



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*
Celebrating 108 years of educational excellence in Covington
339 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
December 02 - 08, 2019



Welcome to the seventh week (can you believe it?) of the second quarter!
Time marches on! All we can do is make the most of it!

MARANATHA!



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 Jessie 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 2 (9:00 class start for faculty meeting which begins at 7:45; G A B C)

- **This Day in History:** In 1823, during his annual address to Congress, President James Monroe proclaims a new U.S. foreign policy initiative known as the “Monroe Doctrine.” Primarily the work of Secretary of State John Quincy Adams, the Monroe Doctrine forbade European interference in the American hemisphere but also asserted U.S. neutrality about future European conflicts.
- **TDIH:** In 1804, in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Pope Pius VI handed Napoleon Bonaparte a crown that the 35-year old placed on his own head, making him the first Frenchman to hold the title of emperor in a thousand years.
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. East Ascension (6)

Tue, Dec 3 – (Wolf Pack schedule; D E F G)

- **#iGiveCatholic Day:** Hope you can help us! We pray for its success.
- **TDIH:** In 1947, Marlon Brando's famous "STELLA!" first booms on a Broadway stage, electrifying the audience during the debut of Tennessee Williams’ play *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Since Vic’s AP English class is studying this iconic play, they recently did their “Stella Yelling Contest” a la the yearly one in the French Quarter. Congrats to senior Ian McCarthy for winning the ever-popular event!
- **TDIH:** In 1967, a 53 year old named Lewis Washansky received the first human heart transplant.
- **International Day of People with Disability** promotes support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. As Lasallians, we aim to build an inclusive community that respects all. We celebrate this day.
- **Wolf Packs meet to prepare luminaria bags**
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Boyet (6)
- **Alumni Event:** Jeff Ramon & Charlie Legendre will present a formation evening on the Lasallian Five Core Principles to interested alumni and friends, followed by refreshments, from 6:30 – 8:00 in the chapel.

Wed, Dec 4 (Regular; 7:15 mass; A B C D)

- **TDIH:** 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 these tiny pieces of cooked batter were actually quite tasty!



Aqua Wolves head to State – and return with 3rd Place! I hear Handel playing!

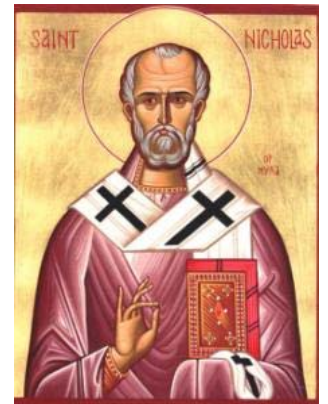
- **Basketball:** Varsity in CYO Tournament through rest of week; 9th v. Covington (7)
- **Wrestling:** Wolves v. Holy Cross in a dual meet
- **Soccer:** 9th v. Mandeville (5:30)

Thu, Dec 5 (Regular; snack day; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1901, **Walter Elias Disney** is born. Watch a Disney classic today!
- **Bathtub Party Day:** Relax with a good soak!
- **First Friday Adoration begins with period F through Friday during first 15 minutes of religion class.**
- **Luminaries – 6 pm.** Come join this annual Christmas display on our campus! Thanks to Student Council, Mothers' Club, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant, Liturgical Band, Marching Wolves, Jazz Band and all who help with this incredible "festival of lights" on our campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they were knowledgeable about it from their schools in New Mexico.

Fri, Dec 6 (Regular; SPS Blood Drive; B C D E)

- **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
- **Microwave Oven Day:** Celebrate this marvel of technology and microwave something today!
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in South Walton Border Wars (Ft. Walton, FL) through Sat; JV in Trygg Tournament
- **Basketball:** 8th in Rummel Tournament
- **Soccer:** Varsity in COPA Tournament in Lafayette
- **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.*



Sat, Dec 7

- **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 did you actually write a letter? Been too long? Then write one today!
- **Wrestling:** Varsity in South Walton Border Wars (Ft. Walton, FL) through Sat; JV in Grace King)
- **Basketball:** 8th in Rummel Tournament; 9th v. Pearl River & Mandeville at Pearl River
- **Soccer:** Varsity in COPA Tournament in Lafayette; 8/9 & JV v. Jesuit\
- **Cross Country Christmas Run with the Wolves Race – Come run with the Wolves and get into the Christmas spirit! Race day registration is at 7 am, with 1-mile fun run at 8 & 5K at 8:30. This is the CC team's only fundraiser, used to defray costs of summer camp.**



Congrats to Ian, Miguel, and Jacob on their confirmation at St. Margaret Mary in Slidell on 11/21. Katherine Tonry was Jacob's sponsor & Joey Keller, Miguel's mentor, attended to support Miguel. Wonderful!

Sun Dec 8 (Second Sunday of Advent)

- **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. Trivia: who shot John Lennon? Answer at end.
- **TDIH II:** In 1660, a female actress appeared as Desdemona in Shakespeare's *Othello*, probably the first appearance by a woman actress in England. For years, female roles were played by boys or men. The British saw women on stage much earlier when a traveling troupe from France included women as well as men. But they were not received well — according to one audience member, the women were "hissed, hooted, and pippin-pelted off the stage." In 1632, William Prynne published a 1,100-page document condemning the theater, particularly 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!

Rise Up, O Men of God

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. And 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 which provide a free ACT question of the day. Encourage your son to use these resources. Make it a family activity! Have fun with the 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 2020-21: THANK YOU! Yes, I am shouting – for joy! I was VERY pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to YOU – for promoting SPS Lasallian education to so many of your friends and neighbors. We routinely heard about the positive recommendations given prospective families by our current or former families. I am grateful beyond measure. **The next step in the process is Application Day testing on Jan 11. Please stress with people that this is a placement test, not an admissions test.** We base admissions on the total elementary school record.

At this point, Catholic high schools may not recruit any current students in Catholic elementary schools – as those students have already made their choice of high school. The only families I can still speak to are those in public and private schools. If you know of a family interested, I will be happy to meet and tour with them. Priority in admissions is given to students who take the placement test on Jan 11. As it stands now, we will have to put applicants after that date on a waiting list. Again, THANK YOU (yes, I'm still shouting for joy!)



A group of freshman chillax before school while enjoying breakfast.

ADVENT: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!* Our students will sing these words this week in chapel at the beginning of each period's religion classes. It's a powerful moment in the faith life of our students. Speak to your sons about our Advent traditions.

AFTER SCHOOL ISSUES: Assignment Hall and detention are in full operation. Stress with your sons the need to follow rules and do homework. If your son does end up in AH or detention, establish a procedure for him so that you are not wandering around looking for him. We tell the AH student to call their parents. We'll provide a phone.

AMAZON SMILE: We recently received a check for \$342.08 from AS, representing our quarterly rebate from those who use this service and choose SPS as the rebate recipient. **As we move into the holiday shopping season and if you use Amazon Smile, please select SPS as the rebate recipient.**

ANNUAL FUND APPEAL: Recently, we 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 anticipated the drive and 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, yes, gifts of stock are welcome and you can make your AF gift through the I Give Catholic Campaign on Tuesday.**

APPLICATION LETTER EXCERPTS: Application letters are arriving, and they are always a treat to read. While they all extol the virtues of SPS, some contain memorable lines. This begins my series of memorable quotes from next year's Wolves:

- *The St. Paul's campus is very open, and I won't feel trapped in a building. [You won't!]*
- *I believe that St. Paul's will revive my passion for school. [We are good at reviving passion!]*
- *While I was at Shadow Day, I could not help but notice the strong sense of community around campus.*
- *During lunch, everyone seemed to be calm sitting with their friends, which is nothing like my current school.*
- *The campus is refreshing and the staff is kind. All of the students know all of the faculty, and, unlike my current school, enjoy being with them. [Yes, we enjoy each other around here – most of the time!]*

BLOOD DRIVE: Our annual blood Drive will be this Friday, December 6. Permission slips will be needed for 16 and 17 year old students. Students must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not be in an active sports season. Each pint saves lives. And parents who wish to give are invited to stop by and donate. The set up will be in the gym lobby. **Give the gift of life this season!**



One of our sophomore groups learning from the Sudden Impact program.

BOOKSTORE CHRISTMAS

SALE: The Bookstore will be open on Saturday, December 14 from 9 – noon for your Christmas shopping. Come do your Christmas Shopping and take advantage of some great bargains! Winter has finally arrived, and we have some great new sweatshirts and scarves! Normal bookstore hours are weekdays 7:30-8:15 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!

CARE & VIGILANCE: As we approach holidays, remember de

La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our

mantras for the next three weeks. **We will be caring, but we will be vigilant. Please insist with your sons that they adhere to all school regulations this week, so that we can begin a problem-free Christmas holiday break.**

COLD WEATHER OUTERWEAR: 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 we allow ONLY SPS cool weather clothing.

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 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 Month, Universal Human Rights Month, Worldwide Food Service Safety Month, and Youngsters on The Air Month. Something for everyone

DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENT: Remember that all minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license. Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form. You won't be able to get a license without one!



*More sophomores at Sudden Impact.
Thanks to LA State Police. St. Tammany Parish Hospital. and Lakeview Regional Medical Center!*

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.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS: As we pass the height of the tropical season (Sep 10) and with safety foremost in our minds, I remind all of the directives from the Office of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of NO:

- **Catholic schools will follow the closure and reopening schedules of their civil parish.** Therefore, monitor the St. Tammany Public School system announcements. Naturally, we reserve the right to close earlier if we feel it necessary and to reopen earlier if we are able and civil parish authorities give permission. For example, we opened weeks before the public school system following Hurricane Katrina.
- **Listen & Watch** for a robo-text message or phone call or email before calling school since it is difficult to handle a large volume of calls. Also, our phone system goes dark in a power failure.
- **Consult** Plus Portals and our web site.
- **Pray** to Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Patroness of Louisiana.

EXAMS: Semester exam schedules begin on Dec 13. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams that 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 this newsletter and is posted on Plus Portals.

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: Don't forget – here are painless ways to help:

- If you shop at Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

HOLIDAYS: The school offices will close during Christmas holidays. Anticipate needs, especially the pesky driver's license form, transcripts, etc. I will be around, if needed, most of the holidays so feel free to call on me but I don't always know how to help.

ID CARDS: Students must wear their ID cards on their lanyard DAILY. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID.** If he forgets, he must purchase a temporary ID from Sgt. Pressley. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10.



Saint Paul's School will once again be participating in #iGiveCatholic on Dec 3. Our generous partners have raised \$73,000 over the past 4 years in this campaign, enabling us to connect the philanthropic passions of our faithful community with our Lasallian mission of educating the young men entrusted to our care. Advanced giving opened on Monday, Nov 18. Please partner with us. <https://neworleans.igivecatholic.org/organizations/st-paul-s-school>

INFORMATION: Need More Info? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Trevor Watkins, or Assistant Principal Joe Dickens. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call

Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or Mr. Craig Ketelsen, AD. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1901 & my cell phone is 985/966-1138, my email is broray@stpauls.com!**

GOOD NEWS DEPT: Last week we received a check for \$4717 from the Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation from the August/September Brother Timothy online wine sale! The buyers of the wine may select one of the 22 schools in the San Francisco New Orleans District (how many can you name?) to receive the proceeds of the purchase. The only catch? The money must be used for financial aid for low-income families – which I am happy to do! A toast to our oenophiles (look it up!)

LAST TWO WEEKS:

- **Alumni Outreach:** Thanks to Al, Renee and Lee for traveling to USM Hattiesburg to meet with our alumni attending school there. It was a worthwhile trip, which our alums seemed to appreciate. And the alumni decathlon on Nov 30 was great. Thanks, alumni department!
- **Athletic Signing:** Congrats to Nicholas Wright who signed with UAB baseball before the holidays.
- **Basketball:** BIG JV & Varsity wins over Jesuit! Tough JV and Varsity losses to Shaw.
- **Cross Country:** 3rd in State! You've had a GREAT season! I hear Rossini playing at assembly!

- **Tornado Drill:** Well done!
Thanks for your cooperation!
- **Football:** The 2019 season ended on Nov 22. We are proud of the Wolves and the future looks bright. Many thanks to the coaching staff for the incalculable hours spent on the season. Here's to 2020!
- **Library:** Two years ago this week, we began dismantling our library. I hope the thousands of books we jettisoned are getting better use than they did sitting in our library gathering dust. While I am most pleased with the



Sam, Scott, and Landon prepare for the start of another day.

- transformation of the Benilde Hall, the dinosaur in me has nostalgia for meandering through the “stacks”, discovering heretofore undiscovered treasures of interest. An era has ended. I must adjust.
- **Rotary Club Feed the Needy Luncheon:** All went well on Nov 22. Many thanks to Shellie and Physical Plant for all the work setting up and taking down. US Senator John Kennedy, an SPS alum parent, was featured speaker.
- **Soccer:** Much activity; too many wins to list! All seasons look good!
- **Swimming:** 3rd in State! Geaux, Aqua Wolves! You've had a GREAT season! I hear Handel playing!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Thanks, Development Director Danielle Lavie, for another great issue.
- **Wrestling:** FIRST place in Dale Ketelsen Memorial Tourney! Fantastic

LOST & FOUND: Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Please stress with your sons to need to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside Attendance Office.

LSU: We received word that LSU will now SUPER-SCORE ACT scores. This is wonderful news! Now students can submit multiple ACT reports to create their best "super score" composite. LSU will consider the ACT super score for admissions and scholarship consideration. **Seniors**—Please make sure LSU has all ACT reports officially from your ACT account (**LSU code: 1590**) **Juniors**—as you begin to take the ACT, if you are considering LSU, PLEASE use one of the four-for-free spots to list colleges/universities. (**LSU code: 1590**) If you have any additional questions, please feel free to see (or email) Mrs. Miller or Mrs. Woodard.

LUMINARIAS: Join us this Thursday, Dec 5, for our annual Christmas display on our campus, beginning at 6 pm! Thanks to Student Council, Mothers' Club, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant, Liturgical Band, Marching Wolves, Jazz Band and all who help with this incredible “festival of lights” on our campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they were knowledgeable about it from their schools in New Mexico. Candles are lit at 6, caroling occurs in Founders Circle at 6:30, a brief chapel service is at 7, and refreshments and Jazz Band are in the cafeteria following chapel. Come join us for all or part of the festivities or just come walk or ride through the campus. It's quite a sight!

OFFICE DEPOT: Over the holidays, we received a quarterly rebate last week of \$253.19, which results from people mentioning SPS when they check out. This is free money. Always mention SPS when shopping at Office Depot – and Amazon Smile, too!

MARCH THROUGH THE ARCH PICTURES ARE IN: Senior parents, the MTTA pics are here! You may pick up your son's pic in the admin building or you may send a note with him requesting that we give the pic directly to him. We are reluctant just to hand the pics to the seniors, as we know that a number of them will end up in the back seat of a car or bottom of his book bag – and you will never see it! Many thanks to Expressions Photography for providing these pics free of charge.

NATURAL GAS PIPELINES: Pursuant to LAC 43:XIII.2716 et seq., each pipeline owner / operator is required to develop and implement a written continuing public awareness program. National Corrosion Service, Inc. in New Orleans has developed our public awareness program and inspects our natural gas pipelines regularly. As required by law, the full policy is printed at end of newsletter.

THE PAPER WOLF: We have an award winning digital newspaper that was named Best in State last year by the LA Scholastic Press 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>

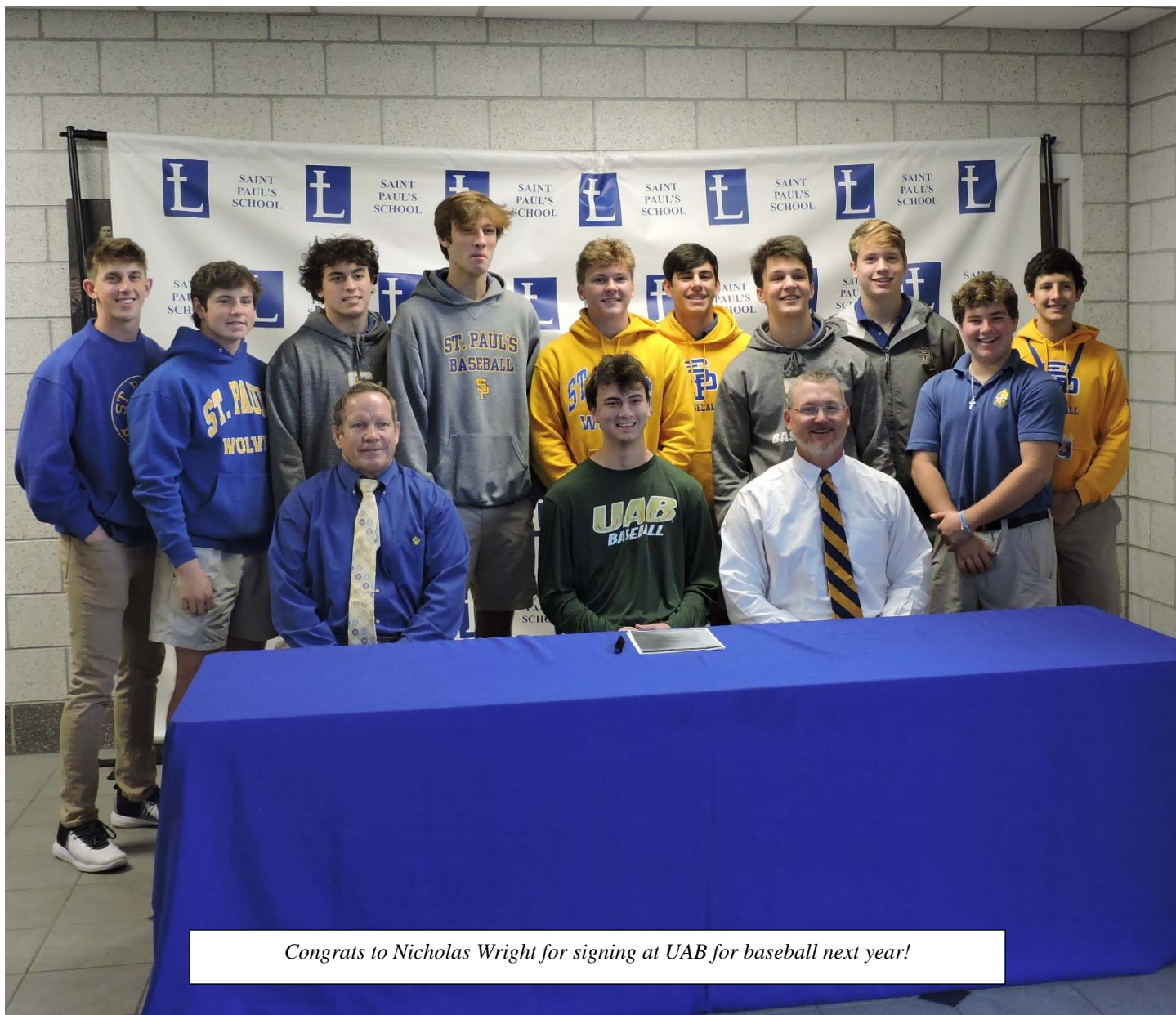
PLUS PORTALS: Please activate your account and check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grades and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1944 if you need assistance.* And please adjust your setting to allow you to receive emails from school. It's very annoying when we get an Edline email with a question but your setting won't accept our response.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS (FORMERLY ADOPT-A-FAMILY): This school year, we will partner with St. Tammany Project Christmas. We have "adopted" 40 children from 16 families in Tammany Parish. Each of these children has three wish list items that we will fill for Project Christmas. We will also use donations to supply a Christmas meal to these 16 families. As in the past, we ask for monetary donations that we will collect through your son's religion classes to fund the purchase of the wish list items and Christmas meals. 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)

Here's the tentative schedule for donations, shopping, and delivery:

- ☐ [November 18 - December 6](#) (monetary collections through religion classes)
- ☐ [Wednesday, Dec 4](#) (shopping)
- ☐ [Monday, December 9](#) (delivery to Project Christmas HQ)

While we encourage our students to be generous with this cause (and others, e.g. Mission collections), **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



Congrats to Nicholas Wright for signing at UAB for baseball next year!

REPORT CARDS AND SEMESTER GRADES: Remember that the first quarter accounts for 40% of the semester grade, with the second quarter accounting for 40% and the semester exam accounting for 20%. Remember that the only grade that really counts is the SEMESTER grade – that's the one that goes on transcripts and is used to calculate grade point average.

ROSARY: A group of students recites one decade of the rosary each morning, beginning at 7:50 on M, T, Th, and F and following mass on W. They would love to have you join them. And since Oct is the month of the rosary – what a great witness! **And on Thursday, we have ten minutes of Eucharistic Adoration before the rosary. This begins at 7:40**

RE-REGISTRATION OF CURRENT STUDENTS FOR 2020 – 21: 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 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 2020 - 21, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan to return for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about January admissions.**

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!



SLOW YOUR ROLL is Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving within Covington. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the Mayor are speeding and the running of stop signs.
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington.
- Many of our streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of the automobile, thus not designed for traffic.

Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets" The Mayor is asking everyone to *"relax, take a deep breath and slow down. In October, we will be stating more firmly the need to slow down. In November, there will likely be consequences."* I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledge to him our support. Reinforce this with students whenever possible. I will do so with parents. And please set a good example yourself, as in the words of Saint La Salle: **"Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."**

SOCIAL HOSTING: With the holiday season upon us, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teen are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as "social hosting." I have sent a brochure on this activity, which may have legal consequences, to our parents. The brochure was provided to me by Mr. Hal Fox, owner of Fox Litho of Mandeville, and father of Hal. 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 @SPSWolfpackStud

STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL: Ben's Den (aka the library) opens 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 the space. We will offer this service as long as there is a demand.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES: I remind you of the policy of Archbishop Gregory Aymond that Catholic schools are not to schedule any activity on a Sunday. Recently, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. RaeNell Houston sent out the following clarification on participation of Catholic school students in events hosted or sponsored by an outside agency: *Schools may participate in activities on Sundays that are hosted or sponsored by an outside entity only if certain conditions are met. The participation of students on Sunday may only be voluntary. Never is an event to be mandatory on Sunday. The voluntary status of each event must be formally communicated to students and their families. Under no circumstance may punitive action take place, including any type of sarcasm, shame, or disgrace, as a result of the decision of the family for a student not to participate in a Sunday event. Anytime our school groups participate in a Sunday activity, it is up the moderator of the group to see that the Sunday obligation of Mass is fulfilled.* Naturally, we will comply with this policy of Archbishop Aymond and the Office of Catholic Schools.

THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS: This period of the school year can be a real 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. We dealt with a couple of serious incidents right before Thanksgiving – and I do not want a repeat before Christmas.

TUTORING: Our National Honor Society tutors every day at lunch in the library. All are welcome to utilize this free service. Essay proofreading services also provided. 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!**

VALUE OF WAITING: During this period of 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>

VAPING: We were privileged to have Doctors David Oubre and Rob Peltier address our parents recently. The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, are ignoring the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We are ramping up enforcement on our ban of this latest insidious treat to health. We have made our position very clear – it is prohibited and strong consequences are imposed if it is discovered. But we can’t police outside of school – parents, PLEASE insist with your sons that the dangers of his trend are not worth the risk. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

WEEKLY HUMOR: In honor of Cookie Day on Thu, here are some cookie jokes:

- *Q: What cookie makes you rich? A: A fortune cookie!*
- *Q: Why do girl scouts sell cookies? A: They wanna make a sweet first impression.*
- *Q: Why did the cookie cry? A: Because his mother was a wafer so long!*
- *Why do we cook bacon and bake cookies?*
- *Q: When should you take a cookie to the doctor? A: When it feels crummy.*
- *Q: What do the cookie and the computer have in common? A: They both have chips.*
- *Q: How can you tell that an SPS administrator has been baking chocolate chip cookies? A: There’s M&M shells all over the floor*
- *Q: What is green and brown and crawls through the grass? A: A Girl Scout who has lost her cookie.*
- *Q: Why did the Oreo go to the dentist? A: Because it lost its filling*
- *Q: What does the ginger bread man put on his bed? A: A cookie sheet.*
- *Q: What kind of keys do kids like to carry? A: Cookies!*
- *Q: What is a monkey's favorite cookie? A: Chocolate chimp!*
- *Q: What word backwards can predict the future? A: Cookies (Seikooc as in psychic if you say it)*
- *Q: Why do basketball players love cookies? A: Because they can dunk them!*
- *Q: What is a monster's favorite food? A: Ghou! scout cookies.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*

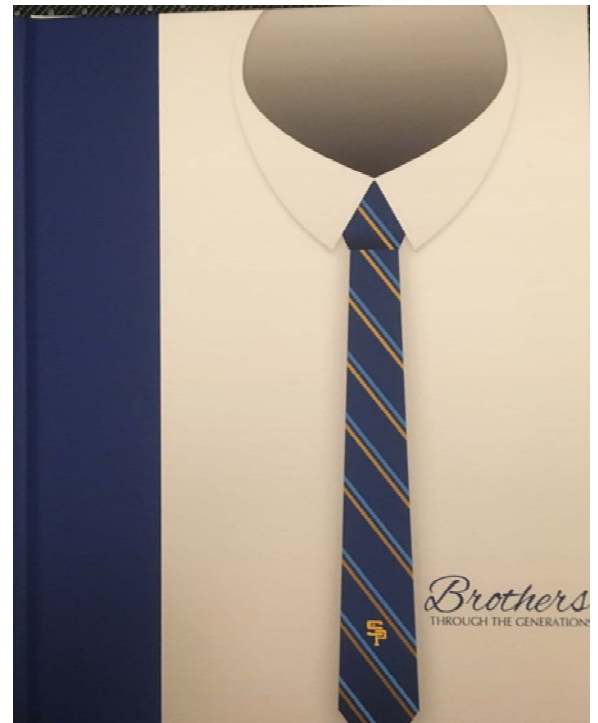


*Congrats to the Varsity Cross Country Wolves for returning with 3rd place at the state race!
Thanks for a GREAT season!*

WELCOME: We welcome Brother John Larose, FSC to the SPS Retired Brothers Community. Brother John has had a long and distinguished Lasallian educator career, specializing in teaching math and computers. He actually taught math to yours truly -- when I was a student at De La Salle in NO -- and he was very glad when I majored in English and not math! Brother is also a 1956 graduate of SPS, so welcome back, Brother John! Enjoy your retirement among the pines. *Ad multos annos!*

YEARBOOKS for 2019-2020 school year are now available.

- Order online at www.yearbookforever.com. This is the only option for ordering a yearbook, cash or checks are not accepted at school for pre-orders. We do not order extra yearbooks.
- Remember to spell out the word Saint when searching for Saint Paul's School on the website.
- Price
 - \$65 Oct 13 - Mar 13
 - \$75 Mar 14 – May 29
- Seniors **do not** order a yearbook; it is included in senior fees.



2019 Yearbook (The Conifer). Order this year's before Oct 12's price increase.

Senior parents, grandparents, and family members can purchase a senior ad at www.yearbookforever.com. The deadline to purchase a senior ad is Friday, Feb 21, 2020. All senior ads are created online. Email Mrs. Mimi Monteiro at m.monteiro@stpauls.com if you have any questions about yearbooks or senior

A LOOK AHEAD

December

- 2 – GABC – Late Start (9 AM)
- 3 – DEFG – Pack Time
- 4 – ABCD
- 5 – EFGA – Snack Day
- 6 – BCDE
- 9 – FGABC
- 10 – DEFG – Assembly
- 11 – ABCDE
- 12 – FGABC
- 13 – DEFG + Per A Exam Review
- 16 - 19 Exam Schedules

First Semester Exam Schedule -- December 2019

Friday, December 13 – DEFG(A)

SPECIAL EXAM REVIEW SCHEDULE (76 min. classes With CNN&SSR)

8:00 – 9:31 Period D/CNN
9:38 – 11:09 Period E/SSR
11:09– 11:54 Lunch
11:50 – 1:15 Period F
1:20 – 2:26 Period G (Last class period of semester)
2:31 - 3:15 Period A Exam Review

Monday, December 16

SPECIAL EXAM/MASS/PRESIDENT’S ASSEMBLY SCHEDULE

8:00 -8:15 Prayer, Roll and Announcements
8:15 – 9:45 Period A Exam
9:50-10:50 Advent Mass
10:55- 11:40 Period B Review
11:40-12:25 Lunch
12:30-1:05 President’s Assembly (Gym)
1:05-1:15 Break
1:20 – 2:05 Period C Review
2:10 Dismissal

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, 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
12:00 Faculty Christmas luncheon

Whew! Enough for now! Hope I haven't taxed your patience too much this week! I can't believe we are starting the sixteenth week of the school year – the seventh week of the second quarter!

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to any more and LOL since the show went off the air and WWNO stopped broadcasting reruns of the show): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time (in the Christmas season, no less!) reading my ramblings!

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

May the final weeks of 2019 (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 2019 - 20 edition of Saint Paul's – our 109th year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for the Grace of Patience in Advent as the 17th 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



Prepare the way of the Lord this Advent by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing our Lasallian Mission, and living courageously! Let's give it our best this week and end the semester with no problems – as befits a Blue Ribbon

Lasallian Catholic School of Excellence!



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

Answer to John Lennon question: Mark David Chapman shot Lennon on Dec 8, 1980

PUBLIC AWARENESS NOTICE

Pursuant to LAC 43:XIII.2716 et seq., each pipeline owner / operator is required to develop and implement a written continuing public awareness program. National Corrosion Service, Inc. in New Orleans has developed our public awareness program and inspects our natural gas pipelines regularly.

St. Paul's School owns and operates master meter natural gas distribution system on the school properties. The gas system consists of underground networks of pipelines. The purpose of the gas system is to provide a reliable and safe economical source of energy for heating purposes to the buildings adjacent to the underground gas pipelines. The pipeline system has the capacity to reliably deliver natural gas to the customers.

The hazards of natural gas are it is odorless, colorless, tasteless, lighter than air and can ignite and/or explode with tremendous force when mixed with the right amount of air.

Prevention measures taken include:

- ! adding odorant to the gas to give it that distinctive smell, similar to rotten eggs, to warn us of its presence,
- ! testing the odorant level each calendar quarter,
- ! performing annual gas leakage surveys, and
- ! conducting periodic pipeline patrols.

The following are signs that may indicate a gas leak:

- ☐ A hissing or roaring sound (caused by escaping gas),
- ☐ A patch of dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green setting along a pipeline route,
- ☐ Blowing dirt, grass or leaves near a pipeline,
- ☐ Continuous bubbling in wet, flooded areas,
- ☐ A "gas smell", similar to rotten eggs

Anyone who may smell this odor or notice any unusual conditions on or near gas mains, vents, service lines, meter sets, or especially inside of a building should call the St. Paul's School Maintenance office immediately. If you smell a strong gas odor inside a building, notify everyone in the building to leave. Do not operate any switches or use the phone. Go a safe distance away upwind of the gas smell and call the maintenance office. With any gas leak protect life first then property, then notify the St. Paul's School Maintenance office.

State and federal laws require excavators to notify LA One-Call two (2) full working days before digging. If any excavation is planned, you must notify LA One-Call which will notify the school to locate the gas lines.

To obtain additional information, report gas leaks, or report other gas related information contact the St. Paul's School Maintenance Office at 985-892-3200. The LA One-Call Center phone number is 811.