hannan 6**
- Recognized and congratulated the JV & Jr High Wrestlers for their showing in the Pearl River Tournament:
  - Junior Varsity
    - 1<sup>st</sup> : **Michael Rader, Brenon Leguin, Charlie Layman, Mason Impastato, Micah Crockett, Jackson Luscly, Michael Crockett**
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Michael Oubre and Kristian McHugh**
    - 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Ethan Bates and Matthew Algero**
    - 4<sup>th</sup>: **Jonathan Sheffield and Gavin Patti**
  - Junior High
    - 1<sup>st</sup>: **Sean Cripple Carter Duet, Peyton Ward, Devin Power, Rhett Barker, Kyle Ogea**
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: **Jacob Frazier, Jack Ballard, Nick Raspino, Sebastian Sequeira, Blain Cascio, Gavin Sabathier**
    - 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Sam Davidson, Dominic Maestri, Anthony Elwell, Grant Vicknair, Noah Bates, Brock Zornes**
    - 4<sup>th</sup>: **Eric Gray and Ian Bertrand**
- Recognized and congratulated the **Junior Varsity Soccer Team** for winning the Covington Cup from the CYSA Tournament. In the course of three games, the Wolves scored 20 goals to the opponents’ 0! Amazing! Captain Robby Ferrante presented the trophy to AD Craig Ketelsen.
- Recognized and congratulated the Varsity Basketball Team for district wins over Northshore, Hammond, Ponchatoula and Covington, earning them first place in the Distric.
- Recognized and congratulated the Fighting Math Wolves for their showing at the Episcopal High Math Tournament on Nov 5. 26 Fighting Math Wolves competed against 150 students from 11 schools with no divisions, no participation prizes and NO CALCULATORS!
  - **Individual results:**
  - **Algebra 1**                      **Joey Gioe**                      **3<sup>rd</sup> place**

- **Geometry**                      **Scott Woodard**                      **Honorable Mention**
- **Algebra II Ciphering**      **Ben Klein (9<sup>th</sup>)**                      **2<sup>nd</sup> place**
- **Algebra II Ciphering**      **Jackson Gold**                      **1<sup>st</sup> Place**
  
- **Team results:**
- **Eighth grade**      **1<sup>st</sup> place**      **Scott Woodard, Trey Paine, and Joey Gioe**
- **Algebra 2**              **3<sup>rd</sup> place**      **Cullen Irwin, Jackson Gold, Cole Chitwood, and Ross Hightower**

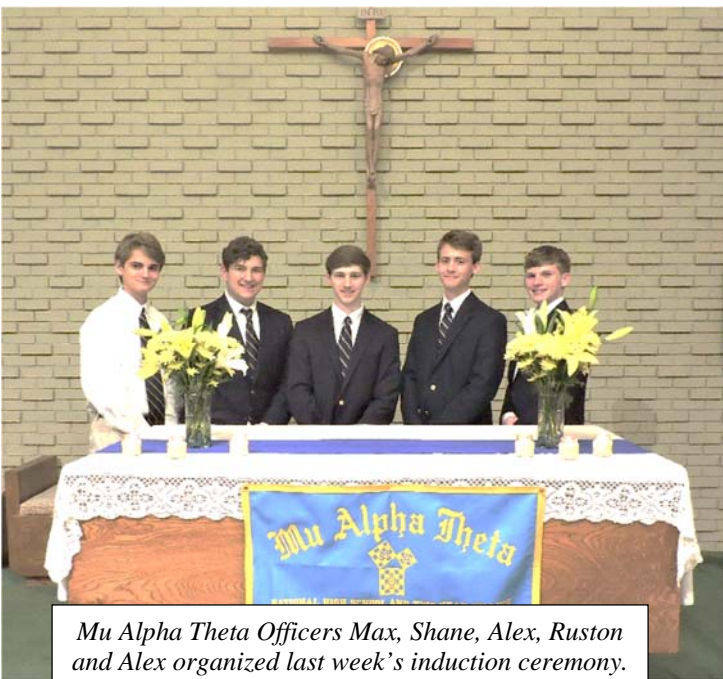
• Recognized and congratulated the following LHSAA 5 A All-State Academic Athletes:

- **Football: Connor McCarthy, Karson Matherne, Bradley Mashburn, Brennan Jenkins, Dylan Futrell, Brycen Brown, Brandon Barriero, Cade Icamina, Jack Vining**
- **Cross Country: Eric Coston, Alex Paille and Christopher Weintritt**
- **Swimming: Ian Fried, Kyle Hladky and Jordan Wyble**
- **Soccer: Thomas Carriere was named to the Composite All State Team – quite an honor!**

• Then, as if by magic, the Hedwig’s theme from Harry Potter started playing, and I showed slides of SPS **Quiddich Team** playing LSU (a nationally ranked Quiddich Team) and losing by a close score of 150-130. I also showed a slide of a newspaper headline from 1914 – the last time an SPS team played LSU: our basketball team of 1914 actually beat LSU!

• Student Council President Will Murphy than spoke to the student body on the value of sleep. Yes, sleep. He expressed his concern that his classmates were not getting enough sleep and encouraged them to manage their time and commitments to make sure they got enough sleep at time. It was a wonderful message!

• With time running out, I had the boys sing the fight song to support all of the many activities happening these days.



*Mu Alpha Theta Officers Max, Shane, Alex, Ruston and Alex organized last week’s induction ceremony.*

• Finally, I closed the assembly with the following four points:

- Projected slides of an event that happened on campus exactly 60 years ago that day: the burning of the campus chapel. It was a bitterly cold morning and the heating system of the old chapel (located where the current new gym is) malfunctioned and the chapel burned to the ground. The photos are dramatic. The theater then became a chapel and remained so until the present chapel was built in 1964.
- Encouraged the students to attend the Wednesday 7 am mass. I told them that I could not keep asking priests to come to campus that early for only four or five students. Fortunately, the students responded and we had a nice congregation the following morning. I hope it continues.
- Reminded the students of why we had the day before as a holiday: Martin Luther King, Jr. I projected a series of

MLK quotations and had the different levels read them.

- Projected the words of “O God Beyond All Praising” and invited the current student body to join their voices with the student body of 2011 and sing this SPS favorite. And they did! It was wonderful!

• We then ended with junior **Curtis Zimmerman** extinguishing the candle and my reminding the students what the candle represents – the presence of God among us. I exhorted them to leave the gym and spread God’s love to all whom they

meet. The students then exited to the 2011 student body recording of “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You!” -- another song from our centennial mass.

- It was a great assembly – at least I thought so

**Power of the Positive Educator:** Here’s the second of seven points from that motivational expert Jon Gordon that I’ve shared with our faculty. Gordon says all teachers should adopt these points in order to be effective; the advice is equally relevant for parents. Last week it was “Be Positively Contagious.” I hope you were.

- *2. Take a Daily Thank You Walk – It’s simple, it’s powerful, and it’s a great way to feed yourself with positivity. How does it work? You simply take a walk... outside, in a mall, at your school, on a treadmill, or anywhere else you can think of, and think about all the things, big and small, that you are grateful for. The research shows you can’t be stressed and thankful at the same time so when you combine gratitude with physical exercise, you give yourself a double boost of positive energy. You flood your brain and body with positive emotions and natural antidepressants that uplift you rather than the stress hormones that drain your energy and slowly kill you. By the time you get to school, you are ready for a great day.*

**A Statement from the Archdiocese of New Orleans Office of Catholic Schools Regarding the LHSAA:** *After much thought and discussion among many Catholic school leaders in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, it has been decided that New Orleans Catholic high schools will continue to work within the structure of the LHSAA at this time. We feel that this decision is in the best interest of our student-athletes, and as with all decisions we make in our Catholic schools, we put our students first.*

**H of the W:** Some school jokes in honor of Catholic Schools Week:

- *Q: Why did the student throw his watch out of the school window? A: He wanted to see time fly.*
- *Q: Why do they never serve alcohol at a math party? A: Because you can't drink and derive...*
- *Q: What do you say when you are comforting a grammar policeman? A: There, Their, They're [LOL!]*
- *Q: What's another name for Santa's elves? A: Subordinate Clauses.*
- *Q: Why did the student take a ladder to school? A: Because he was going to high school!*
- *Q: What's a teacher's favorite nation? A: Expla-nation.*
- *Q: Why didn't the skeleton go to the school dance? A: He didn't have anybody to take.*
- *Q: Why didn't the quarter roll down the hill with the nickel? A: Because it had more cents.*
- *Q: What happened to the plant in math class? A: It grew square roots.*
- *Q: Why did the chicken cross the moebius strip? A: To get to the same side*
- *Q: What kind of school do you find on a mountain top? A: Heights school.*
- *Q: Why is a math book always unhappy? A: Because it always has lots of problems.*
- *Q: Why is 6 afraid of 7? A: Because 7 8 9*
- *Q: What is a chalkboard's favorite drink? A: hot chalk-olate!*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



*Sophomores await start of Honor Roll Breakfast – and the chance to expand their vocabulary!*

### **Third Quarter Period Rotation**

#### **January**

**February**

1 – DEFG

2 – ABCD

3 – EFGA

**6 – BCDE- Parent -Teacher Conferences -- 5-7 – in the BAC (this is an opportunity for you to speak with your son’s teachers**

7 – FGAB – President’s Assembly

8 – CDEF

9 – GABC

10 – DEFG

13 – ABCD

14 – EFGA – Pre Freshmen in Explore Test

15 – BCDE – 9<sup>th</sup> in PLAN Test

16 – FGAB – 10<sup>th</sup> in Pre ACT Test

17 – CDEF

20 – GABC

21 – DEFG – President’s Assembly

22 – ABCD

23 – EFGA

24 – Faculty Retreat Day – no classes

**March**

6 – BCDE

7 – FGAB – Pack Time

8 – CDEF

9 – GABC – NAPE test for certain 8<sup>th</sup> graders during G

10 – DEFG – End of Third Quarter

Fourth Quarter Period Rotation

**March**

13 – ABCDEFG – St. Joseph Altar

14 – ABCD – President’s Assembly

15 – EFGA

16 – BCDE

17 – FGAB

20 – CDEF

21 – GABC

22 – DEFG

23 – ABCD – Juniors on Retreat/Angola

24 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat/Angola

27 – BCDE

28 – FGAB – Pack Time

29 – CDEF- 8/9<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in BAC

30 – GABC -10/11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in BAC

31 – DEFG – 12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in Cafeteria

**April**

3 – ABCD – Leadership Week

4 – EFGA – President’s Assembly

5 – BCDE – Leadership Breakfast

6 – FGAB- Guest Speaker

7 – CDEF – Feast of St. La Salle

10 – GABC

11 – DEFG – Pack Time – Teacher Appreciation



*Fighting Science Wolves at Regional Fair at SLU.*

- 12 – ABCD – Passion Play in BAC
- 13 – EFGA – Mandatum Assembly in Gym
- 24 – BCDE
- 25 – FGAB – President’s Assembly
- 26 – CDEF
- 27 – GABC
- 28 – DEFG

**May**

- 1 – ABCD
- 2 – EFGA – Pack Time (last)
- 3 – BCDE – Senior Exams
- 4 – FGAB – Senior Exams
- 5 – CDEF - Senior Exams
- 8 – GABC
- 9 – DEFG – President’s Assembly – Band Awards in PM
- 10 – ABCD
- 11 – EFGA – Athletic Awards in AM
- 12 – BCDE – Academic Awards in AM
- 13 – Senior Graduation in BAC 4:00 PM
- 15 – FGAB – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 16 – CDEF – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 17 – GABC – Pre-Freshmen Exams
- 18 – 9-11<sup>th</sup> Final Exams begin
- 19 – 9-11<sup>th</sup> Final Exams – Pre Freshmen Promotion in BAC at 6:30PM (yes, this is the correct date)
- 22 – Final Exams
- 23 – Final Exams
- 24 – Records Day

And even though it’s 2017, I will still close with a paraphrase from one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I’m listening to now as I write and LOLing): well, it’s happened again – you’ve squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

Thanks for being part of Saint Paul’s School! I wish you a blessed week!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Thanking God for Having Survived January as the 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

**Quality education, inclusive community, respect for all, concern for poor & social justice, faith in God’s presence – our mantras this week, throughout 2017, and always!**

As Christmas 2016 fades further into history, let us not forget the inspiration provided by the Student Council on luminaria night: *Lux – God is our light and #36 – Mighty Michael!*



**...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God’s will, and remaining faithful!**

