



## Happy New Church Year!



We begin December celebrating the season of Advent – which is the beginning of the new Catholic Church year -- a time of waiting. Advent commemorates the centuries of our awaiting the Messiah. Catholic families put out Advent wreaths, the priest wears purple vestments, and Jesse trees spring up – all to remind us of the season of waiting for the "fullness of time."

I like Advent. I know I'm in the minority here, but I find it a very human season. I know, too, that our students don't like Advent because they don't like the concept of waiting. They routinely grumble about waiting in the cafeteria line, about how far away a particular event is that they are looking forward to, etc. Somehow, in our instant gratification society that emphasizes getting what you want as quickly as possible, patience is no longer promoted as a virtue. In a world where we upgrade to faster computers, buy faster Internet access, text and tweet instead of talk, deliver overnight, buy faster cars, patronize establishments that offer "lunch in ten minutes or it's free" and emphasize that time is money, our students no longer know how to wait. And yet think about how much time we do spend waiting: in store lines, in traffic jams, for the check that's in the mail, for a happy time to occur or a difficult time to end.

Think about your son and how much time you have spent and continue to spend waiting for him: to be born, to learn to talk, to take his first step, to develop his talents, in the car pool line, to come home from a date, to see the importance of grades, to learn to appreciate family and life, to mature.

Advent teaches us to turn times of waiting into times of grace. At my next assembly, I will remind the students of one of the oldest prayers in the Church. It consists of just one word: *Maranatha*, which is Aramaic for "Come, Lord." If we can fill our time of waiting with God's presence, then the whole concept of patience will take on a new and more fulfilling meaning. What a wonderful way to fill periods of waiting! Use it as a greeting, too. Your spirits will be renewed and your time of waiting will be filled with blessing.

*Maranatha! Come, Lord!*

### Mon, Dec 4 (Regular; D E F G)

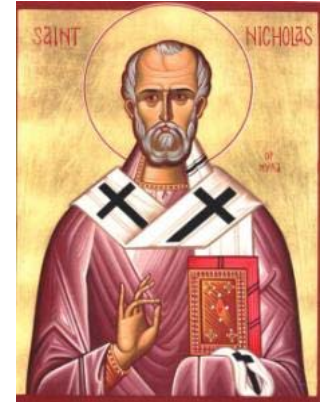
- **This Day in History:** In 1991, after 64 years of operation, the American airline Pan Am ceases service.
- **National Cookie Day:** Enjoy! DYK the English word "cookie" comes from Dutch "koekje," which means little cake? Dutch bakers tested oven temps on small amounts of batter so they would not waste the entire cake mix if the temp wasn't right & discovered that these tiny pieces of cooked batter were actually quite tasty!
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> & JV at Mandeville
- **Cross Country Awards Banquet at Benedict's**

## Tue, Dec 5 (Wolf Packs; 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!
- **Wolf Packs meet to prepare luminaria bags**
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> at Mandeville Jr Hi

## Wed, Dec 6 (Regular; 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
- **Wrestling:** SPS v. Holy Cross & Curtis
- **Basketball:** 9<sup>th</sup> v. Lakeshore (7)




*Harrison puts in some extra study during lunch last week. Learning continues at SPS!*

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

- **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!
- **Snack Day:** Thanks, MC – again!
- **Soccer:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. FJH at Lakeshore High
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Montelone Jr Hi (6:30)
- **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 campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to our area since they were knowledgeable about it from our schools in New Mexico.

## *Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!*

### **Fri, 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. 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.
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- **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:** 1660, a female actor appeared as **Desdemona** in Shakespeare’s *Othello*, probably the first appearance by a woman actor in England. For years, boys or men played female roles. 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 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:** 9, JV & Varsity v. Zachary (starting at 5)
  - **Soccer:** 9th v. Northshore ; JV & Varsity v. Denham Springs

### **Sat, Dec 9 (Feast of St. Juan Diego)**

- 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, as 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 in 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!
- **ACT on campus this morning**
- **Soccer:** 9<sup>th</sup> vs. Jesuit 9<sup>th</sup> (10) & 8<sup>th</sup> v. Jesuit (12) & 9<sup>th</sup> vs. BRHS @ 2; JV in Mandeville Tournament
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi & JV at Jesuit
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> v. Bro Martin at Shaw (10); 8<sup>th</sup> v. Shaw at noon; 9<sup>th</sup> v. Bro Martin (11); Varsity in Biloxi
- **Marching Wolves in Mandeville Christmas Parade**

### Sun, Dec 10 – Second Sunday of Advent

- **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 President William McKinley signed it into law.
- **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!



*Student Council President Matthew congratulates Ms. Emilie Allen on her marriage over Thanksgiving.*

## ***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

**I offer the following in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance:**

**Admissions for 2018 - 19:** I will soon put any additional applications in a waiting pool, as both quality and quantity for next year look good. So it looks like we can stay open next year! Thank you for recommending Saint Paul's to your friends and neighbors. If you know of anyone still interested, they must file an app soon as testing is on January 6 – and those applicants will get priority consideration.

**ACT Scores:** If you read the latest issue of *Wolftracks* (and I hope you did!), you could not help but be impressed at the 20 students who scored a perfect 36 on one of the subsections of the ACT over the past six months. Wow. What an accomplishment. Congratulate them when you see them!

**Adopt-a-Family:** This school year, we will collaborate with St. Tammany Project Christmas. We have "adopted" 35 children from [16 families in St. Tammany Parish](#). Each of these children have three wish list items which we shared with the religion classes. As before, we ask for monetary donations, collected through your son's religion classes, to fund the purchase of the wish list items. In lieu of a monetary donation, if your family would like to purchase any of the wish list items, please reach out to Mr. Ramon for those details. In lieu of the above items, the sacrifice of time by helping shop for gifts and gift delivery to Project Christmas is always needed and appreciated. For any questions, please contact Mr. Ramon ([j.ramon@stpauls.com](mailto:j.ramon@stpauls.com))

Here's the schedule:

- Monday, November 13-17, November 27 - December 6 (monetary collections)
- Wednesday, Dec 6 & Thursday, Dec 7 (shopping)
- Friday, December 8 (Blessing of gifts at Immaculate Conception liturgy)
- Monday/Tuesday, December 11/12 (delivery to St. Tammany Project Christmas HQ)

**Advent:** *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!* These words will be sung this week 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 it.

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*Dayton cheerfully gives "the gift of life" last week.*

**After School Issues:** Assignment Hall and detention are in full operation. Parents, please stress with your sons the need to do homework and follow rules. And if your son does end up in AH or detention, please establish a procedure for him to follow so that you are not wandering around looking for him. We tell the AH student to call their parents. We'll provide a phone if needed.

**Annual Fund:** Two weeks ago, I officially launched our Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school. You should have received in the mail a brochure explaining the drive and a response card. I'm humbled by the number of you who have anticipated the drive and have already sent in your donations. The success of this drive is critical to Saint Paul's. Please keep us in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit. And while we don't directly solicit grandparents, we need their support to! Please speak to your son's grandparents – or give me permission to write them directly. Thanks!

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

- *What can I offer to the school? How could I, a lone applicant, deserve these great benefits of an even greater school? How could I contribute to the growth of the community and the members involved? Well, forget about eating anything while reading this, for you are in for a real treat.*
- *I have seen many boys in my neighborhood go to St. Paul's and be transformed.*
- *As a young boy at St. Peter school aftercare, I couldn't wait to see the St. Paul's band march down the street practicing for parades. I would stare in awe and dream of the day that I would be in the drum line.*
- *Brother Ray sounds like a great guy. It must be awesome at Saint Paul's with him. [Shameless flattery will get this guy admitted!]*
- *On the day of Open House, God helped me make my decision. It was a beautiful day and the wind was blowing through the trees. It was quiet and peaceful. This feeling came over me and I felt like this is where I am meant to be for the next five years.*

### ***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

**Assembly on Tuesday:** I hope the students enjoyed our Nov 28 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- We jump-started Advent by listening to an incredible version of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" – a traditional Advent song that 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. 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 2017.

- Prayed in a special way, as the prayer candle was lit by junior **Michael Ward**, for those who have gone to God's Kingdom since our last assembly: **Mr. Anthony Carmeli, uncle of Ashton Carmeli '22, Grandmother of Trainer Chris Stipe & Great Grandmother of Christian Stipe '17 & Mrs. Tsitsi Kazingizi, grandmother of Panashe Kazingizi**



- Recognized and congratulated English teacher Ms. Emilie Allen, who was married over the Thanksgiving Holidays. Student Council President Matthew Stalter presented Ms. Allen with a small token of our appreciation for her.

- Projected and read the following email to the students: *Dear Brother Ray, Wanted to email you and let you know about three of your wonderful St. Paul's boys. Last night my husband took our big dog on a walk and he wiggled out of his harness. He ran! My husband and I jumped in separate cars and started driving up and down our neighborhood. I had the windows down and saw three boys walking down the road coming from the game. I stopped and asked them if they had seen him. They said they hadn't. I kept driving and yelling for him and then I*



*Student Council and Key Club volunteer at Northshore Food Bank over Thanksgiving holidays.*

*got a call. The boys found him on Tyler on their way to Sonic and held him at Animal Medical Center for me. They saved him from getting hit. They could have just let it go but they went out of their way to help us. I offered them \$20.00. That's all I had in my wallet. They would not take the money. I asked them please take it and they said they couldn't that they were happy to help. I asked them if they went to St. Paul's and they said yes, they were sophomores. I didn't get their last names but got their first names. Ben, Scott and Jack. I wanted to share this story of kindness because I know that besides their parents, they are taught this at St. Paul's. I thought you would like to hear about these very kind young men. Hope you share this story with the school. Thank them again from my family. Thank you. Robin Bruns. I asked "Ben, Scott, and Jack" to stand so we could congratulate them. Well done, **Ben Davidson, Scott Manifold, and Jack Ballard!***

- Recognized and congratulated the entire student body, especially the Lasallian Youth Leaders, for the outstanding Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Northshore Food Bank, which resulted in almost seven tons of food. I projected the following letter of gratitude from the Food Bank: *Dear St Pauls Students, Faculty, Staff & Families – What a wonderful way to begin our day at the Food Bank today with 16 truck-loads of food items from the St Paul's Thanksgiving Food Drive! The school's donation filled 24 wrap-around watermelon crates and weighed at total of 13,511 lbs!!! It is always wonderful to see the generous spirit of giving through St Paul's. Your students are not only the largest food drive donor each year, but also contribute the most Student Volunteer Hours of any school. This donation collected today will help keep our shelves stocked through the rest of the year, as we serve approximately 325 families each week. We cannot express our appreciation for St Paul's commitment to helping the community in-need through the Food Bank. Thank you St Paul's for your continued support of Northshore Food Bank! Sincerely, Yvette Roussel, Development Associate of Northshore Food Bank.* I had the students give themselves a round of applause.
- Recognized and congratulated the students who gave up a day of vacation to work at the Food Bank, sorting the 13,000 pounds of food that we donated: **Luke Vargas, Marco Vargas, Josh Rovira, Magnus**

**Laue, Blake Franklin, Christopher Franke, Adam Cazayoux, Brendan Mc Neil, Luke Beckendorf, Alexi Sotoropolous, Evan Cook , Hanzala Hussain, Paxton Ballard, Larry Rase, Mrs. Pool and Mrs. Case.**

- Recognized and congratulated two 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: **Owen Crombie and Sebastian Sequeira**
- Recognized and congratulated the students who worked the Lyon Elementary School Clean Up Day: **Isaiah Ayo, Christopher Comboy, Hanzala Hussain, Patrick Kilgore, Christian Kramer, Trey Paine, and Kason Shaw.**
- Recognized and congratulated **Brady Meibaum and Caleb Frost** for organizing Buna's Hope Fund Run that raised \$4000. The money will go towards helping families in the area struggling with life's challenges, and of course those fighting against cancer.
- Recognized and congratulated those students who worked Monster Mash: **Josh Bonnett, Thomas Bourgeoise, Chandler Copeland, Anthony Davis, Eric Gray, Sam Heap, Wayne Juneau, Walker Lobdell, Louis Marion, Ethan Morain, Kier Nunez, Ben Schwing**



*LAX Wolves volunteer at Sister Berlin’s Blue Shack Ministry last week.*

- Recognized and congratulated cast and crew of “Twelve Angry Men”: **Gabe Daigle, Ms. Denny Charbonnet, Anthony Bonano, Mr. Barrett Baumgartner, Justin McCleskey, Mr. Mike Boudreaux, Brady Meibaum, Mrs. Christi Simoneaux, Isaac Hebert, Christian Butler, Ian Nicaud, Elias Simpson, Luke Vargas, Josh Rovira, Carson Caulfield, Caleb Frost, Jacob Eilers, Jonathan Wellmeyer, Callan**

**Dannenhower, Michael Luccio, Daniel**

**Wieseneck, Lester Guttuso, and John Baglow.**

- Recognized and thanked the 2017 Varsity Football Wolves for a great season: Recognized the All District players on **1<sup>ST</sup> TEAM: Noah Seiden, Paul Gremillion, Grant Grosch; 2<sup>nd</sup> Team: Conrad Robinson, Cameron Cluney, Wayne Galloway, Owen Hnatysnyn, Bear Palazzo, Corey Williamson; Honorable Mention: Jack Mashburn, Logan Davenport, Andrew Eikel, Nick Stanton, Jared Kreeger, Johntae’ McDowell, Matthew Algero, Robby Ferrante, Lain Scobel, Zach Bodenheimer, Michael Philippe, Jack Bonaldi, Robert Buquoi, & Spencer Fox-Jr-DB** 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 Ross Hightower and Alvey Anderson and all of the Marching Wolves for providing great half-time entertainment and spirit for each game, home and away.
- Recognized the Cross Country team for finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in state. While we did not retain our state championship from last year, I assured the team that we were very proud of their season, which included district and northshore regional championships. I also projected a picture of the team attending mass at St. Joseph Abbey Church prior to leaving for the state meet – which has become an annual tradition for the team. Wonderful!
- Recognized and congratulated the Aqua Wolves for finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in state – quite the accomplishment for such a small team! Our team consisted of only eight swimmers: Jessie Cheng, Tonner Dougherty, Myers Morgan, Drew Putfark, Alex Rawls, Austin Peak, Harrison Juneau and Christian Kramer. **Congratulations to Coach Emmitt Smith and Moderator Rachael Peak for a job extremely well done!!**
- Recognized and congratulated senior Myers Morgan for winning a state championship in the 50 yard free at the state swim meet. I played the video of Myers' race and the school cheered him on to victory. It was a great moment.
- Recognized and congratulated the Wrestling Wolves, who are off to a great start of their season. In particular, I recognized the following:
  - **Br. Martin Jr. High Tournament 11/11: 4th - Kyle Kersker, Ian Bertrand; 3rd - Wesley Coles, Trey Faherty, Noah Soule, Ethan Viator; 2nd - Garrett Juneau, Jaden Patti; 1st - Jake Houser**
  - Mandeville Open Varsity Tournament 11/11: 4th -- Sean Cripple, Carter Duet; 3rd -- Evan Ulfers, Jake Arena; 2<sup>nd</sup> -- Ben Davidson, Grant Hughes, Ben Bobrowski: 1st -- Peyton Ward, Brandon Stein, Cole Houser, Jared Thieler, Gavin Patti
  - Br. Martin JV Tournament 11/10: 4th - Mathew Moffat; 3rd - Rannie Walker, Jackson Luscly, Matthew Roussel; 2nd - Jobe Franklin, Nick Raspino, Hal Fox; 1st - Joshua Sabadie

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- Recognized and congratulated the Varsity Basketball Team **for taking fifth place in the prestigious Rumble on the Ridge in Forrest City, Arkansas over Thanksgiving holidays. The Wolves opened the tournament with a tough loss against two-time defending Rumble champions, El Dorado (AR), and then closed out the competition with impressive victories over Sidney-Lanier (AL) and Humboldt High School (TN). In the game against El Dorado, senior Devonte Allen scored his 1,000th career point and at the conclusion of the tournament, Parker Edwards was named First-Team All-Tournament.**
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- Promoted our annual blood drive on Dec 1 and our Adopt a Family Drive. I then played the cumulative video of all the students, teachers and classes promoting the #iGiveCatholic Day. It was wonderful and the boys were obviously quite pleased with themselves! Thanks to Media Teacher Josh Pereira and seniors Brandon Gallego and Joel Fernandez for making all these videos under the direction of Mrs. Mimi Montiero.

- I then closed the assembly by having the boys sing “O Come O Come” 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.
- As junior **Jacob Eilers** extinguished the prayer candle, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. They promised to do so. It was a great assembly -- at least I thought so!

**Bookstore Sale:** The Mothers’ Club Christmas Bookstore sale will occur on the following dates and times are:

- Saturday, December 16th: 9:30am to 12:30pm
- Monday, December 18th: 11:00am to 3:00pm
- Tuesday, December 19th: 7:15am to 12:30pm

Support the Mothers’ Club when possible. Proceeds from the bookstore directly help the students of SPS.



*Cooper and Gavin refresh themselves after giving blood last week.*

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

- **AmazonSmile:** Last week, we received **\$141.08 from 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:** Last week we 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. And with all we buy at OD (I’ll rant about this in a future newsletter!), this will help a lot.

- **Box Tops for Education:** Each top is worth 10 cents – which adds up quickly. Thanks Math Department!.

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**Cold Weather Clothing:** Only Saint Paul’s outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. I will handle this confidentially and appropriately.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

**December:** Welcome to the twelfth (even though deca means ten – I hope you know why this discrepancy exists) and last month of the calendar year. December is Aids Awareness Month, Bingo's Birthday Month, Buckwheat Month, National Drunk & Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month, National Impaired Driving Prevention Month, National Tie Month, National Write A Business Plan Month, Safe Toys and Gifts Month, Spiritual Literacy Month, Make a New Year's Resolution to Stop Smoking, Universal Human Rights Month, Worldwide Food Service Safety Month, and Youngsters on The Air Month.

**Exams:** Semester exams begin on Dec 12. 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. The complete exam schedule is printed at the end of newsletter and posted on Edline.

**A Gratitude Attitude:** Two years ago at this time, National Public Radio's Morning Edition did a story of the role of gratitude and heart health. It's worth re-visiting. Here's the scoop: *Research shows that feeling grateful doesn't just make you feel good. It also helps – literally helps – the heart. A positive mental attitude is good for your heart. It fends off depression, stress and anxiety, which can increase the risk of heart disease, says Paul Mills a professor of family medicine and public health at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. Mills specializes in disease processes and has been researching behavior and heart health for decades. He wondered if the very specific feeling of gratitude made a difference, too. So he did a He recruited 186 men and women, average age 66, who already had some damage to their heart, either through years of sustained high blood pressure or as a result of heart attack or even an infection of the heart itself. They each filled out a standard [questionnaire](#) to rate how grateful they felt for the people, places or things in their lives. It turned out the more grateful people were, the healthier they were. "They had less depressed mood, slept better and had more energy," says Mills. Read or listen to the full story at <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/11/23/456656055/gratitude-is-good-for-the-soul-and-it-helps-the-heart-too>. Spend more time being grateful! It's good for the soul and the heart!*

**ID Cards:** As part of our safety plan, students are required to wear their ID cards on their SPS issued lanyard on a DAILY basis. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID.** If he forgets, he receives a detention. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10.

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**#iGive Catholic Results:** Thank you to everyone that participated in and contributed to the iGiveCatholic Campaign yesterday. We had 170 donors gift us \$18,885 in 24 hours! It appears as though we will also receive \$750 for having the second-largest number of donors for a school in the Archdiocese (behind St. Benilde of Metairie), bringing our total to \$19,635. The Catholic Foundation has confirmed this.

We would not have had this success without the cooperation and support of our entire community. I would especially like to thank Media students Joel Fernandez and Brandon Gallego and adviser Josh Pereira for helping me make the videos. THANK YOU to every teacher that welcomed us into your classrooms and the faculty members that agreed to go on video.

### Last Week:

- **Basketball:** Wins over St. Stanislaus, F'bleau, Slidell, De La Salle earn Wolves a CYO Championship Trophy. In addition, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades did well, too!
- **Blood Drive:** Thanks for your support of giving the gift of life. 38 pints were donated.
- **Cross Country Christmas Fun Run** was a grand success. Thanks to all who helped.
- **Fire Drill** last week was well done. We continue to practice our safety plans!
- **I Give Catholic:** Last Tuesday was a grand success, with SPS garnering 171 gifts totaling \$18, 885. 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 who was tenacious in promoting this event with our constituencies.
- **Lacrosse:** The LAX Wolves volunteered at Sister Berlin's Blue Shack Ministry in Covington last week. Wonderful!
- **Library:** The dismantling continues! Had the students shown this much interest in the library books over the years, we probably would not be eliminating our collection! Great to see students scanning the stacks for a good read. For us dinosaurs, it signals the end of an era, and while I rejoice in the future, it's sometimes painful to see the past end.
- **Quiz Bowl Wolves** took SECOND Place (out of 17 teams) in the Mt. Carmel Invitational. Congrats to Andrew Hightower, Ross Hightower, Waleed Sultan, Blake Ramsey, Stephen Millet, Thomas Bitterwolf & Coach Hightower.
- **Reconciliation:** Thanks to Deanery priests for offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation last week.
- **Robo-Wolves** were in action Sat in NO. FIRST PLACE (Adam Smith, Darrin Lea, Blake Bollinger, Blake Inzinna) and Semi-Finalist Team (Ryan Daly, Magnus Laue & Eric Gray). Congrats to Mrs. Beck & Robo Wolves
- **Soccer:** A big varsity, Mercy Rule win against Mandeville! Wow! & JV & 9<sup>th</sup> also beat the Skippers last week. And Varsity and JV beat John Ehret on Friday night.
- **Wolf Tracks:** Thanks, Danielle, for another great issue.
- **Wrestlers** wrestled strong against M'ville & Pearl River and then headed to FL, returning home with SECOND



*Swim Coach Smith congratulates State Champion Myers Morgan!*

**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.

## ***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

**Luminaries – 6 pm on Thursday, Dec 7.** Come join this annual Festival of Lights on our campus! Luminarias are lit at 6, caroling begin at 6:30 in Founders' Circle, prayer service at 7 in our chapel, following by refreshments in the cafeteria. 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 campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to our area since they were knowledgeable about it from our schools in New Mexico

**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 a lot – or even give at all. 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.

**Money:** Parents, please stress with you son that they should NOT bring large sums of money to school. There is absolutely no need for students to have large cash amounts – which they invariable talk about which tempts others.

## ***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

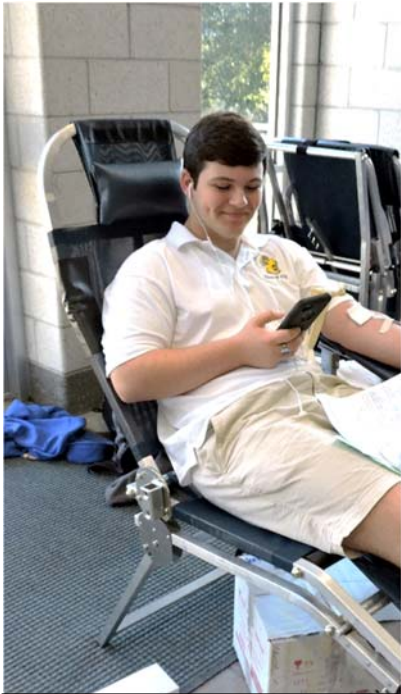
**Re-Registration of Current Students for 2018 - 19:** For those of you who plan ahead, here's the process:

- Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8<sup>th</sup> graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept.
- Current 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12<sup>th</sup> graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2018 - 19, 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 are getting inquiries about January admissions.**

**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!

**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). Also, we still have a number of March Through the Arch photos. If you don't want it, that's fine – just let me know.

**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, 2018 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))



*Texting while donating blood!*

**Student Council:** St. Paul's Student Council announces its annual Christmas dance open to SSA and SPS 8th, 9th, and 10th graders on Friday, December 15 from 7-9PM in the Briggs Assembly Center. Attire is appropriate casual attire reflecting the theme "Christmas Movies." Admission is \$10. DJ music, cookies, and water will be provided.

**Thanksgiving to Christmas:** This period of the school year can be a challenge. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling a crisis. 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. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies and to think before they act.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

### ***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

**Tutoring:** National Honor Society tutoring begins Tue, Sep 5, according to the following schedule:

- Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning at 7:15 in La Salle 207
- Monday and Thursday at lunch in LaSalle 207.
- Essay proofreading services also provided.
- Please encourage your son to take advantage of this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so.**

**Vaping:** I'm sorry I have to mention this, but please speak to your son about the dangers involved in this latest fad. We are hearing anecdotal reports of vaping by our students and have even taken disciplinary action against several of them who vaped at school events. We will continue to be vigilant and take strong measures against violators. At last month's regular meeting with the Covington Police Department, we were informed that it is AGAINST THE LAW for minors to purchase vaping equipment. Please make sure your son knows this – and complies with your wishes, the rules of the school – and the law.

**Waiting Has Value:** During Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to “wait” is a chief characteristic 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 repeatedly, 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>

**Weekly Humor:** With our library dwindling, here are some books that were never written – and thus never needed Dewey Decimal numbers (see Dec 10). Do students know what DD#s are? Do you?

- *Boy Scout Brigade* by Pat Troll
- *Late for Work* by Dr. Wages
- *How to Eat Cereal* by Poor A. Bowl
- *Smelly Stuff* by Anita Bath
- *21<sup>st</sup> Century Technology* by Rob Ott
- *The Art of Being Discreet* by Anonymous
- *Gotta Go Again* by D.I Aria
- *Paris Monuments* by I. Phil Taurer
- *How to Exercise* by Eileen and Ben Dover
- *101 Ways to Diet* by I.M. Hungry
- *Getting Fired* by Anita Job
- *A Sailor's Adventure* by Ron A. Ground
- *Green Vegetables* by Brock Ali
- *Long Walk Home* by Misty Buss
- *How To Raise Your IQ* by Samar T. Pants
- *The Gas Station* by Phil R.. Awp
- *High School Math* by Cal. Q. Luss
- *The Best Class in High School* by Jim Class
- *Learning to Read* by Abe E. Seas
- *OK, I'll stop!*



*Quiz Bowl Wolves prepare for competition.*

**Yearbook** sales are now open for the 2017-2018 Conifer, which will be distributed at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. You can also purchase senior ads now. Senior parents should have received an email last weekend and senior students received a form with instructions during their period A class last week. **ALL SALES ARE ONLINE** at [www.yearbookforever.com](http://www.yearbookforever.com). The price of the yearbook is discounted to \$60 through Dec 31, at which time the price will increase to \$65. The deadline is May 14 to place senior ads and May 25 to purchase a yearbook. Please contact Mimi Monteiro at [m.monteiro@stpauls.com](mailto:m.monteiro@stpauls.com) if you have any questions.

Anyone wishing to buy previous year yearbooks should go to the Development Office, to be sold on a first-come-first serve basis.

***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

## **Period Rotation 2017-2018**

### **December**

- 4 – DEFG
- 5 – ABCD – Pack Time
- 6 – EFGA
- 7 – BCDE – *Snack Day*
- 8 – FGAB – Mass Immaculate Conception – DRESS UNIFORM DAY
- 11 – CDEF
- 12 – GABC
- 13 – DEFG(A)
- 14 – Exams – President’s Assembly
- 15 – Exams
- 18 – Exams
- 19 – Exams – *Teacher Christmas Luncheon Cafeteria 11:30*

### **January**

- 3 – ABCD – Seniors on Retreat
- 4 – EFGA – Seniors on Retreat
- 5 – BCDE – Seniors on Retreat
- 8 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF – Pack Time – *Snack Day*
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – ABCD
- 16 – EFGA – President’s Assembly
- 17 – BCDE
- 18 – FGAB
- 19 – CDEF
- 22 – GABC – *8/9 HR Breakfast in BAC*
- 23 – DEFG – Pack Time *10/11 HR Breakfast in BAC*
- 24 – ABCD – *12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in Cafeteria / Junior Career Day*
- 25 – EFGA – Mass Conversion of St. Paul
- 26 – BCDE – Possible LPO Concert
- 29 – FGAB
- 30 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
- 31 – GABC

### **February**

- 1 – DEFG
- 2 – ABCD
- 5 – EFGA- 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In Service – *Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7*



6 – BCDE – Pack Time  
7 – FGAB  
8 – CDEF  
9 - Faculty Retreat  
19 – GABC  
20 – DEFG – President’s Assembly / Pre-Freshmen in Explore (BAC)  
21 – ABCD – Freshmen in PLAN (BAC)  
22 – EFGA – Sophomores in Pre ACT (BAC) – Freshmen on Retreat  
23 – BCDE – Freshmen on Retreat  
26 – FGAB  
27 – CDEF – Juniors in ACT  
28 – GABC – Pack Time

### **March**

1 – DEFG  
2 – ABCD  
5 – EFGA  
6 – BCDE – President’s Assembly  
7 – FGAB  
8 – CDEF  
9 – GABC – End of Third Quarter  
12 – DEFG - 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In-Service  
13 – ABCD – Pack Time  
14 – EFGA  
15 – BCDE - Junior Retreat/Angola  
16 – FGAB – Junior Retreat/Angola  
19 – ABCDEFG- St. Joseph Altar  
20 – CDEF – Pack Time  
21 – GABC  
22 – DEFG  
23 – ABCD  
26 – EFGA  
27 – BCDE – President’s Assembly  
28 – FGAB  
29 – CDEF

### **April**

9 – GABC  
10 – DEFG – Pack Time – *8/9 HR Breakfast in BAC*  
11 – ABCD – *10/11 HR Breakfast in BAC*  
12 – EFGA – *12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast in Cafeteria*  
13 – BCDE  
16 – FGAB – 9:00 Late Start for Faculty In-Service  
17 – CDEF – President’s Assembly – *Teacher Appreciation Lunch – Snack Day*  
18 – GABC

19 – DEFG  
20 – ABCD  
23 – EFGA  
24 – BCDE – Pack Time (last with seniors)  
25 – FGAB  
26 – CDEF  
27 – GABC  
30 – DEFG

***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

**May**

1 – ABCD – *President's Assembly*  
2 – EFGA – Senior Exams  
3 – BCDE – Senior Exams  
4 – FGAB – Senior Exams  
7 – CDEF  
8 – GABC - Pack Time  
9 – DEFG – Level Awards Assemblies  
10 – ABCD – Athletic Awards Assembly BAC  
11 – EFGA – Major Academic Awards Assembly BAC  
14 – BCDE  
15 – FGAB – President's Assembly - Pre freshmen Exams  
16 – CDEF - Pre freshmen Exams  
17 – Pre freshmen Exams /9-11 Exams  
18 – 9-11 Exams /Pre freshmen Promotion in Evening  
21 – Exams  
22 – Exams  
23 – Exam make up day

**First Semester Exam Schedule**

**Wednesday, December 13 – DEFG(A)**

- Regular classes in periods DEFG
- Review for Period A Exam
- **Special Exam Review Schedule (76 min. classes With SSR)**
- 7:45 – 9:16          Period D/CNN
- 9:23 – 10:54        Period E
- 10:54– 11:39        Lunch
- 11:35 – 1:00        Period F
- 1:05 – 2:11         Period G (Last class period of semester)
- 2:16 - 3:00         Period A Exam Review

### **Thursday, December 14**

#### **• Special Exam/Prayer Service/Principal'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

### **Friday, December 15**

- 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

### **Monday, December 18**

- 8:15 – 8:30 Prayer, Roll, 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

### **Tuesday, December 19**

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

***Friday, December 8, is a Dress Uniform Day!***

Whew! I've taxed your patience too much this week! But you will soon be getting another break when the newsletter goes on Christmas holiday.

As usual, I'll close with my paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows which I'm listening to (on their website as WWNO stopped broadcasting the show) 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 relentless 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 the final weeks of 2017 (can you believe it?) be ones of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2017 - 18 edition of Saint Paul's – our 106<sup>th</sup> year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

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

*"Young people are not bad because they have bad hearts. They are bad because of bad example. As teachers, you have no greater responsibility than to give your students good example."*  
Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers, c.1705 Meditations for Sundays

*Let's do ordinary things extraordinarily well, make courageous choices, do God's will, remain faithful and be guided to God in these final weeks of 2017– and always!*



**“Preach by example; practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.” (SJBDSL)**



***Did I mention we have a Dress Uniform Day on Fri, Dec 8?***