



The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter
Celebrating 108 years of educational excellence in Covington
339 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
December 09, 2019 – January 05, 2020



Welcome to the eighth week (can you believe it?) of the second quarter! Time marches on!
 Welcome, too, to the final full week of the first semester – **and my final newsletter for 2019!**

MARANATHA!

The whole Lasallian world rejoiced on Saturday, Dec 7, as the Catholic Church beatified Brother James Miller, FSC as a martyr for the Catholic Faith. For Catholics, this is one-step away from official sainthood. Here is a letter from Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, marking the occasion:

Dear Brothers and Lasallians,

The beatification of Brother James Miller is a cause of great joy for the Brothers, Partners, Students and all members of the Lasallian Family. As we reflect on Brother James' life and ministry, let us consciously contemplate the light of Christ and redouble our efforts to share the Good News with all whom we encounter.

Brother James (1944-1982) was martyred on February 13, 1982 in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, where he will be beatified on 7 December. His murder was a futile attempt to extinguish the light of Christ and calls us to remember those countless others – catechists, farmers, church workers – whose lives were cut short because they strove to awaken people to the inherent dignity of God's daughters and sons.

Brother James was committed to the well-being of the young people entrusted to his care, especially indigenous young men at risk. "They...respected him as a hard worker who led by example more than word. But above all he shared a common denominator with the poor rural Indians. Like them, he was a farmer who loved the land".

Brother James' beatification is evidence that great things are possible through the ordinary activities of our ministry of human and Christian education. Brother James' martyrdom calls us to witness to the Reign of God and, like so many others past and present, share the light of Christ no matter the cost.

Let us give thanks to God for Brother James' life and ministry and pray that the Holy Spirit will fill each one of us with ardent zeal for the wellbeing of all who experience the light of Christ in our Lasallian communities.

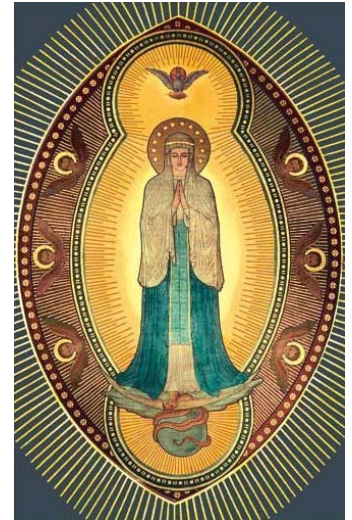
Brother Superior Robert Schieler, FSC

Blessed Brother James! Help us live courageously this Advent and always!



Mon, Dec 9 (5 Periods; F G A B C – Solemnity of Immaculate Conception --NOT a day of obligation)

- Yes, I know: Immaculate Conception is Dec 8, not 9, but Dec 8 is an Advent Sunday, which takes precedence in the Church calendar. Therefore, IC transfers to today, but is not a holy day of obligation. In his meditation for the **Immaculate Conception**, Saint John Baptist de La Salle tells the early brothers to *“Look upon Mary as the masterpiece from God’s hands and ask him to free you from everything that might contribute to make you fall into the least fault, especially into any sins to which you are inclined.”* So great was this feast in the Brothers' history that in the rules of some early communities, the brothers are told that “everything that is most beautiful will be used” to celebrate it. And considering the austerity in which the early brothers lived, that’s an important statement! May Our Lady, so important to our Lasallian heritage, shower us with blessings! May “everything that is most beautiful” on our campus, especially the students & faculty, give honor to her always.
- If today were not the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, we would be celebrating the feast of Saint Juan Diego, which celebrates Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, in Mexico City. She told Juan, *“I will show and offer all my love, compassion, and help to the people. I am your merciful Mother. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy their suffering.”* She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. The skeptical bishop asked for a sign; Juan offered his coat, where the image of Mary (still existing today) was miraculously imprinted as Our Lady of Guadalupe. “Guadalupe” means River of Light, as Mary gave birth to Jesus, Light of the World
- **This Day in History:** In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," is published. It commemorates the courage of 600 British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during the Crimean War.
- **TDIH: In 1608**, British poet John Milton is born. Considered by some to be second only to Shakespeare, his works include *Paradise Lost & Paradise Regained*.
- **TDIH:** In 1886, American industrialist Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn. He developed a method of deep-freezing foods and was a founder of General Foods Corp.
- **National Pastry Day:** Indulge with your favorite pastry!
- **Cross Country Awards Banquet (Benedict’s in Mandeville)**
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Ponchatoula Jr Hi (6:30)



Tue, Dec 10 (Penultimate 2019 President’s Assembly; D E F G)

- **TDIH:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read some Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died. His will stipulated that his substantial estate be used for awards recognizing persons who have made valuable contributions to humanity. Nobel Prizes (valued at \$1 M) are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature (yeah!) and peace on anniversary of his death.



Jaxon gives the gift of life at last week's blood drive. Thanks to all who donated!

- **TDIH:** In 1898, The Treaty of Paris was signed between the US and Spain following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the Senate and President William McKinley signed it.
- **Human Rights Day** promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors the birthday of Melvin Dewey who created the numerical classification of books used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHiUQb5xg7A#t=26>.
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. St. Michael (6 & 7:30); 8th at Pine
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Lafayette High



Marco and Donald prepare luminaria bags.

Wed, Dec 11 (Five Periods; A B C D E)

- **TDIH: In 1941,** Germany declares war on the US.
- **TDIH: IN 2013,** we dedicated the **Alumni Veteran Plaque** in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to SPS Alumni Veterans. The plaque is hung by the CORE Pack room. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read the names. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We thanks all who have so served our country, especially our SPS alums. Let's remember them! Alumni Director Al Nastasi is currently updating the plaque.
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV at Lakeshore
- **Wrestling:** SPS v. Catholic High in a dual meet

Thu, Dec 12 (F G A B C; five period day; Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe)

- **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe,**



Patroness of the Americas. Again, God shows his love for the poor. Mary assumes the form of an Indian lady and uses Juan Diego, a peasant, to bring the Message to all. This is a special day for Mexican people, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located in Mexico City. We pray, too, for the great Mexican Lasallian institutions.

- **TDIH:** In 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sends first radio transmission across the Atlantic, disproving detractors who said that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles. The message--the Morse-code signal for the letter "s"-- traveled more than 2,000 miles from England, to Newfoundland, Canada.
- **National Poinsettia Day:** Admire this iconic Christmas plant! The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician and Minister to Mexico who in 1828 sent cuttings of the plant he'd discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina. Botanically, the plant is known as Euphorbia Pulcherrima. And now you know!
- **Basketball:** 9th at Hammond; 8th at Ponchatoula Jr Hi; Varsity in Gene Bennett Memorial Tournament
- **Soccer:** 9th v. Mandeville

Fri, Dec 13 (2:45 dismissal; D E F G; Period A exam review)

- **TDIH:** In 2000, Vice President Al Gore concedes defeat to Texas Governor George Bush for the presidency, following weeks of legal battles over the recounting of votes in Florida. Anybody remember what a hanging chad is?
- **Basketball:** Varsity in Gene Bennett Memorial;
- **Wrestling:** SPS v. Bro. Martin in dual meet

Sat, Dec 14

- **TDIH:** In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole in Antarctica, marking the first time that humans reached the southern end of the Earth's axis. In 1799, George Washington, our first president, dies at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. He was 67 years old.
- **Monkey Day:** "Monkey business" is officially allowed today.
- **Basketball:** Gene Bennett Memorial; Alumni Game;
- **Soccer:** 8th in Brother Martin Tournament
- **Soccer:** JV in John Ehret Tournament
- **ACT on campus this morning**

Sun, Dec 15 -- Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday for the coming of the Lord is near!

- **TDIH:** In 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence
- **TDIH:** In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* premieres in Atlanta (where else?) and shocks audiences when Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) says to Scarlett O'Hara (Vivian Leigh): *Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn* – an unheard of use of profanity on the silver screen in those days! Oh, for those days!
- **TDIH:** In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announces that the US would recognize Communist China and sever ties with Taiwan, reversing long-standing US policy.
- **TDIH:** In 2005, ten million Iraqis take part in the first democratic election since defeat of Saddam Hussein.
- **National Cat Herders Day:** For all of you cat lovers, herd 'em up today! But this is also a day to attempt an impossible task – like herding cats.



A pack of wolves prepares the luminaria bags.



Mon, Dec 16 (Exam Schedule; Advent Mass; Dress Uniform Day; final 2019 President's Assembly)

- **TDIH:** In 1773, the "Boston Tea Party" occurs when Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships in Boston Harbor and dump 342 chests of tea into the water. Hundreds took part, with 116 individuals taking credit. The Sons of Liberty planned and executed the Boston Tea Party, which could have attributed to the absence of violence and confrontation. The three-hour event occurred on Dec. 16, 1773, because American colonists believed Britain was unfairly taxing them.
- **TDIH:** In 1944, the infamous Battle of the Bulge began, lasting until Jan 25. This was a final, desperate attempt by Adolph Hitler to force a negotiated peace treaty with the Allied Forces on the Western Front. Caught unprepared, the Allied Forces suffered over 20,000 casualties before defeating the German army.
- **National Chocolate Covered Anything Day:** Feel free to celebrate!

Tue, Dec 17 (Exam schedule)

- **Today** begins the "final days of Advent", characterized by the "O Antiphons" taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. Today's antiphon: ***O Sapientia:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*
- **TDIH:** In 1903, Orville & Wilbur Wright fly first powered, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC. The flight was 12 seconds, 120 feet.

Wed, Dec 18 (Exam Schedule)

- ***O Adonai:** O sacred Lord of ancient Israel, who showed yourself to Moses in the burning bush, who gave him the holy law on Sinai: come; stretch your hand & set us free.*
- **TDIH:** In 1777, the new United States celebrates its first national day of thanksgiving, commemorating the American victory at the Battle of Saratoga after the surrender of General John Burgoyne.
- **Bake Cookies Day:** Indulge!

Thu, Dec 19 (Exam Schedule – Christmas (not winter) Holidays begin at 11:40)

- ***O Radix Jesse:** O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come us without delay!*

Fri, Dec 20 – Sun, Jan 5 -- Christmas (not winter) Holidays!

You are on your own for athletic events, TDIH, National Whatever Days, H of the W, W of E, etc.

Mon, Jan 6, 2020 -- School resumes at 8 am; regular; second semester begins with A B C D



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 that provide a free ACT question of the day. Encourage your son to use these resources. 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)

Christmas holidays provide lots of time to do some ACT prep!

This Tuesday, we will provide pizza to the 30+ Club – 80 Wolves who have a composite ACT score of 30 or better! Fantastic, but I want even more!

ADMISSIONS: I was VERY pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to you for your work on Shadow Days and Open House – all of which played to great reviews. I am especially grateful to Karen Hebert for organizing the Shadow Days and organizing the applications for review. 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. I get inquiries about “chances of getting in.” The key is to apply on time. Again, thank you for spreading the good word about Lasallian education at SPS!

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. I encourage you to participate when possible. That would speak volumes to our students about the importance of Advent.

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

AMAZON SMILE: Last week, we 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: Recently, we officially launched our Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school. You should have received in the mail a brochure explaining the drive and a response card. I'm humbled by the number of you who have anticipated the drive and have already sent in your donations. The success of this drive is critical to Saint Paul's. Please keep us in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit. And, yes, gifts of stock are welcome.

ANNUAL FUND AND GRANDPARENTS: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large.

APPLICATION LETTER EXCERPTS: More memorable lines from next year's application letters:

- *St. Paul's gives you the freedom to make new friends while keeping your old friends. [Yup; we do!]*
- *On our frequent fishing trips, my grandfather usually give me advice. Most of the time it's about manners or not "putting my face in my phone." But often he tells me stories about his high school days at St. Paul's. I have grown up a legacy. He likes to say St. Paul's is in our blood. [We love to keep the bloodline going!]*
- *Most people tour several high schools. I toured only one: St. Paul's. [We are honored that you did!]*
- *I want to grow as a person, but I also want to give back to St. Paul's. [We know you will!]*
- *One of the things I really admire about St. Paul's is it's [sic] Lasallian environment. I appreciate how it values quality education and demands a tight-knot and active community of men. Men who believe in God and his higher power, men who set and achieve goals, men who are good citizens and contribute to their community. I can be that man with St. Paul's acceptance and guidance. [Wow! This guy is in!]*



ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: Four years ago at this time, National Public Radio's Morning Edition did a story of the role of gratitude and heart health. It's worth re-visiting: *Research shows that feeling grateful doesn't just make you feel good. It also helps – literally helps – the heart. A positive mental attitude is good for your heart. It fends off depression, stress and anxiety, which can increase risk of heart disease, says Paul Mills professor of family medicine/public health at University of California San Diego Medical School. Mills has been researching behavior and heart health for decades. He wondered if the very specific feeling of gratitude made a difference, too. So he did a [study]. It turned out the more grateful people were, the healthier they were. "They had less depressed mood, slept better and had more energy," says Mills. Read or listen to the full story at <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/11/23/456656055/gratitude-is-good-for-the-soul-and-it-helps-the-heart-too>. Spend more time being grateful! It's good for the soul and the heart!*

ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS'
CLUB
BOOKSTORE

SPECIAL HOLIDAY
HOURS

Saturday, December 14th

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday, December 19th

7:30 am – 12:30 pm

10% off the Entire Store

Gift certificates are now available



A Gift for You at the St. Paul's Bookstore

Applied to the account of: _____

Special Message: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Compliments of: _____

Date: _____ Issued by: _____

CHEATING: Parents, please stress with the sons the evil of cheating. An honest D is better than a dishonest A gained through cheating. The consequences for cheating are severe, so please stress with your sons the need to study – not cheat. It would be a terrible way to begin the Christmas holidays.

CHRISTMAS (NOT WINTER)

HOLIDAYS: School closes from Dec 19 in the afternoon through Sunday, Jan 5. Teachers **will not** be available for grade discussions during this time. **The business office, counseling office, and administration offices will close.** Please

anticipate any needs, e.g. transcripts, driver's license forms, etc. **I will be in my office on most days catching up, and feel free to call me. I will help if I can, but I don't always know how!** Thanks for understanding the need for the staff to have an uninterrupted Christmas break.

CHRISTMAS (NOT WINTER) HOLIDAYS II: I worry about our students over the holidays b/c of the temptations to which they will be exposed. Use any opportunity to encourage students to make healthy choices over the holidays. I offer the following from Psychemedics – a major drug testing company:

Early age marijuana use could have long-term consequences on your brain and it may even lower your IQ, according to a new study conducted at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Researchers found that compared to nonusers, people who smoked marijuana starting as early as age 14 have less brain volume, or gray matter, in the orbitofrontal cortex. That's the area in the front of your brain that helps you make decisions. "The younger the individual started using, the more pronounced the changes," said Dr. Francesca Filbey, the study's investigator. "Adolescence is when the brain starts maturing and making itself more adult-like, so any exposure to toxic substances can set the course for how your brain ends up." Researchers also found increased brain connectivity in chronic users, important for adaptive learning abilities. It also helps your mind make associations. This wiring of the brain starts to deteriorate with chronic marijuana use. Dr. Susan Weiss, associate director for Scientific Affairs at National Institute on Drug Abuse said the study provides more strong evidence about the dangers of marijuana. "This adds to the growing body of evidence that heavy marijuana use, particularly at a young age, is linked to significant adverse brain changes," said Weiss. "These mounting scientific findings certainly challenge the widespread belief that marijuana is harmless."

Alcohol is a drug. And every day, more than 4,750 American kids aged 15 and younger take their first full drink of this drug. That's according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA. Kids who start drinking before age 15 also are five times more likely to become alcoholics or abuse alcohol than are people who wait until adulthood for their first sip. Another problem for kids who experiment with this drug is that they are more likely than adults are to consume too much alcohol over a short period of time. What few people realize is that binge drinking poses many risks that go well beyond getting drunk and

acting irresponsibly. People forget what happens when they are drunk because alcohol makes it harder for the brain to turn short-term memories into long-term ones. But for teens, alcohol's dangers go well beyond impairing memory. "For humans, this means binge drinking during adolescence may permanently change brain functioning," says Vivian Faden, a scientist at NIAAA. What's more, she adds, these changes "appear to be irreversible." Research has shown that teens who drink heavily lose more white matter in their brain over time than do teens who don't, Faden says. White matter acts a bit like the brain's superhighway system. It connects areas of the brain's so-called gray matter, which processes information. Alcohol also can hurt a portion of gray matter in a region known as the prefrontal cortex, Faden says. This area is used for attention, concentration, self-control and making decision. For full story, read: <https://student.societyforscience.org/article/alcohol-can-rewire-teenage-brainstory.html>

CHRISTMAS FUN FACT DEPT: The quintessential (love using that word!) Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was originally titled "One Horse Open Sleigh." J.P. Morgan's uncle, James Lord Pierpoint, wrote it in 1857 as a Thanksgiving song describing sleigh races. While it is now defined as 'Christmas Music', there is actually no mention of Christmas, or any other holiday, in the song. Another fun fact about Jingle Bells – It is the first song broadcast from space.

COLD WEATHER GEAR: 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. We will handle this appropriately.** Remember that ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

DRIVER'S LICENSE REQUIREMENT: A new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant either has 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. These forms are available in the Counseling Office or in the Administration Building.

DRUG TESTING: We continue 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.



Landon gets in the Christmas spirit as he places the luminaria bags.

EXAMS: Semester exams begin on Dec 16. I've printed the schedule below. 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 days and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college.

FORTNITE ADDICTION: I know many of our students will be "fortniting" (yes, I made up the word) over the holidays. Several reputable journals ran stories last year 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 am concerned for some of our students!



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE RERUN: I have printed this the last seven years but it's worth another read, as *IAWF* is a Christmas classic that many enjoy viewing. Here's what Director Frank Capra said about the film: *IAWL wasn't made for the oh-so bored critics or the oh-so jaded literati. It was for my kind of people. ... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure. To show those born slow of foot or slow of mind, those oldest sisters condemned to spinsterhood, and those oldest sons condemned to unschooled toil, that each man's life touches*

so many other lives. And that if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole. A film that said to the downtrodden, the pushed around, the pauper, "Heads up, fella. No man is poor who has one friend. Three friends and you're filthy rich." A film that expressed love for the homeless and loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores. To shout to the abandoned grandfathers staring vacantly in nursing homes, to the always interviewed but seldom adopted half-breed orphans, to the paupers who refuse to die while medical vultures wait to snatch their hearts and livers, and to those who take cobalt treatments and whistle -- I wanted to shout, "You are the salt of the earth. And It's a Wonderful Life is my memorial to you!"

LAST WEEK:

- **Advent Devotions:** Strains of "Wait for the Lord" filled the chapel last week
- **Basketball:** Respectable showing in CYO tourney.
- **Blood Drive:** Almost 40 pints were collected on Friday. Thanks to all!
- **Cross Country Christmas Fun Run:** A good time was passed by all. Congrats, CC.
- **Debate:** Our Debate Wolves participated in St. Aug tournament. I am sure they did well!

- **#iGiveCatholic** was a grand success, with SPS garnering \$16,025 by 105 donors. Many thanks to our supporters, those faculty & students who made videos and Development Team for organizing the event. Special thanks to Mimi who was tenacious in promoting this event with our constituencies.
- **Luminarias:** Last Thursday night's Festival of Lights bathed our campus with beauty and inspiration. While the 1000+ luminarias glowed softly but strongly on a cool, south Louisiana night, sounds of Christmas emanated from the caroling assemblage in Founders Circle and the melodic strains of our Jazz Band. But the highlight for me were words spoken by student council Vice-President **Luke Vargas** at the prayer service. Thank you, Luke. You have enriched my Advent beyond measure. I am confident that our Holy Founding Brothers smiled with delight last Thursday.
- **Mothers Club:** The MC outdid itself this week with a snack day & luminarias refreshments.
- **Project Christmas Shopping:** Thanks to Santa Ramon and his "elves" who shopped for Project Christmas.
- **Robotics:** Robo-Wolves traveled to Holy Cross for competition on Sat. Geaux, Robo Wolves!
- **Soccer:** Big wins: 8th over Jesuit, 9th over Mandeville & Varsity over #4 ranked Catholic! Geaux Wolves!
- **Wolf Packs:** Making and dedicating the luminaria bags is always a special treat!
- **Wrestling:** Great win over Holy Cross and great showing in Border Wars tournament in South Walton, FL.



*Alex, John, Caleb, and Jack purchase Project Christmas gifts.
Buying Christmas gifts for young girls is a new experience for our Wolves!*

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.



Thanks to the Mothers' Club, the chapel is decorated for Christmas.

OFFICE DEPOT: We recently received a quarterly rebate 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.

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 partnered with St. Tammany Project Christmas. We "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. For any questions, please contact Mr. Ramon (j.ramon@stpauls.com)

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.

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 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.

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!**

WAITING'S VALUE: During Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to “wait” is a chief characteristic for success as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford. Beginning with the “marshmallow experiment” in 1972 (children could choose one marshmallow now or two in 15 minutes), researchers conducted follow up studies and tracked each child's progress. **They found that children who 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, and generally better scores in a range of life measures.** The researchers followed each child for more than 40 years and over and over again, the group who waited patiently for the second marshmallow succeeded in whatever capacity they were measuring. **In other words, this series of experiments proved that the ability to delay gratification was critical for success in life.** Now if we could only get our students to buy into this! Here's the full article: <http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification>

WEEKLY HUMOR: My traditional Christmas jokes to honor the season:

- *Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.*
- *Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!*
- *Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.*
- *Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A: A subordinate clause.*
- *Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? A: He wanted to sleep like a log.*
- *Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"*
- *Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Because it "soots" him!*
- *Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? A: Pour Santa flush on him.*
- *Q: Did you hear that one of Santa's reindeer works for Proctor and Gambel? It's true: Comet cleans sinks*
- *Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? A: Claustrophobic.*
- *Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? A: Because every buck is dear to him.*
- *What's a holiday tip? Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until the birds have gone south for winter.*
- *Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A: It's Christmas, Eve!*
- *Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? A: The letter "D"!*

- *Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A: Santa Claustrophobia!*
- *Q: What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Black mail!*
- *And for the musically literate: Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and have time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.*

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

- 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



Caleb & Jack load up their shopping cart with gifts for our Project Christmas families.

Second Semester Period Rotation

January 2020

- 6 – ABCD
- 7 – EFGA – President's Assembly
- 8 – BCDE – Senior Retreat
- 9 – FGAB – Senior Retreat
- 10 – CDEF – Senior Retreat
- 13 – GABC
- 14 – DEFG – Pack Time
- 15 – ABCD
- 16 – EFGA
- 17 – BCDE
- 21 – FGAB – 8th HR Breakfast/LPO Concert in BAC
- 22 – CDEF – 9th HR Breakfast
- 23 – GABC – 10th HR Breakfast
- 24 – DEFG – Mass
- 27 – ABCD – 11th HR Breakfast
- 28 – EFGA – President's Assembly
- 29 – BCDE - 12th in HR Breakfast
- 30 – FGAB
- 31 – CDEF

February

- 3 – GABC – Late Start
- 4 – DEFG - Pack Time
- 5 – ABCD
- 6 – EFGA
- 7 – BCDE – *Life Skills for Seniors*
- 10 – FGAB
- 11 – CDEF – President's Assembly – 8th in PreACT
- 12 – GABC – 9th in PLAN
- 13 – DEFG – 10th in Pre ACT
- 14 – ABCD
- 17 – EFGA
- 18 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 19 – FGAB
- 20 – CDEF
- 21 – Faculty Retreat Day

March

- 2 – ABCDEFG – St. Joseph Altar
- 3 – GABC – President's Assembly
- 4 – DEFG

5 – ABCD – *Juniors on retreat/Angola*
 6 – EFGA – *Juniors on retreat/Angola*
 9 – BCDE – Late Start
 10 – FGAB – Pack Time – Juniors in ACT
 11 – CDEF
 12 – GABC
 13 – DEFG – End of Third Quarter
 16 – ABCD
 17 – EFGA – President's Assembly
 18 – BCDE
 19 – FGAB
 20 – CDEF
 23 – GABC
 24 – DEFG – Pack Time
 25 – ABCD
 26 – EFGA – 9th Retreat/Field Trip
 27 – BCDE – 9th Retreat/Field Trip
 30 – FGAB – 12th HR Breakfast in Café
 31 – CDEF – President's Assembly

April

1 – GABC - 8/9th HR Breakfast in BAC
 2 – DEFG – 10/11th HR Breakfast in BAC
 3 – ABCD – Jubilarian Assembly
 6 – EFGA
 7 – BCDE – Pack Time
 8 – FGAB – Passion Play Schedule
 9 – CDEF – Mandatum Schedule
 20 – GABC – Late Start
 21 – DEFG – President's Assembly
 22 – ABCD – Leadership Breakfast
 23 – EFGA – Assembly Schedule
 24 – BCDE – Assembly Schedule
 27 – FGAB
 28 – CDEF – Pack Time
 29 – GABC - Senior Exams
 30 – DEFG - Senior Exams

May

1 – ABCD – Senior Exams
 4 – EFGA
 5 – BCDE – President's Assembly
 6 – FGAB
 7 – CDEF – Athletic Awards
 8 – GABC – Academic Awards



Zach & Sebastian clown around while Project Christmas shopping.

- 11 – DEFG – 8th Grade Exams
- 12 – ABCD – President's Assembly – 8th Exams
- 13 – EFGA – 8th Exams
- 14 – BCDE – 8th Exams
- 15 – FGABC (8th Promotion 6:00 PM)
- 18 – DEFG (Review for Period A Exam)
- 19 – Exam Schedule
- 20 – 22 Exam Schedule



Blaine, Andrew, Gil and Joseph prepare to carol at luminarias on Thursday!

Whew! I've worn you out again this week! **But the newsletter goes on Christmas (not winter) vacation so you get a break for the next three Sundays! The next newsletter will appear on Sunday, Jan 05.**

As usual, I'll close with my paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I wish I could listen to now and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings!

This is also my last newsletter for 2019 [I can hear you cheering!] As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, I can think of no better way to end than to reprint the Lasallian Prayer for Peace that the Brothers pray at the end of their daily mass:

We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all

wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace! Amen.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Ready to Rejoice for Christmas as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

***Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!***

**Have a blessed Christmas season! Thank you for the First Semester!
Maranatha!**



***A drone's eye view of the campus on luminaria night!
Photo courtesy of seniors Michael Valliant and Parker Pierson***