



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*

January 07 – 13, 2019



Welcome back to school and Happy 2019 – the eighth full year of our second century! I hope your holidays were physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered the New Year with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal. I hope, too, that your family grew closer during these special days.

I know you've missed the weekly newsletter during the holidays, so here's the first edition of 2019.

In his meditation for January 1, Saint John Baptist de La Salle bluntly asks the first Brothers the following questions:

- *Is it only in vain that you live the name of Christian and minister of Jesus in the work that you do?*
- *Do you live in a manner that befits these glorious names? Do you instruct those for whom you are responsible with the attention and the zeal God asks of you in so holy a work?*

He then reminds the first Brothers (and us today) to make the following New Year's resolutions:

- *Act in a way that your life may begin today to be holy and edifying and continue to be so in the future.*
- ***By your good conduct, make yourself worthy of your distinguished role.***

These sound like good resolutions to me! And while they were written for the first Brothers, they apply equally to Lasallian teachers today and evens to parents, the primary educators of their children. Let's pray for the grace to put these resolutions into practice!



At our faculty opening of school prayer service last August, Student Council President Josh Rovira challenged the faculty to make the most of the 2018 - 19 year. He exhorted us to do our best to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care. He encouraged us to encourage the students to make the most of their year by getting involved and giving their best to all their endeavors. I asked the teachers in their newsletter this week if they have been faithful in doing so and, if not, to renew their resolve to adopt the tried and true methods of the Lasallian educator.

I think parents, too, need to encourage their sons to make the most of the opportunities being given them. I encourage you, therefore, to look for ways to have your sons make the most of each and every day.

I wish you a blessed and happy 2019 and a successful second semester – the final one for the Class of 2019! *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13)*

Mon, Jan 7 (Regular; A B C D; start of second semester)

- **This Day in History:** In 1789, America holds first presidential election (Spoiler alert: Washington won!)
- **TDIH:** In 1953, President Harry Truman announces the development of a hydrogen bomb one thousand times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Japan.
- **I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore Day:** Well, I'll let you decide what you're not going to take anymore. Just hope it's not SPS, although some of you will probably vote for this newsletter – or the SPS President!
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Northshore

Tue, Jan 8 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **Feast of the Patroness of Southeast Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.**

This devotion originated with a French Ursuline nun, who brought to New Orleans a statue she had commissioned under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. (Succor means “help.”) This statue now stands above the main altar in the Ursuline Chapel on State Street. OLPS played a prominent role in Battle of New Orleans and the great New Orleans fire. Today, we pray to her for help in the New Battle of New Orleans against violence, murder and racism. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!

- **TDIH:** In 1815, two weeks after the War of 1812 officially ended, U.S. General Andrew Jackson achieves the greatest American victory of the war at the Battle of New Orleans. Today we remember the 204th anniversary of this historic event.
- **TDIH:** In 1935, Elvis Presley is born in Tupelo, MS. Listen to some Elvis today!
- **National JoyGerm Day:** Spread joy via acts of kindness such as a hug, kiss, love letter, compliment, or any unexpected act of compassion today.
- **Argyle Day:** Wear your argyle (diamond shaped blocks against a colored background) today!
- **Poetry at Work Day (always-2nd Tue):** In a survey of 1500 CEOs, IBM reported that **creativity** was the top leadership quality needed – and poets are creative! Harvard Business Review discussed the value of poetry for professionals. And business leader Sidney Harman (co-founder of Harman/Kardon and worth over \$500 million at his death in 2011) asked his staff to hire poets as managers. Read a poem today!
- **Basketball:** 9th, JV, & Varsity at Covington
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Hammond



Original OLPS brought from France in 1727 by Ursuline nuns.

Wed, Jan 9 (Regular; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first balloon aerial voyage in the New World at the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia at dawn. He sold tickets and the excitement he generated was so great that almost the entire population of Philly turned out, in addition to a large number from the countryside.
- **TDIH II:** 1493, Christopher Columbus sails near Dominican Republic & sees three "mermaids"--in reality manatees--and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted" – an example of understatement.
- **Static Electricity Day:** Find a Van de Graaff generator to touch and celebrate the wonders of the old balloon-sticking-to-the-wall trick, the hair-raising that takes place after we take off winter hats, and the shock of electricity that we get from petting a cat after scooting across a carpeted floor in socks.

- **Take the Stairs Day (2nd Wed):** Using stairs when possible promotes good health!
- **Senior Retreat** begins today. Prayers and best wishes go with the seniors & Retreat Team. We owe the team a great deal of thanks for undertaking this important ministry. Special thanks, too, to those who will help with substitutions during retreat. Take this seriously and be available to assist subs who may need help. The group returns Fri afternoon. We are indebted to retreat coordinators Lee and Renee’.
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Boyet (6)

Thu, Jan 10 (Regular; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** 1982, SF 49ers wide receiver Dwight Clark makes leaping catch in end zone on a pass from QB Joe Montana with 51 seconds left in the NFC, sending the ‘9ers to Super Bowl & beginning a dynasty of the 1980s. To see “the catch”, click here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-dCEaA1PytY>
- **Houseplant Appreciation Day:** With Christmas decor gone, give a little attention to your houseplants.
- **Cut Your Energy Costs Day:** Do all you can to conserve energy today.

Fri, Jan 11 (Regular; C D E F)

- **National Milk Day:** In 1878, milk was reportedly delivered in bottles for the very first time. Prior to this, milk was brought door to door in large metal cans and they’d ladle you out a portion.
- **TDIH:** In 2012, a special blessing and opening ceremony for the newly renovated La Salle Hall was held. The building has served us well, and we continue to marvel at this incredible transformation of the old dormitory into currently usable space. As we mark the five-year anniversary, let’s not forget to remember all those who helped make it possible and treat the building with respect and appreciation. In particular, I’d like to recognize the members of the Centennial Club, who donated \$50,000 to the project: An Anonymous Alumnus, Bobby Nolan, Greg and Lisa Pellegrini, Tom and Sue Lavin and
- **TDIH:** In 2016, John Bel Edwards was inaugurated as Governor of Louisiana. Regardless of our party affiliation, we should offer our governor and other elected officials our prayers and best wishes as they address the problems of our beloved state. May they govern wisely and honestly!
- **Human Trafficking Day:** We don’t think much about this human horror, so today raises awareness about the effects of what has been termed modern day slavery.



Pre-freshmen spread Christmas spirit by participating in the Adopt-a Family program.



St. Josephine Bakhita

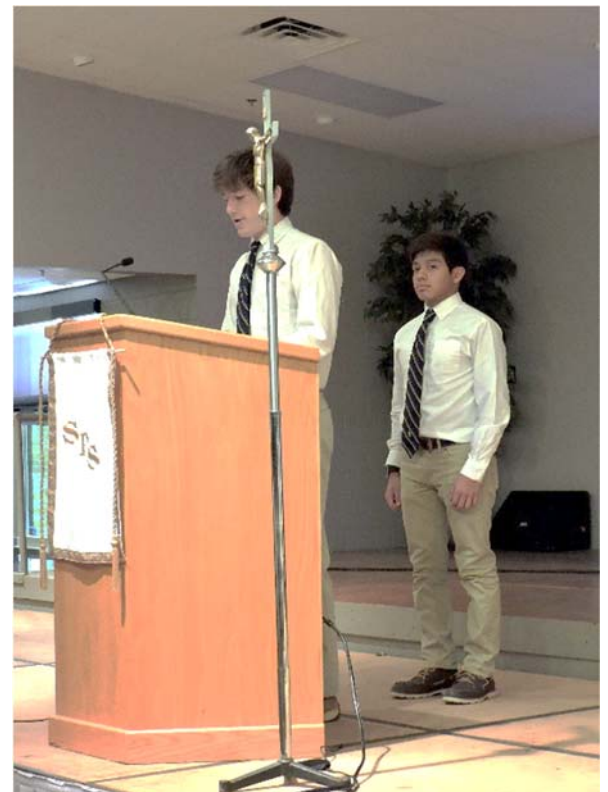
- **Prayer to St. Josephine Bakhita, patron saint of those who are trafficked:** *St. Josephine Bakhita, you were sold into slavery as a child and endured untold hardship and suffering. Once liberated from physical enslavement, you found true redemption in your encounter with Christ and his Church. O St. Bakhita, assist all those who are trapped in a state of slavery. Intercede with God on their behalf so that they will be released from their chains of captivity. Those whom man enslaves, let God set free. Provide comfort to survivors of slavery and let them look to you as an example of hope and faith. Help all survivors find healing from wounds. We ask for your prayers and intercessions for those enslaved.*
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Ponchatoula (6)
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Covington

Sat, Jan 12

- **TDIH:** 1969, in the most celebrated performance of his prolific career, quarterback Joe Namath leads New York Jets to a 16-7 victory over the heavily favored Baltimore Colts in Super Bowl III, held in Miami.
- **National Pharmacists Day:** We salute all pharmacists!
- **Application Day:** Applicants for next year will be on campus this morning for placement testing. Every Catholic high school in the Archdiocese will participate. Wherever a student tests, that school becomes the school of first choice and other schools may not recruit them until admission decisions are issued in late February. Pray for a good showing for us this morning.
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Shaw and DLS at Jesuit
- **Wrestling:** Jr Hi in Bro. Martin Tournament; JV in Bruin Invitational; Varsity v. Bro Martin (dual)
- **Soccer:** SPS 8th grade tournament
- **Football Awards Ceremony (3 pm)**

Sun, Jan 13

- **Feast of the Baptist of the Lord:** According to the calendar of the Catholic Church, today ends the Christmas season. In the early centuries, the birth of Christ didn't have its own feast. It was originally part of a great feast on January 6 called "Epiphany" (celebrated this year on Jan 6) that celebrated several "manifestations" of Christ – his birth, his recognition by the Magi, his baptism in the Jordan and his miracle at Cana. In about the fourth century, Christians in the western world pulled Christmas out of Epiphany celebration and gave it a feast of its own on December 25. The time between this new feast on December 25 and the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 became the Christmas season – the 12 days of Christmas. But eventually an "octave" was added to feast of the Epiphany – which extended the celebration. The feast of the Baptism of the Lord was eventually placed at the end of the octave and now it is the feast that brings the Christmas season to a cl
- **TDIH:** The Beatles release "Yellow Submarine." Listen to this iconic song today! *We all live in a yellow submarine!*



Ian and Christian offer Prayers of the Faithful during Advent mass on Dec 14.

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

ACT Prep: SPS is very proud of our ACT scores – but we want to do even better. ACT Prep is a marathon, not a sprint – it can't be done a week or two before the test. The time to start is years ahead. AP Joe Dickens promotes the following two sites that provide a free ACT question of the day. Encourage your son to use these. Make it a family activity! Have fun with competition! Here are the links:

- <https://academy.act.org/> (a lot like Khan Academy regarding its prep work and video tutorials)
- <https://www.varsitytutors.com/act-questions-of-the-day> (a lot like Khan Academy regarding its prep work and video tutorials)

Admissions for 2019 - 20: We need your help:

- **If you know a family interested in SPS, please encourage them to apply. We are committed to helping any family who wants to belong to the SPS family to do so.**
- **If a family missed Open House but still want to see the school, have them call for an appointment and I'll be happy to show them around.**
- **We rely on current and former families to spread the word about SPS! I know I can count on you!**

Alumni News: I noticed the following alums graduated from LSU in Dec. Congrats to them:

- Business: Cole Abraham, Brian Broussard, David Conroy, William Gement, Caleb Guilbeau, Leyton Levigne, Jack Ruli, Michael Thomas, Tanner Warner
- Engineering: Jacob Hewson, Matthew Johnson, Grant Landwehr, Ethan Lowry, Brian Martin, Brad McNally, Leo Palazzo, Matthew Rader, Devin Smith, Josh Story, Paul Tilly, Will Warwick
- Human Sciences & Education: Tyler Maurin
- Humanities & Social Sciences: Grant Holmes
- Science: Brad Clawson, Warner Moore
- Graduate School (Master's): Josh Farr

Alumni News II: I noticed the following alums graduated from SLU in Dec.

Congrats to them: Brice Brylski (MBA), Marc I. Mootoo-Robertson (Masters in Communication), Marc Gremillion (Criminal Justice), Brett Labasse (finance), Chris Calkins (Communication), Tanner LeBlanc (Accounting)

Annual Fund: Many thanks to those who have responded to my request. For clarity, I offer the following:



Students prepare to distribute luminaria bags on 12/06.

- 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 do not 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 will personally appeal. I will 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 is 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 increased participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are able. Many thanks!



Callan and Alex accept a PJ's sample during the soft opening during exams.

Application Day: In all 22 high schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, applicants for next year take the placement test this coming Saturday, January 12, beginning at 8 am. I pray for a successful day. By policy of the

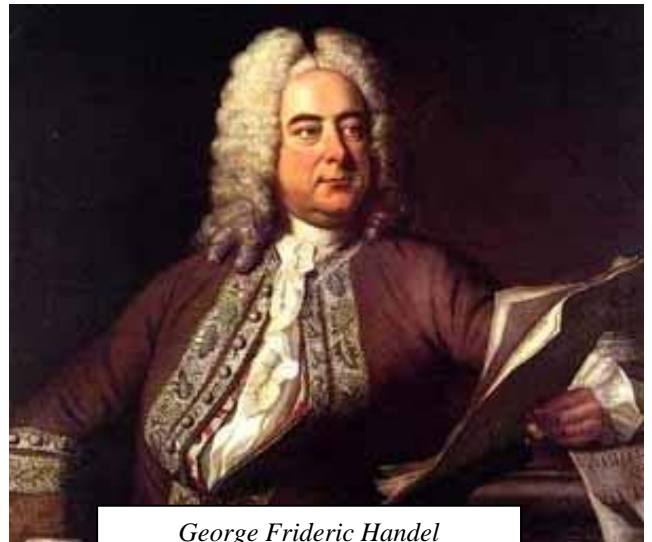
Archdiocese of New Orleans, priority in being admitted will be given to those who attend this day. **If you know of any new student considering attending SPS for 8th or 9th grade next year, encourage them to attend testing. This is not a commitment on anyone’s part, but keeps the option open. Thanks for spreading the good word about SPS.**

Application Letters: More unedited excerpts:

- *I like that you can eat outside during lunch.*
- *I am like the widow in the Bible who only has two coins but gives it all to her Temple. I don’t have much to give to St. Paul’s right now, but I will give everything I have for the opportunity to go to St. Paul’s and be able to give more. [Love the biblical allusion!]*
- *I’ve always wanted to attend St. Paul’s. While I am writing this letter, I’m wearing a St. Paul’s sweatshirt.*
- *With only one gender, there isn’t as much tension and more people really can be themselves and that really bleeds into classroom synergy. [And we want classroom synergy!]*
- *I’ve only played to years of lacrosse but I’m looking forward to getting better. [And learning to spell, too!]*

Assembly on Dec 14: I hope students enjoyed our Dec 14 assembly – the last one of 2018. Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to the overture to *Messiah* (never “*The*” *Messiah*), by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) -- one of the most beloved Oratorios (a musical selection for orchestras, choirs & solos often based on religious themes so they could be performed in churches.) It's one of the most famous musical compositions in the world, based on the Judeo- Christian concept of Messiah (anointed one). Handel composed it in just 24 days in summer of 1741 (incredible!) and first performed in April of 1742. It's one of my most favorite pieces of music. While the music was playing, **junior Callan Danenhower** lit two Advent candles. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining days of Advent. And since Hanukkah was celebrated a few days earlier, senior **Jackson Gold** told the Hanukkah story, recite the Hanukkah blessing, and light the menorah candles. I was very pleased with the students' attention and hope they now know the Hanukkah story.



George Frideric Handel

- We then prayed
- Introduced Brother Raymond Blixt, FSC, an adjunct professor of St. Mary's University of Minnesota (a Lasallian College.) Brother Ray is directing the master's degree program in Lasallian Leadership for several of our current faculty. Brother Ray has had a long and storied career during his 60 years as a Christian Brother. He holds degrees in Theology, Sociology, Psychology, Ed Admin and Leadership, he was a Founder of Martin de Porres School in New York serving emotionally troubled youth from dysfunctional families, he spent 6 years as President of Christian Brothers Investment Services (CBIS) and for 6 years as President of Lasalle Center in Long Island NY and is presently affiliated with Saint Mary's University of Minnesota as an Adjunct Professor and Advisor in the MA Program for Lasallian Leadership. The students warmly welcomed Brother Ray to his first visit to Saint Paul's.
- Recognized and congratulated the sophomore class for the great work they did on Sophomore Service Day. I projected a letter I received from the Director of Volunteer Services of City Park in New Orleans, thanking the boys for their efforts on behalf of the Park.
- Recognized and congratulated the students and faculty who gave “the gift of life” during our annual Advent Blood Drive: **Harrison Juneau, Gabe Daigle, Julian Contreras, Corbin Chitwood, Jason Touns, Aden Ross, Hyde Healy, Michael Oubre, Caleb Frost, Miles Biggs, Wayne Galloway, Landon Rees, Mr. Roger Bacon, Mr. Fred Escher, Joseph Brown, Mr. Trevor Watkins, Tyler Tran, Donovan Zornes, Blake Lewis, Zachary Azuara, Mrs. Audrey Pool, Jordan Eberts, Ian Kramer, Robert Buquoi, Mrs. Lauren Gee, Adam Cazayoux, Mr. Al Nastasi, Brady Billiot, Drew Icamina, Thomas Miller, Daniel Zuckerman, Zachary Ingram, Carter Elie, Ms. Karen Hebert, Bryce Bosch, Jack Blossman, Josh Rovira, Michael Ward, Brandon Nolan, Mr. John Carambat, Andrew Lacoste, Jacques Mason, Adam Janney, Gavin Patti, Cole Sinclair, and Andrew Moore.**

- Recognized and congratulated Student Council for an outstanding luminarias on Dec 6. They outdid themselves!
- Since it was out last assembly for 2018, I was determined to covered items that have been on my list since last summer. Accordingly, I.....
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Blake Ramsey**, one of only 90 students in the country to be invited to the all-expense paid Leadership Seminar at Notre Dame -- a competitive, 10-day program on Notre Dame's campus for academically talented students who show impressive leadership within their communities.
- Recognized and congratulated all who volunteered at last summer's Special Olympics: **Brady Billiot, Jack Bedell, Michael Valliant, Eric Gray, Graydon Hall, Michael Ward, Connor Eikel, Rhett Barker, Jordan Eberts, Nick Stanton, Chandara Kim, Paxton Ballard, Beck Heebe, Jacques Cutrer, Donovan Zornes, Jesse Cheng, Michael Crockett, Kyle Canigliaro,**



Blake at Leadership Seminar at Notre Dame

Ethan Garnett, Donald Garvey, Charles Hoy, Andrew Lacoste, Patrick Kilgore, Zach Nichols, Jace Moore, Al Nastasi, Owen Hnatyschyn, Jacob Harris, Jacob Melton, Wayne Galloway, Harrison Weisinger, Hyde Healy, Zach Ingram, Davis Lagarde, Jonathan Bertucci, Ben Klein, Michael Philippe, Robert Buquoi, Austin Holincheck, Adam Cazayoux, Cade Manint, Spencer Fox, Emile Durio, Evan Meral, Blake DiSalvo, Jack Mashburn, Bear Palazzo, Alexi Sotoropolis, Blake Ramsey, Coaches Lee Pierre, Kevin Moore, & Al Nastasi



SPS delegation to Lasallian Student Leaders Conference in Moraga, CA

- Recognized and congratulated the Lasallian Youth Leaders who represented Saint Paul's at the Lasallian Youth Leadership Conference at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. The boys interacted with over 200 Lasallian students

from over 20 schools. They also did service work in San Francisco – and some touring as well. Thanks to **Austin Harris, Justin Streckfus, Jack Grace, Landon Rees, Alex Kloczek, Sam Avenel, Luke Vargas, Sean Noel, Sean Hightower, Ian Kramer, Mr. Ramon and Mr. Bacon**

- Recognized and congratulated sophomore **Thomas Bitterwolf** for winning third place in the senior high division of the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission’s annual essay contest. The awards ceremony was held in the Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. It’s a fascinating building, so I projected slides of it to the students.
- As time was running short, At this point, I reminded the students of my custom of giving them a musical treat by playing one of my favorite pieces of classical Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel’s *Messiah* (not “The” Messiah!) and for three minutes and 45 seconds, the gym was transformed into an 18th century English concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.
- Then, I reminded the students to pray “Maranatha” – one of the oldest prayers in the Church, which means “Come, Lord” in Aramaic – the language Jesus probably spoke. Finally, they stood and sang along with Mr. Gene Lipps’ rendition of “O Come, O Come Emmanuel.” They were fantastic! **You can hear them on our Facebook page!** Junior **Sebastian Conzonere** extinguished the Advent candles, and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world.
- It was a magical assembly! At least I thought so!



Attendance: Please make the following part of your New Year Resolutions: If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1280, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns**

Ben Blanchard Anniversary: Last week we observed the three-year anniversary of the passing of alumnus Ben Blanchard ‘00. If you were here, you remember the Briggs Center was filled with 1000+ people who came in support of Ben’s Family. It was emotionally moving. As we continue to support the Blanchard Family in their loss, it’s appropriate to re-print some of Ben’s **Final Words:** *At the end of the day, all you have is your family, your friends and your reputation, which is easy to lose and hard to build.* We are honored that in memory of Ben, the Blanchard Family purchased the naming right to the new Benilde Hall library/media center.

Calendar for 2019 - 20: Here is our tentative calendar for next year (for those who really plan!)

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • M-W, Aug 05 – 07 | Faculty meetings/prep days |
| • Thu, Aug 08 | Full day of class instruction for SPS (public schools open on Aug 09) |
| • Thu, Aug 22 | March through the Arch; Senior Unity Day; Senior Ring Ceremony |
| • Fri, Aug 30 | Lasallian Day for the four Lasallian schools in ARNO (no classes) |
| • Mon, Sep 02 | Labor Day Holiday |
| • Fri, Oct 11 | 1 st Quarter ends; Grandparent Day |

- Mon, Nov 04 Archdiocesan Formation Day
- Mon-Fri, Nov 25-29 Thanksgiving Holidays
- Mon-Thurs, Dec 16-19 Semester Exams
- Mon, Jan 06: Classes resume & Second Semester begins
- Mon, Jan 20 Martin Luther King Holiday
- Fri, Feb 21 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- Mon-Fri, Feb 24-28 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Fri, Mar 13 End of Third Quarter
- Fri – Fri Apr 10 - Apr 17 Easter Holidays
- Wed-Fri, Apr 29 – May 1 Senior Final Exams
- Fri, May 15 Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6 pm)
- Sat, May 16 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 19 - 22 Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11

Remember that St. Tammany only has to schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools must schedule 177. Thus, in the second semester, we will have two extra days.

Cash Back Programs: Please 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 store credit from customers who give 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..

Cold Weather: ONLY SPS cold weather wear is accepted. On VERY cold days, a non-SPS coat (but not-camo) can be worn OVER an SPS sweatshirt. If you cannot afford one, contact me and I will take care of it confidentially.

Driving: I call the following to your attention:

- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let's start 2019 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.

Drug Testing: We have begun drug testing, choosing students both randomly and “for cause.” Just because a student is tested does not mean he is suspected. Naturally, you may confidentially request that we add your son to the test list. We have committed more resources this year to increase the number of students tested. Know our policy by reviewing the handbook. A second positive result jeopardizes a student’s place at SPS. Pray that students resist the allure of temporary pleasure over finding true meaning in life.



Fortnite Addiction: Several reputable journals ran stories last week on a growing phenomenon: addiction to Fortnite. Here’s an article from The Denver Post: <https://www.denverpost.com/2018/12/02/fortnite-addiction-video-game-rehab/> Some parents have even sent their kids to Fortnite rehab! I definitely am concerned!

Grades, Exams, Report Cards, Honor Roll Breakfasts, etc.

- **Report Cards** were emailed last week, although grades had been accessible on PlusPortals for a while. **Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb, so email any concerns to teachers.**
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) **What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience – which will pay dividends in the future.**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Here’s the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - Jan 22 – 8th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 23 – 9th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 24 --10th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 30 – 12th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 31 – 11th “HR Breakfast

All breakfasts last from 7:50-8:30. Note: HR is determined by **second QUARTER** grades, not semester grades.



Pre-freshmen gather around the outdoor Advent wreath.

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.

January: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the Latin month name *Januarius*, from which we get the word *January*, was associated by the ancient Romans with their god *Janus*. *Janus* was a god of doorways and gates (in Latin, *janua*), and of beginnings, so the name seems appropriate for the first month of the year. Curiously, however, the early Roman calendar began with March, not January, so the origin of the Latin name is somewhat mysterious. Here are some of the causes celebrated in January: Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, National Clean Up Your Computer Month, National Glaucoma Awareness Month, National Hot Tea Month, National Mentoring Month, National Polka Music Month, National Poverty in America Awareness Month, National Soup Month, National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month. Something for everyone!

+ **Joey Cherry:** Our thoughts, prayers and support continue to be with the Cherry Family over the loss of Joey, a distinguished 2015 SPS alum. May God's peace, which surpasses human understanding, be with them in abundance! Thanks to the many alums and current students and their families who were able to attend Joey's services. SPS was well-represented. Special thanks to Mary Pierson, who delivered heartfelt and comforting Words of Remembrance, to Al Nastasi for reading the General Intercessions, and to Brother Ken who helped with the music. We are committed to helping Joey's brothers (current SPS students), as they adjust to earthly life without their older brother. Eternal rest grant unto Joey, O Lord....

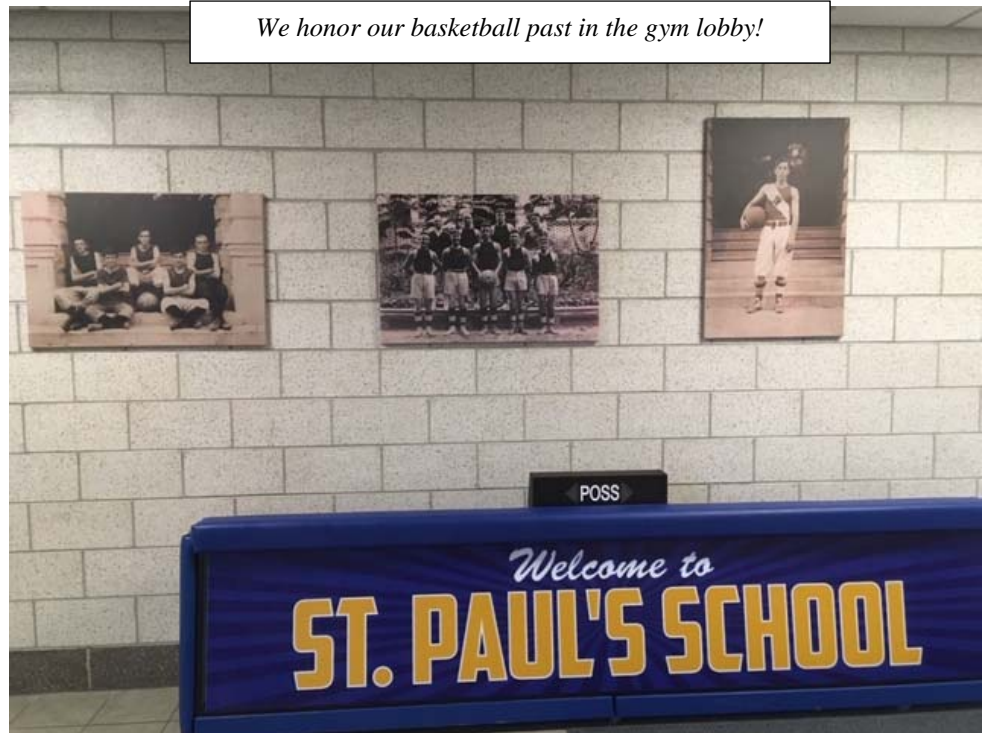
Lasallian Vocations: Beginning on December 2, Lasallians throughout the world come together to celebrate the Year of Lasallian Vocations with the theme "One Heart. One Commitment. One Life." **The Year of Lasallian Vocations marks the 300th anniversary of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's entry into eternal life and celebrates the impact of the mission he started. The yearlong celebration will take place during the 2018-2019 liturgical year, beginning on December 2, 2018, with Advent and concluding on November 24, 2019, with the feast of Christ the King.**



Last Two Weeks:

- **Adopt A Family:** Thanks to all who helped. We collected enough to purchase gifts for 35 children. Thanks to Kevin et al who brought our students to Target to shop and then to wrap. We also donated \$500 to Sister Theresa Berlin and her "Blue Shack" work in Covington's West 30's area and \$500 to the Rotary Club Feed the Needy Program, which used our facility to prepare and distribute meals to the needy.
- **Advent Mass:** Thanks to Jeff Ramon for organizing and to religion department for preparing our students.
- **Advent Wreath:** Campus Ministry's unorthodox but powerful Advent wreath certainly drew attention to this meaningful season – and drew many positive comments! Now, how do we get it down?
- **Alumni:** Al and the alums were busy in Dec: alums showed for Advent mass, the Alumni B'Ball Game, Trivia Night, Feeding the Needy, Christmas on Columbia, and the Lacrosse Alumni Game.
- **Athletics:** Thanks to all the coaches who kept our student athletes focused on their seasons by having practices during the holidays. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.
- **Basketball: Gene Bennett Memorial Tourney** was a grand success. Thanks, Coach Dale, for honoring Gene – with three wins, no less!
- **Bookstore:** The MC did brisk business with their extended hours before Christmas. Thanks, MC! Your hard work directly benefits our students and staff.
- **Christmas Eve Mass:** Thanks to Brother Ken for organizing the 10 pm Christmas Eve mass, celebrated by Father Matthew. A large crowd, composed largely of alums and current families, attended.
- **Christmas Lunch:** Thanks to Mothers Club, Karen & Don who organized this event on 12/19.
- **Exam week** went well. We had a few "issues" but most understood semester grading policy.
- **Gym Lobby:** If you have not been in the new gym lobby recently, go look. Vintage SPS basketball photos now adorn the walls. Thanks to Coach Dale for initiating this project, to Karen Hebert for arranging for the photo enlargements, and to the physical plant crew for installation!
- **PJ's Soft Opening** went well. We will see how the hard opening goes! Thanks to PJ owners, the Ballard Brothers, parents of Jack and Paxton, with Scott Ballard being an alumnus himself. Thanks, too, to our business classes for marketing, management, and finance duties.

- **Quiddich Tournament:** Our Annual Quiddich Tournament was a grand success, with students scampering about on broomsticks, snitches being thrown, and mud flying everywhere. A video is on our Facebook page. Who says we don't have something for everyone!
- **Rotary Club Feed the Needy.** Thanks to all who helped. Over 1000 Christmas meals were prepared in our cafeteria and delivered on Christmas morn. Many SPS families and alums helped.
- **Soccer:** Wolves acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner in the **36th Saint Paul's Holiday Soccer Tournament**. The Varsity Wolves finished with a 2-0-1 record in the tourney. I think they are in Dallas right now, but I have no info.
- **Warm Hearts Drive:** Many, many items of warm clothing were collected. Thanks to Sean Noel and the LYLs for spearheading this Lasallian outreach to those in need.
- **Wolf Tracks:** The holidays did not stop Danielle from publishing a Dec issue! Excellent issue, Danielle!
- **Wrestling Wolves:** WWs were busy over the holidays with practices and matches.



We honor our basketball past in the gym lobby!

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.

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.

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Association. Please subscribe and have your sons to do, too. And send the staff feedback. They love hearing from you. Congrats to TPW for the flurry of articles being written and published. The quality of writing is excellent. Here's the link: <http://thepaperwolf.com>

The Paper Wolf: We have an award winning digital newspaper that was named Best in State last year by the LA Scholastic Press

Re-Registration of Current Students for 2019 - 20: For those of you who plan, here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2019 - 20, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **If your son does not plan on returning, please let me know.**

Rosary: a group of students recite one decade of the rosary each morning in the chapel, beginning at 7:40 on M, T, Th, and F and following mass on W. They would love to have your son join them.

SAFE DRIVING: Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, NO CELL PHONE USE DURING SCHOOL ZONE TIMES, 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.

Social Hosting: Even with the holiday season behind us, the temptations for alcohol use by students remains. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as “social hosting.” Here is a brochure on this activity, which may have legal consequences. Mr. Hal Fox, owner of Fox Litho of Mandeville and father of Hal, provided the brochure. Here's the link:

<http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246>

Social Media: Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us at

Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana

Twitter @SPSWolfpack

Spanish Cooking Club is looking for new members! Come join and enjoy some delicioso cuisine!

Study Hall after School: the library is open every afternoon (Monday-Thursday) until 4:30. Students are free to come and go by signing in and out. You are encouraged to mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who may be waiting for a late ride or a practice to begin. All we ask is that they treat the facility with respect and that they are quiet. Faculty will supervise. We will offer this **service as long as there is a demand for it.**

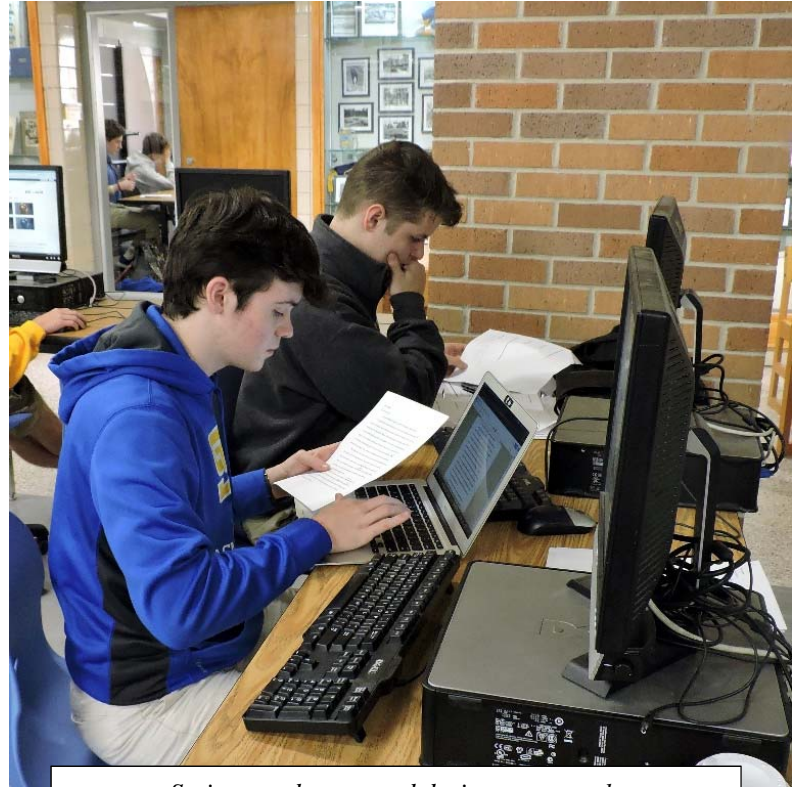
Tutoring: National Honor Society tutoring begins Tue, Sep 5, according to the following schedule:

- 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.**

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.

Weekly Humor: Some milk jokes, in recognition of Milk Day on Fri:

- *What did one dairy cow say to another? Got milk?*
- *What's a cow that doesn't give milk? A milk dud.*
- *Why don't cows have any money? Because they always get milked dry.*
- *What do invisible men drink? Evaporated milk.*
- *Where do Russians get milk? From Mos-cows*
- *Where do milkshakes come from? Nervous cows.*
- *What mama cow says to calf? It's pasture bedtime.*
- *Do you know why the cow jumped over the moon? The farmer had cold hands.*
- *Why did cow cross road? To get to udder side.*
- *Why did farmer raise brown cows? Chocolate milk!*
- *How do you make a milkshake? A cow & a pogo stick.*
- *What do you get when you cross a cow and a duck? Milk and Quackers!*
- *What kind of milk comes from a forgetful cow? Milk of Amnesia*
- *Why can't cows dance? They have 2 left feet.*
- *Why did the kitten drink all the milk? Because kittens love milk!*
- *How did the cow soccer team win the game? By milking the clock.*
- *Why did the pirate want milk poured on him? He was Captain Crunch!*
- *What was the cow's favorite candy bar? Milky Way*
- *What kind of milk do you find in the dessert? Powdered milk*
- *What do you call a gallon of milk that comes to life? Frankenmilk.*
- *What is as big as a glass of milk but weighs nothing? It's shadow.*
- *What do you get from an Eskimo cow? Ice Cream*
- *How did Reese eat her milk and cereal? Witherspoon.*
- *Where did cave dwellers get milk? From Wooly Cows.*
- *OK, I'll stop*



Serious study occurred during exam week.



A Look Ahead – Far, Far, Ahead

- Mon, Jan 07 Classes resume; second semester begins
- W – F, Jan 9-11 Senior Retreat
- Sat, Jan 12 Application Day for Prospective Students (8 – noon); Football Awards Ceremony
- Fri, Jan 25 All School Mass (Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul)
- Wed, Feb 20 On campus ACT for juniors
- Fri, Mar 01 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- M-F, Mar 4 -8 Mardi Gras /Lenten holidays
- Wed, Mar 13 Mother-Son Dinner
- Mon, Mar 18 St. Joseph Altar Day
- Thu, Mar 21 Celebrity Dinner Event
- Sat, Mar 23 Father-Son Dinner
- Sat, Mar 30 Junior-Senior Prom
- Sat, Apr 13 Alumni Crawfish Cook-Off

- F-F, Apr 19-26 Easter Holidays (not “spring break”)
- W-F, May 1-3 Senior exams
- M-T, May 13-16 Pre-freshman exams
- Fri, May 17 Pre-freshman promotion (6:30)
- Sat, May 18 Senior graduation (4 pm)
- M – T, May 20-23 Semester exams grades 9 – 11
- Fri., May 24 Conflict exam day
- Mon, May 27 Faculty Records Day



In case you missed our Christmas card, our outstanding Student Council Executive Board of Chris, Josh, Paxton, & Luke wished all a Merry Christmas!

Second Semester Period Rotation: Please use this when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc.

January

7 – ABCD
8 – EFGA – President's Assembly
9 – BCDE – Senior Retreat
10 – FGAB – Senior Retreat
11 – CDEF – Senior Retreat
14 – GABC
15 – DEFG – Pack Time
16 – ABCD
17 – EFGA
18 – BCDE
22 – *FGAB – 8th HR Breakfast/Seniors in Mental Health Talk*
23 – *CDEF – 9th HR Breakfast/Juniors in MH Talk*
24 – *GABC – 10th HR Breakfast/Freshmen in MH Talk*
25 – DEFG – Mass
28 – ABCD – Late Start
29 – EFGA – President's Assembly
30 – *BCDE - 12th in HR /10th in MH Talk/Career Day for Juniors*
31 – *FGAB – 11th in HR /8th in MH Talk*

February

1 - CDEF
4 – GABC – Parent/Teacher meetings in BAC 5-7:00 PM
5 – DEFG - Pack Time
6 – ABCD
7 – EFGA
8 – BCDE
11 – FGAB
12 – CDEF – President's Assembly - EXPLORE Testing 8th grade
13 – GABC - PLAN Testing 9th grade
14 – DEFG - PRE-ACT Testing 10th grade
15 – ABCD
18 – EFGA
19 – BCDE Pack Time
20 – FGAB – Juniors in ACT
21 – CDEF
22 – GABC – Late Start
25 – DEFG
26 – ABCD – President's Assembly
27 – EFGA – Junior Retreat
28 – BCDE – Junior Retreat

March

1 – Faculty Retreat Day
11 – FGAB
12 – CDEF – Pack Time
13 – GABC
14 – DEFG
15 – ABCD –End of Third Quarter
18 – ABCDEFG – St. Joseph Altar

March Cont'd

19 – EFGA – President's Assembly
20 – BCDE
21 – FGAB
22 – CDEF – Late Start
25 – GABC
26 – DEFG – Pack Time
27 – ABCD
28 – EFGA – 9th Retreat/Trip
29 – BCDE – 9th Retreat/Trip

April

1 – FGAB
2 - CDEF – President's Assembly
3 – GABC
4 – DEFG
5 – ABCD
8 – EFGA – Late Start
9 – BCDE – Pack Time
10 – FGAB – Leadership Breakfast
11 – CDEF – Special Schedule for Speaker
12 – GABC – Special Schedule of Year in Review
15 – DEFG – Mass
16 – ABCD – President's Assembly
17 – EFGA – Passion Play Schedule
18 – BCDE – Mandatum Schedule
29 – FGAB
30 – CDEF – President's Assembly

May

1 – GABC - Senior Exams
2 – DEFG - Senior Exams
3 – ABCD – Senior Exams
6 – EFGA
7 – BCDE – Pack Time
8 – FGAB – Level Awards
9 – CDEF – Athletic Awards
10 – GABC – Academic Awards
13 – DEFG
14 – ABCD – Assembly – 8th Exams
15 – EFGA – 8th Exams
16 – BCDE – 8th Exams
17 – FGABC (8th Promotion 6:00 PM)
18 – Senior Graduation (4 pm–ticket only)
20 – DEFG (Review for Period A Exam)
21 – Exam Schedule
22 – Exam Schedule
23 – Exam Schedule
24 – Exam Schedule



Whew! I've worn you out in this first week of 2019, but you had the last two and a half weeks off!

Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2018-19 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Blessed Beyond Measure to See 2019 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

Mark Twain's Classic Seasonal Quotation: *New Year's Day: Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.*



Lasallian education: transforming lives since 1680...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, and continuing the Lasallian Mission.



I wish you a blessed and happy 2019 and blessed second semester – the final one for the Class of 2019!



And as Christmas 2018 fades into history, let us not forget the Student Council inspiration on luminaria night: *Frere! Brother!*