



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 108 years of educational excellence in Covington
339 years of Lasallian excellence throughout the world



April 06 - 19, 2020 – *Holy Week*

Remember that we are dust; to dust we shall return!

Welcome to Holy Week, Week Four of the fourth quarter, and Week Four of SPS Online!
I pray that you are safe, healthy, and coping as well as possible!

Last week, **Junior Religion Teacher Luke Barwick** had his students compose prayers and write reflections on COVID-19. I offer a sampling below of our juniors' work. First, a prayer by junior **Brady Talley**:

Dear God: The courage it takes to be on the frontlines of this pandemic is immeasurable. Please help the doctors, nurses, first responders, and everyone who has put their health on the line for the good of others. I would like to pray for all the people who have lost love ones to the virus, that they may feel consolidation with others. I also pray for all politicians so that they might make good decisions and do the best they can to limit the number of deaths in this country. Lastly, I pray for all the people who have lost their jobs or anyone whose income has abruptly stopped. Please help them through these hard times, as they might soon not be able to pay rent, get food, or pay bills. All people must unite and fight this disease together and with love. Amen

And now, three reflections, the first by **Rhett Barker**, the second by **Aiden Brown** and the third by **Jake Holincheck**:



The virus is a wakeup call for us, forcing us to turn back to God

Through the pandemic, so far I've been trying to make the most of my extra free time. I try to spend more time reading than using electronics, and I have definitely noticed my mind is clearer without all of the stimuli. My mom has been helping administer coronavirus tests and tells me how truly how almost apocalyptic it looks at epicenters of the virus. There is a lot of suffering going on in the world (as always), but if the coming of holy week reminds us of anything, it's that Jesus also suffers with us, and that no one truly dies alone. I just hope people are praying for the souls of the dead and for the safety of healthcare professionals around the world.

I have learned during this quarantine that the world comes in two parts. The first is that I realize that while I try to be thankful for my blessings and stay aware of everything I have, I still take so many things for granted that never occurred to me before. Namely, going outside was a privilege that I didn't recognize as a privilege until recently. It makes me feel significantly for those in bondage or prisons that are confined to such small spaces for such lengthy amounts of time. The second part of the revelation comes with why I have remained inside despite my longing to go on adventures and hang out with friends. I have come to understand the true importance of self-sacrifice. This disease hits very hard for older people. While all the people in my household are younger and most likely safe from fatal consequences, I have friends who live with their grandparents. I know one person's actions aren't necessarily impactful on a grand/major scale, but I stay inside in hopes that other people are doing the same. This is because I personally know some of my friends' older family members and have good relationships with them. I care for them and want everyone to stay inside for their sake. Mostly this quarantine has been a slight inconvenience for me, which I will gladly undertake if it means the safety of those I love.

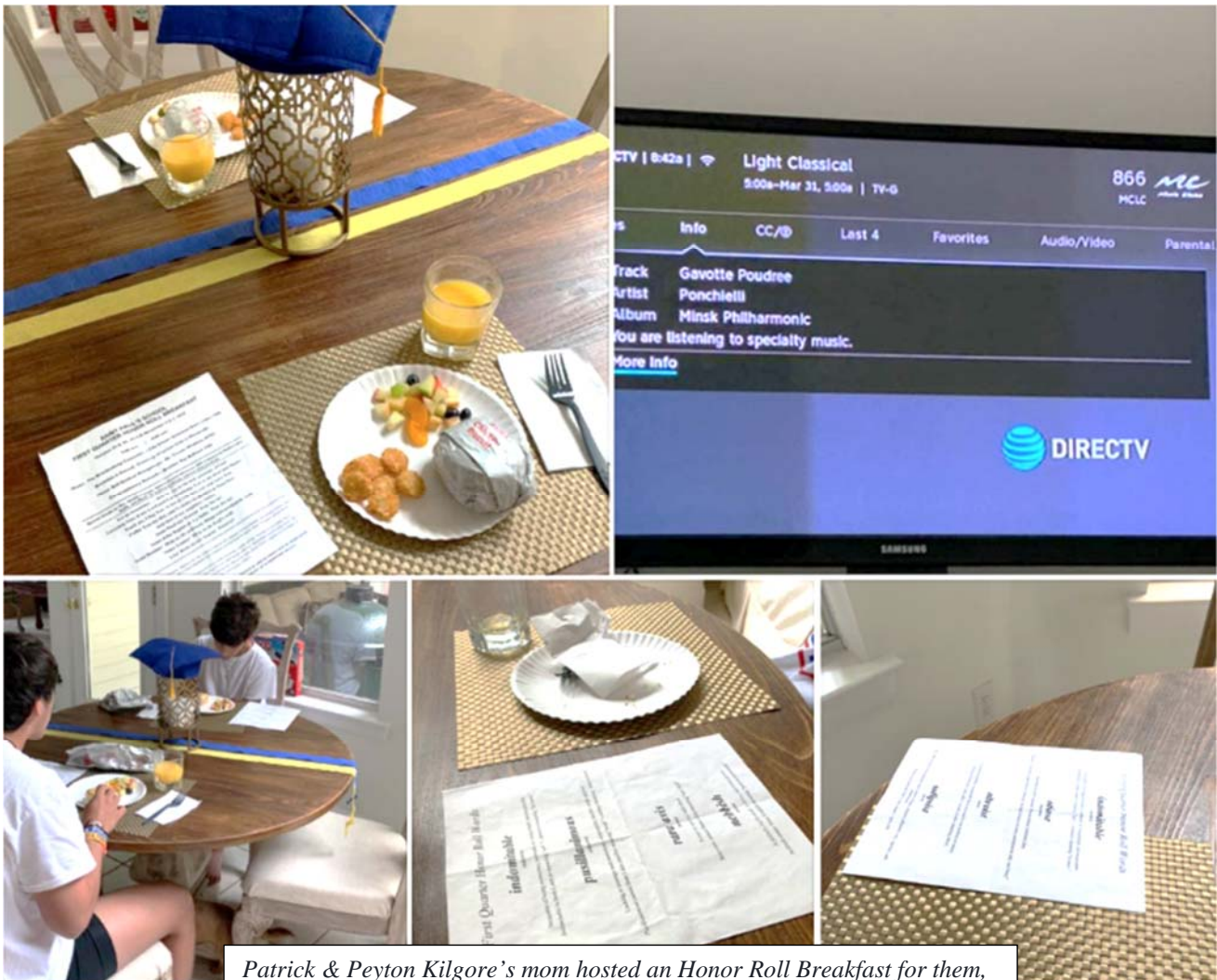
Thanks, Mr. Barwick, for this meaningful assignment and to the juniors!

Mon, Apr 06 (SPS Online; A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1917, the US formally enters WW I by a Declaration of War by the Congress.
- **TDIH:** In 1896, after a 1500-year break, the first Olympics of the modern era was held in Athens, Greece. COVID-19 will force cancellation of Olympics this summer, scheduled for Japan.

Tue, Apr 07 (SPS Online with Pack time; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** Today, in 1719, John Baptist de La Salle died, undoubtedly wondering if his work would last. The Institute was fragile and misunderstood. He had given away his fortune to establish his dream to educate ALL children. As we honor our Founder today (and every day) the best tribute we can pay to him, in addition to prayer and thanksgiving, would be to renew our commitment to our students, especially the ones that who aggravate us the most, who seem farthest from our influence, who try our patience and seem resistant to our message. This was La Salle's desire.
- **Day of Remembrance of Victims of Rwanda Genocide:** Today in 1994, the genocide in Rwanda began. Several years ago, noted Catholic speaker Immaculee Ilibagiza, a survivor of the genocide, spoke movingly to the SPS student. Not familiar with Immaculee's story? Visit her website at <http://immaculee.com>. Her incredible faith in God should inspire us all. We pray for an end to all genocidal acts.
- **No Housework Day:** Kick back and relax today!
- **International Beaver Day:** Celebrate the beaver today. Even though humans and beavers often clash, these are important critters in the overall scheme of the ecosystem (or so I'm told!)



Patrick & Peyton Kilgore's mom hosted an Honor Roll Breakfast for them, complete with classical music, prayer, and vocabulary words! WOW!

Wed, Apr 08 (SPS Online; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1974, Hank Aaron of Atl Braves hits his 715th career home run, breaking Babe Ruth's record.
- **Hanamatsuri**, literally "the flower festival", starts in Japan & commemorates the birth of Siddhartha Gautama who became enlightened as the Buddha, marking the release from suffering and sorrow.
- **Draw a Bird Day:** From the DABD website: *In 1943, Dorie Cooper was a 7-year-old English girl. Her mom took her to hospital to visit her uncle, seriously wounded in the war. She asked him "Draw a bird." He drew a picture of a robin. Dorie laughed and proclaimed he was not a good artist, but she would hang the picture in her room. Her uncle's spirits were lifted. Other wounded soldiers also had their day brightened by the event and every time Dorie came to visit, they held drawing contests to see who could produce the best bird pictures. Soon, the walls were decorated by bird drawings. 3 years later, Dorie was killed by a car. Her coffin was filled with bird images made by soldiers, nurses and doctors. Ever since, those men and women remembered the little girl that brought hope by drawing birds on her birthday, April 8th. Draw a Bird Day is celebrated worldwide to express joy in the simplest of things in life and as a way to help soldiers forget war and suffering even if only for a short time.*

Thu, Apr 09 (Holy Thursday; SPS Online; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** In 1682, Robert La Salle claims lower Mississippi River and all lands that touch it for France
- **TDIH:** In 1865, at Appomattox, VA, Confederate General Robert E. Lee surrenders 28,000 troops to Union General Ulysses S. Grant, effectively ending the Civil War. During the war, 4 out of every 100 Americans (over 600,000!) were either killed or seriously wounded. Of every 100 soldiers, five died in battle and 20 died of illness or disease. It is appropriate on this day that we remember Abraham Lincoln's prayer for those who need justice and peace in their lives: *Grant, O merciful God, that with malice toward none, with charity to all, with firmness in the right as you give us to see the right, we may strive to finish the work we are in" to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for those who have borne the battle...to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.*
- **Cherish an Antique Day:** In better times, I would encourage you to visit an antique store or spend time with the antiques that you own. Educate students about the value of "old things." Do not let the boys call you "antique"—although I definitely qualify.



From Petroleum Engineering Teacher Ed Prybil:

For each class, I start with a short 60-90 second video from the "Prybil Petroleum Garage". I use this to continue "connecting" with the students - I discuss any issues from last class, important aspects of the current lesson topic, continue to keep praying, and whatever "petro" stuff comes up. There's lots of petroleum in my garage!

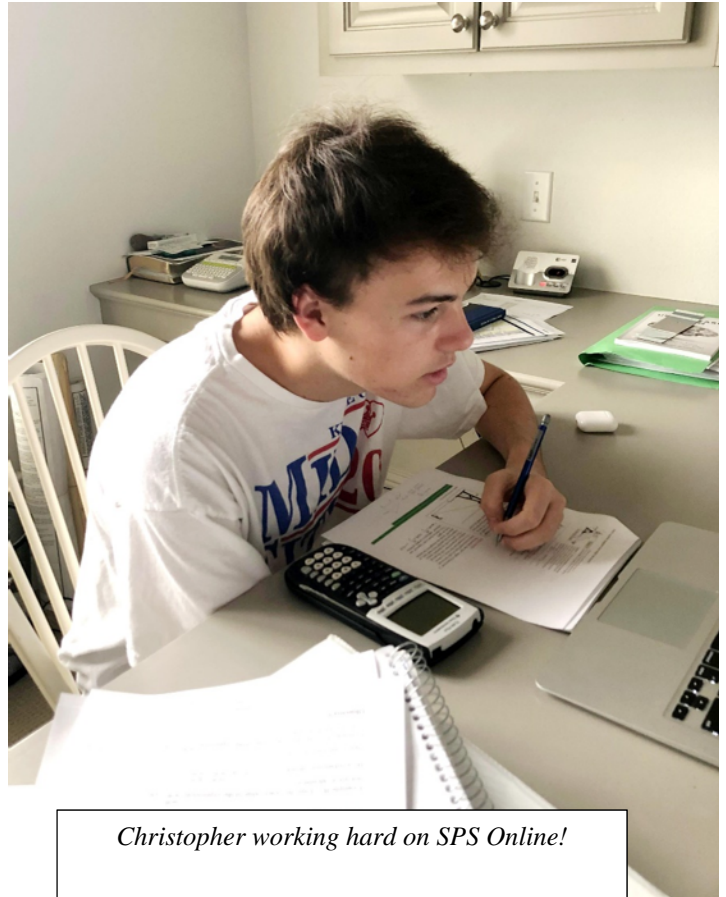
- **Winston Churchill Day:** *On April 9, 1963, Winston Churchill became the second person to become an Honorary Citizen of the United States, although this was the first time Congress had resolved that it was to be bestowed by the President of the United States, on a foreign national. This honour was bestowed upon him by President John F Kennedy. Although Churchill was not present at the ceremony, it had been hoped he would not only witness the event on television – which he did with his wife – but would be able to respond. Problems with a relay station in Cornwall prevented this from happening. Learn something about ole Winston today. Listen to a speech of this great orator.*

Fri, Apr 10 (Good Friday; Easter Holidays begin)

- **Siblings Day:** Cherish your siblings today!
- **Safety Pin Day:** From the SPD website (who knew?): *Legend has it that, in 1849, Walter Hunt, inventor of the safety pin, owed a friend \$15 and decided to invent something to earn the money to repay him. His invention was the safety pin. Strong and sharp, yet safe enough to be used on clothing, safety pins are a simple yet ingenious invention. Take inspiration from Hunt and come up with a clever invention. It's a great challenge for children who love to come up with new ideas.*

Sat, Apr 11 (Holy Saturday)

- **TDIH:** In 1861, the bloodiest four years in American history begin when Confederate shore batteries under General P.G.T. Beauregard open fire on Union-held Fort Sumter in Charleston Bay, SC, thus beginning Civil War.
- **8 Track Tape Day:** Does anyone remember 8 track tapes? We've come a LONG way!



Christopher working hard on SPS Online!

Sun, Apr 12 (Easter Sunday! Even with COVID-19, we proclaim Alleluia! He is risen!)

- **TDIH:** In 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel in space. When he returned to earth, he reported that he had not seen God in the heavens. Later, a Russian priest said, "If you haven't seen God on earth, you will never see him in heaven."
- **DEAR Day:** D.E.A.R. stands for "Drop Everything and Read," a national celebration of reading designed to remind folks of all ages to make reading a priority activity in their lives.
- **Be Kind to Lawyers Day.** We wish our SPS community lawyers a pleasant day. No lawyer jokes today!
- **Big Wind Day:** Today commemorates the highest wind speed ever recorded on the planet: in 1934, the staff of the Mount Washington Observatory recorded a wind of 231 mph! Wow!

Mon, Apr 13 – Sun, Apr 19

- **Easter Holidays (not spring break)**

Mon, Apr 20 – SPS Online resumes from Easter Holidays (not spring break) with periods C D E F

Rise Up, O Men of God

ACTIVITIES: Do you have young children? Looking for mindless activities for them to do? Here are coloring and activity books for the New Orleans Saints and Pelicans, courtesy of the Saints and Pelicans:

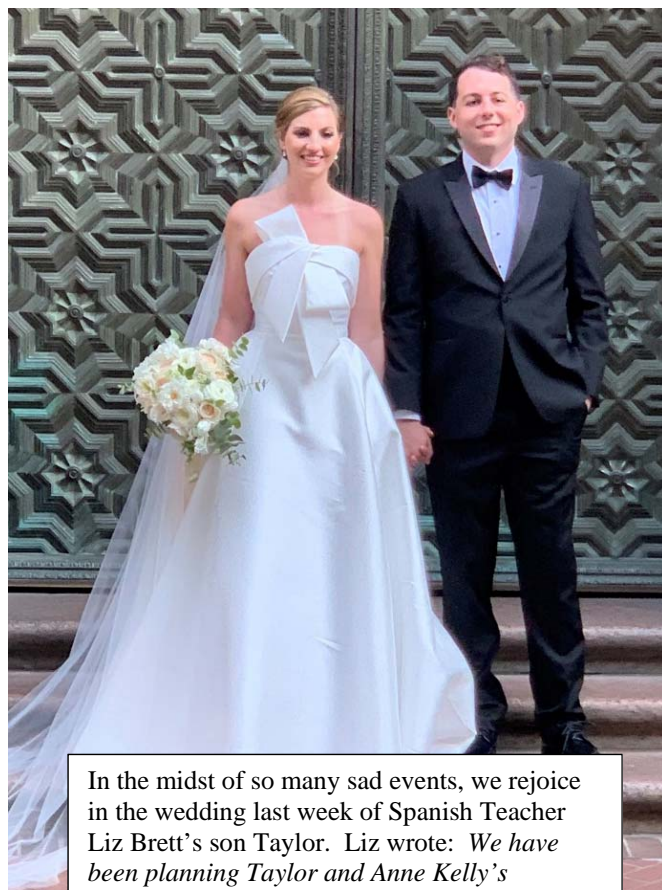
- Saints: <https://www.neworleanssaints.com/fans/activity-book>
- Pelicans: <https://www.nba.com/pelicans/new-orleans-pelicans-activity-book>

APOLOGIES:

- In a recent newsletter shout out to our Robotics Wolves, I omitted the name of **Brian Lea**. Sorry, Brian! Thanks for your work with Robo-Wolves!
- In my list of perfect ACT 36 subject matter scores, I have been omitting the name of senior **Jarrett Meibaum**, who scored 36 in BOTH English and Reading! Wow! Sorry, Jarrett, & congrats – but I was using an old graphic!

APRIL: Welcome to April! Can you believe it? Some facts about April:

- **Two possible word origins:** as the second month of the Roman calendar, it was dedicated to the goddess Venus and perhaps based on Apru, an Etruscan borrowing of Aphrodite, goddess of love and fertility. Also, as the fourth month of the Gregorian calendar, its name may derive from the Latin aperire ("to open"), a possible reference to plant buds opening at this time of year in Rome. Choose the theory you like better.
- **April is National Humor Month.** Let's all laugh a little more this month (maybe even laugh at ourselves when the situation warrants.) Tell a joke! Make someone laugh.
- **April is National Mathematics Awareness Month.** I know I'm excited!
- **April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month.** We are reminded of the sacredness of human life and the responsibility we have, especially as Catholic school educators, to protect those placed in our care. Know that we take this responsibility seriously.
- **April is Internet Safety month.** In view of all we have been learning lately, let's stress this!
- **April is Jazz Appreciation Month** and I wish that the SPS Jazz Band were busy preparing for the end of year concert! Another victim of COVID-19!



In the midst of so many sad events, we rejoice in the wedding last week of Spanish Teacher Liz Brett's son Taylor. Liz wrote: *We have been planning Taylor and Anne Kelly's wedding for over a year. It was going to be a huge wedding. God had other plans. On Saturday, instead of 300 people, there were about 10, but it couldn't have been more perfect. Just the immediate family was present with a small "reception" at their home after the ceremony. The celebration was about their commitment to each other. Tommy and I could not be more proud. Us, too, Liz! Congrats to Taylor, SPS Class 2007!*

- **April is National Poetry Month!** I invite all to "read a poem a day" during April and encourage our students to do so, too. Don't have time to find a poem? Here are two good sites with Poems of the Day, which can even be emailed to you:
 - www.poets.org
 - <http://www.poetryfoundation.org>

CARE AND VIGILANCE: We must stay focused in these days before Easter Holidays (not spring break) and do our jobs well. Encourage your sons and let us know if any of them seem to be floundering in these uncertain times.

EASTER HOLIDAYS (NOT SPRING BREAK): With the Stay at Home order extended through 30 April, SPS will observe our published holidays that begin on Good Friday, April 10. The last SPS Online classes will be Thu, 09 Apr and will resume on Mon, 20 Apr! Stress with your sons that we give holidays in honor of Easter, not spring. Avoid saying "spring break" to stress the holidays' religious nature – especially these days.

GOLDEN TORCH AWARD is one of the highest honors that Saint Paul's confers on any qualified student. It is awarded yearly to students in grades 8-12 who have demonstrated both academic excellence and meaningful involvement in extra-curricular activities during the current school year. To earn the Golden Torch Award, a student must accumulate a minimum of 400 points by combining academic and extra-curricular points. Application form is posted on Plus Portals. **APPLICATIONS ARE NOW DUE!**

HOLY WEEK: If we were in school this week:

- The Passion Play: Mr. Gordon Carmadelle and The SPS Marian Players were set to perform this important work, that was so movingly performed for over twenty years by Denny Charbonnet.
- Mandatum Ceremony: Student Council would have had the annual "washing of the feet" ceremony on Holy Thursday, which reinforces the Gospel dictum to serve others.



Nicholas smiles at the HR Breakfast given by his mom – complete with vocabulary!

LAST WEEK: Had we been in session:

- **Athletics:** Baseball, Golf, Lacrosse, Tennis and Track would have been active.
- **Crawfish Cook-off** would have been held! Hundreds of alums and friends of SPS would have been on campus for this event. Thanks to Al et al for ALL the work that had been done to prepare for this event!
- **Golden Jubilarian Assembly:** We would have honored the SPS Class of 1970, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary of graduation. I would have talked about and shown pics of SPS in their time and played some '70s music! A highlight would have been the induction of the Class of 2020 into the SPS Alumni Association for "they are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, living stones building the edifice of the mystical God and fulfilling the Lasallian Mission in our age."
- **Foreign Language Festival:** Lobos would have represented us well at Southeastern! Muchos Gracias!

- **Honor Roll Breakfasts** would have been held. I would have had seniors give the vocabulary lesson. BTW, I am getting reports that moms are hosting individual Honor Roll Breakfasts at homes, complete with classical music and vocabulary! Wonderful! My work may be done!
- **Junior-Senior Prom:** We would have had a wonderful prom last week, capably organized by the Student Council. We still hope to have one, but it is all dependent upon the Governor's directives.

OFFICE HOURS: At present, someone (usually Jo Sutherlin, Karen Hebert or me) is in our administration building office from 8 - 12. Call on us if we can help.

ONLINE CHAPEL: From Campus Minister Jeff Ramon: *As we enter into Holy Week, we are excited to announce the opening of the SPS Online Chapel. Beginning Monday and running through Thursday, we will hold SPS Online Chapel time from 8:30 am to 9:00 am. Chapel will begin with some morning conversation and end with a different type of prayer facilitated by Mr. Ramon. Entering the virtual chapel by 8:30 is encouraged, but enter any time during that window! Below you will find information on what prayer will be each day.*

Mon: Rosary

Tue: Praying with Scripture

Wed: Taize Meditation

Thu: Stations of the Cross

*SPS virtual chapel is open to all. Enter the virtual chapel through [this Google Meet link](https://meet.google.com/rsj-carx-cec). **Mute your computer microphone.** Meet link: <https://meet.google.com/rsj-carx-cec>*

PALM SUNDAY: Palm Sunday is Apr 5. Fortunately, Saint Joseph Abbey sends a priest for mass at the Retired Brothers Residence (which is not open to the public.) Since our order of palms arrived, we will have Father bless the palms, and I will place them on a table in Founders' Circle around 11 am Sunday and leave them there all morning. If you want a palm, drive by and get one. We have about 300 of them.

RETIRED BROTHERS COMMUNITY: **While the Retired Brothers are doing well, the nursing staff has** instituted some preventive measures. Until further notice, our evening mass is not open to the public. We are indebted to the Benedictine Fathers of Saint Joseph Abbey who continue to provide Eucharist for the Retired Brothers Community. In addition, visitors are discouraged and at the very least must submit to a temperature check by one of the nursing staff. A number of people have offered to help the Brothers in any way needed. We are grateful!

SCHEDULING ONLINE ASSEMBLIES FOR 2020-2021: We started scheduling last week. Only registered students scheduled. Many thanks to Mike Holmes, Jo Sutherlin, and counselors for their hard work in doing the scheduling online. If your son is not registered but plans to return, please let us know.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES: Please know we are committed to salvaging as many senior events as we possibly can, when it is safe and legal to do so. Until we know when schools will be allowed to resume normal activities, however, we are unable to finalize any plans. We feel for our seniors and their families at the joys that this time of year should be bringing. But no one knows right now (and we have asked a lot of authorities!) when the Stay at Home orders will be lifted and social distancing guidelines relaxed. Currently, the mandate extends through April 30. But we are told that it could well be extended, so the situation right now is very fluid. I regret that I can't be more specific. Again, we want to do as much as we can, when we are allowed to do so. In the meantime, we pray.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS: Mimi continues to post seniors on our Facebook page. They will reflect on their SPS experience. They are excellent. Check it out. Thanks, Mimi!

SENSITIVITY: We are hearing from a number of our families who are involved in health care or first responder occupations that this is a very stressful time. Please call on us if we can help! Know that we are praying for all, especially our health care workers, first responders, and those involved in essential services.



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."**

And know that traffic tickets are being written by Covington PD! And obey crosswalks laws!

SPS ONLINE: To summarize again:

- Classes will continue online through 30 April – at least.
- Students need email access and their SPS email address (firstname.lastname.gradyear@stpauls.com)
- Monday's rotation is A B C D and the rotation will continue as usual until we return to campus.
- Daily schedule is as follows with the addition of optional SPS Holy Week Chapel Online:
 - 8:30 – Online chapel for Holy Week: click [this Google Meet link](#).
 - 8:45 – text and email are sent. They include link to Morning Prayer and Pledge video.
 - 9:00-10:00 – First Period Meets
 - 10:15 -11:30 SSR/ Second Period Meets
 - 11:30 -12:15 – Lunch Break
 - 12:15-1:15 – Third Period Meets
 - 1:30 – 2:30 – Fourth Period Meets
- The following are expected of students: Punctuality, Attendance (Checked Daily by assignments turned in.), Participation, Good faith effort, Communication with teacher, Completion of assignments on time – there will be assessments



During this period of cancelled in-person classes, we will continue to monitor information from the CDC, La Dept of Health, local officials, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans. While COVID19 has **NOT** been identified in our school community, please maintain good hygiene at home and do not come to campus if you are ill. Out of an abundance of caution, SPS will continue to **sanitize all buildings and surfaces** on a regular basis. We have also contracted with DIS.IN.FX to disinfect the entire school on a regular basis.

This link will familiarize you with the CDC's guidelines, including those for travel. We ask that all school families conform to these practices.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Please reinforce the following practices, even at home:

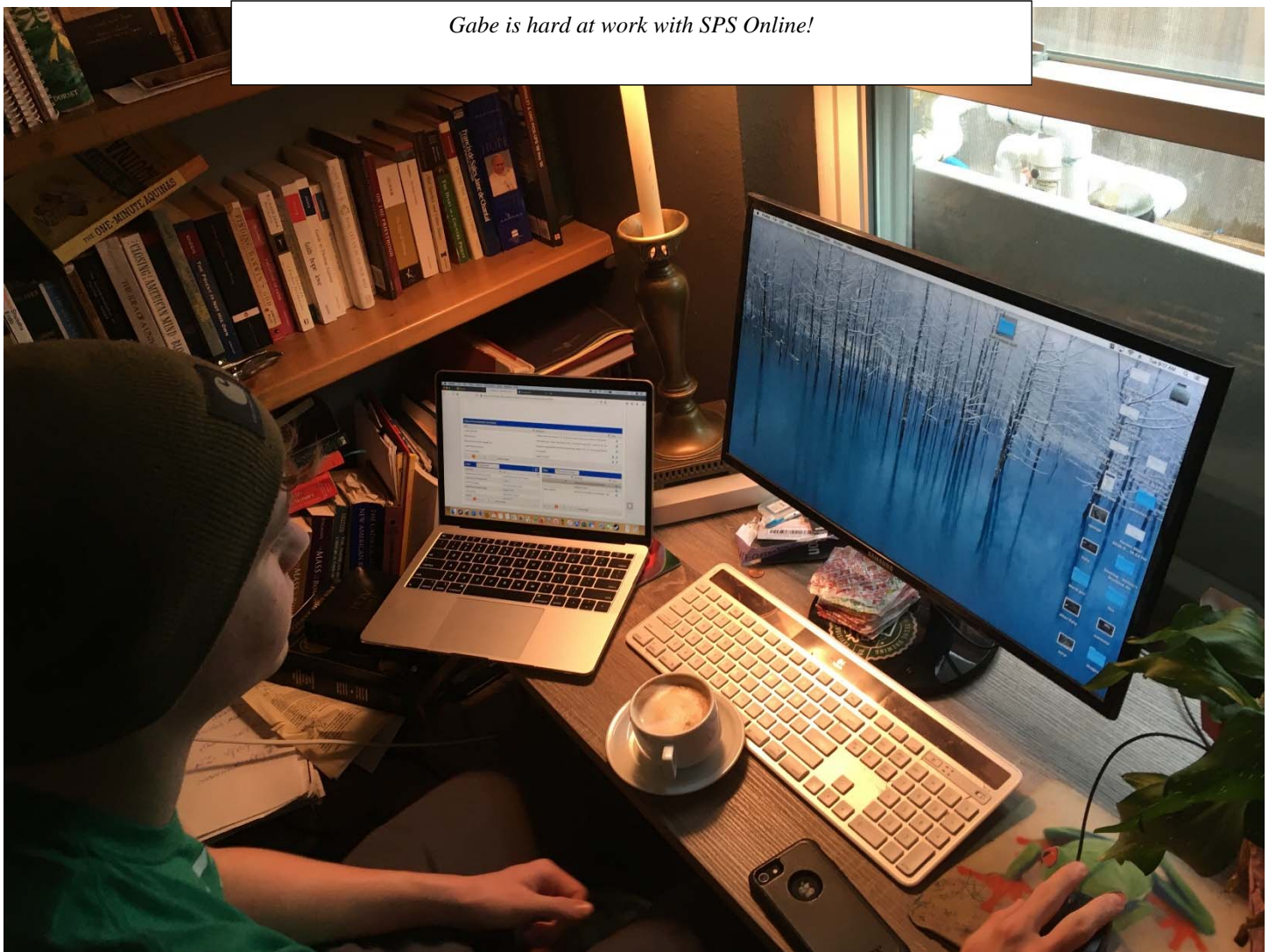
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| • Stay inside when sick | Appropriately cover coughs and sneezes |
| • Clean frequently touched surfaces | Wash hands often |
| • Don't share food and drinks | Pray |

Join me in praying for the safety of our school community and for those throughout the world whose lives have been affected by this virus. In this unprecedented time and uncharted water, please be patient! We will experience glitches in our plan and encounter unforeseen obstacles. We will meet the challenges as they arise. You can assume that ALL events through April 13 are cancelled. If we can re-schedule after that, we will.

STUFF THE BUS: As we will not be in school on the scheduled annual Stuff the Bus date, please consider the needs of the Northshore Food Bank during this difficult time. The Northshore Food Bank has an online tool to donate food as well as an online registry to make a monetary donation. The Food Bank is in dire need of help as many children are typically fed both breakfast and lunch at school.

The Registry: <https://northshorefoodbank.org/our-wish-list>

Online Donation: <https://northshorefoodbank.org/online-donations>



TUITION INVOICES: We traditionally send our tuition invoices for the next school on April 1, as tuition is due on June 1. That gives families two months to pay in full or arrange for bank financing via Resource Bank. The Office of Catholic School has directed schools to follow their normal procedures for invoicing tuition. Thus, if your son is returning next year, you can expect to receive his tuition invoice soon. Please know we are sensitive to families in these uncertain times. The reality, however, is that SPS is a tuition-operated school, and without tuition, we cannot exist. Thus, while every effort has been made to keep tuition as low as possible (just compare our tuition to other comparable schools), we must ask for tuition payments for next year in order to hire the best teachers, provide the most extensive curriculum, and offer the facilities in which our students can thrive. Thank you for your understanding. Naturally, call me is extraordinary circumstances are causing problems.

WEEKLY HUMOR: I usually eschew (I enjoy using that word!) WH during Holy Week, but we need a chuckle or two during these difficult times!

1. *"Money can't buy you happiness? Well, today I bought myself a Happy Meal!"*
2. *"The easiest time to add insult to injury is when you're signing somebody's cast."*
3. *The problem isn't that obesity runs in your family. The problem is no one runs in your family."*
4. *"You don't need a parachute to go skydiving. You need a parachute to go skydiving twice."*
5. *"Letting go of a loved one can be hard. But it's the only way to survive a rock climbing catastrophe."*
6. *"A positive attitude may not solve all problems. But it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort."*
7. *"Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back."*
8. *"Isn't it odd the way everyone automatically assumes that the goo in soap dispensers is always soap? I like to fill mine with mustard, just to teach people a lesson in trust."*
9. *"I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure."*
10. *"Women should not have children after 35. Really, 35 children are enough."*
11. *"Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."*
12. *"It's never a good idea to keep both feet firmly on the ground. You'll have trouble putting on your pants."*
13. *"Change is inevitable—except from a vending machine."*
14. *"Why does someone believe you when you say there are four billion stars but checks when you say the paint is wet?"*
15. *"What's the difference between a northern fairytale and a southern fairytale? A northern fairytale begins 'Once upon a time...' A southern fairytale begins 'Y'all ain't gonna believe this...'"*
16. *"The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on the list."*
17. *OK, I'll stop!*

WORDS of WISDOM WORTH READING: I was touched by an email that senior **Evan Meral** sent me last week. It's a great message for our younger students.

*I was just wondering if you had any idea if we would be able to go back to school before graduation. I understand if you have no clue because these are some strange circumstances. I just thought I would email you and ask as I would love to be able to come back, even though that probably isn't a possibility. **I really wish I would have listened to the past seniors every year when they said the year flies by; they were not lying. I wish I would have enjoyed the time I had at school instead of stressing out and wishing it away, because as it is gone, I wish it was back.** I hope you, the retired brothers, and the entire faculty are safe and well; you all are in my prayers.*

Yes, Evan. We are safe and well. And we want you back on campus, too!

Let's all learn to treasure each day – wherever we find ourselves. God bless you and the Class of 2020!

CALENDAR FOR NEXT YEAR--2020-21: Here is tentative calendar for next year (for those who plan!)

THIS IS NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR, NOT THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR!

Thurs, Aug 6	School Opens with full day of instruction (same day as public schools)
Thu, Aug 20	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day
Fri, Aug 21	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 24	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Mon, Sep 7	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 2	In-service for faculty (no classes for students)
Fri, Oct 9	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 9	Grandparent Day (11:30 – 1:30)
Mon, Oct 19	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 31	Open House for Prospective Students (1 – 3 pm)
Tues, Nov 3	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 23 - 27	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 30	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 14-17	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 17	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams

THIS IS NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR, NOT THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR!

Mon, Jan 4	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Jan 6-8	Senior Retreat
Mon, Jan 18	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 1	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 12	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 15-19	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Feb 22	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 12	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 2-9	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 12	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30	Senior Final Exams
Thu, May 13	Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)
Sat, May 15	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tues – Fri, May 18-21	Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Mon, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tues, May 25	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

Remember that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177.

March 13 – April 30: SPS ONLINE CLASSES. NO SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES AT THIS TIME.

- 6 – A B C D
- 7 – E F G A – Pack Time
- 8 – B C D E – Passion Play Schedule cancelled
- 9 – F G A B – Mandatum Schedule cancelled
- 20 – C D E F – we pray we can re-open today
- 21 – G A B C – President’s Assembly
- 22 – D E F G – Leadership Breakfast
- 23 – A B C D – Assembly Schedule
- 24 – E F G A – Assembly Schedule
- 27 – B C D E
- 28 – F G A B – Pack Time
- 29 – C D E F - Senior Exams
- 30 – G A B C - Senior Exams

May

- 1 – D E F G – Senior Exams
- 4 – A B C D
- 5 – E F G A – President’s Assembly
- 6 – B C D E
- 7 – F G A B – Athletic Awards
- 8 – C D E F – Academic Awards
- 11 – G A B C – 8th Grade Exams
- 12 – D E F G – President’s Assembly – 8th Exams
- 13 – A B C D – 8th Exams
- 14 – E F G A – 8th Exams
- 15 – B C D E
- 16 – Senior Graduation (4 pm; admission by ticket only)
- 18 – E F G (Review for Period A Exam)
- 19 – 22 -- Exam Schedule

*Another campus iris celebrating spring!
I just wish the boys were here to see it!*



Whew! Enough for now. But you are in luck: the newsletter goes on East Holiday (not spring break!) next Sunday so you get a break from me. Even though it's April of 2020 and we are operating SPS ONLINE for the next few weeks, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which is no longer on the air but I still LOL thinking about it): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we move into the fourth quarter! Again, thanks for being part of the 2019 - 20 edition of Saint Paul's!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's April, We Are Teaching ONLINE Only, and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

And, now, let's close the newsletter with another one of Luke's students' prayers.

Junior Matt Russo is our prayer leader:

Let us remember, that we are in the Holy presence of God,
Dear God, thank you for these past beautiful days during this time of devastation in the world. God please bless the families and friends of all of those affected by this Coronavirus, and give everyone strength and courage to get through this period of time. God, please give the doctors, nurses, and all others on the front lines of this virus a sign of promise that all of this will go away, and pray for them every day for what they are doing for those affected around them. It's an honorable trait and I hope all people will be inspired by them. God, although this is an awful time, please pray that this time will inspire families to become closer to each other. Also, help people grow during this time period, rather than just sit around all day and do nothing.

Saint Paul our Patron, pray for us! Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Pray for us!
Saint Benilde, help us do ordinary things extraordinary well! Blessed Brother James, Help is live courageously!
Live Jesus in our Hearts, Forever!



The Hadskey Family, owners of Sign Gypsies, had their son, Jack '23, install this greeting to cheer up the Retired Brothers! Thanks, Jack!

Lady of Prompt Succor!
Hasten to help us!



COVID-19 does not disrupt life in the campus pond, teeming with ducks, turtles, fish, geese, and irises! The ducks miss the students – a steady source of food after breakfast and lunch!





Each senior receives a coveted retreat cross – which they often wear long after their graduation from SPS. Non-Christian students receive a symbol of their religion. It's a moving moment as seniors move toward culmination of the SPS careers.