



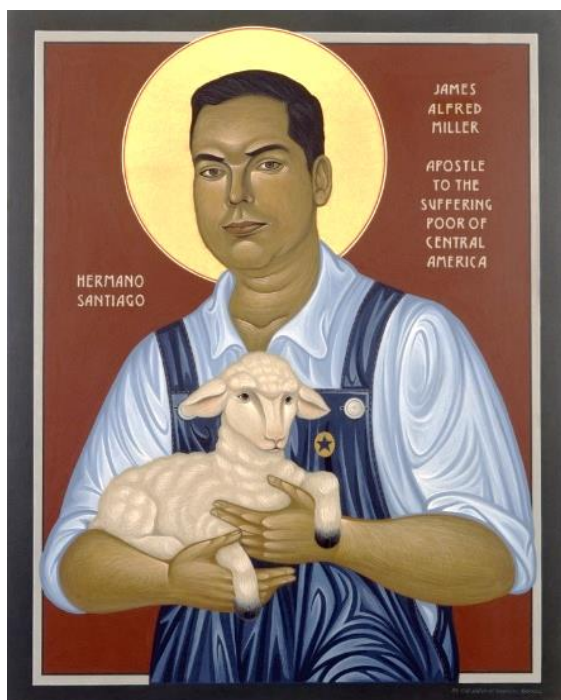
The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
December 07, 2020 – January 03, 2021



Welcome to the eighth week of the second quarter! Time marches on!
Welcome, too, to the final full week of the semester – **and my final 2020 newsletter.**



MARANATHA!



Dec 7 marks the one-year anniversary of the Catholic Church beatifying Brother James Miller, FSC as a martyr for the Catholic Faith. For Catholics, this is one step away from official sainthood. Here is the letter from Superior General Brother Robert Schieler, which marked the occasion:

The beatification of Brother James Miller is a cause of great joy 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. 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 cast.

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 community.

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

Mon, Dec 7 (C D E F)

- **This Day in History: Pearl Harbor Day.** In 1941, The Empire of Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. This “day which will live in infamy” forced the US into World War II. We remember those who gave their lives, fighting for our freedom.
- **Letter Writing Day:** When was the last time you actually wrote a letter? Been too long? Then write one today!
- **Basketball:** 8th v. Ponchatoula (6)

Tue, Dec 8 (G A B C; Solemnity of Immaculate Conception --NOT a holy day of obligation this year

- 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.
- **TDIH:** In 1980, John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, the rock group that transformed pop music in the 1960s, is shot and killed by an obsessed fan in NYC. All he was saying was give peace a chance.



- **TDIH II:** 1660, a female 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 book condemning theater, particularly actresses. By 1660, actors were bold enough to feature a woman as Desdemona. We don’t know who the actress was, but scholars guess

that it was Margaret Hughes, whom Samuel Pepys described as “a mighty pretty woman.”

- **Brownie Day:** Enjoy this chewy, chocolate treat – if your health allows it!
- **Basketball:** V/JV at St. Michael’s; 8th at Rummel
- **Soccer:** V/JV at Dutchtown
- **SPS Blood Drive Today!**

Wed, Dec 9 (D E F G – the final 2020 ever-popular President's Assembly: still virtual for now)

- **Today's 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
- **TDIH:** In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's publishes his poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," which commemorates 600 courageous British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during 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.
- **Pastry Day:** Indulge with your favorite pastry – again, if your health allows it!
- **Wrestling:** Wolves v. Catholic **Basketball:** 8th at Ponchatoula Jr Hi

**Thu, Dec 10 (A B C D;
ACT 30+ Club Breakfast
recognition in the BAC)**

- **TDIH:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died in Italy. His will stipulated that his large estate be used for recognizing persons who made valuable contributions to humanity. Today, \$1 M Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature (yeah!) and peace on the anniversary of his death.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, the US and Spain signed The Treaty of Paris following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the US Senate and was signed by President William McKinley.
- **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.



Wolves prepare luminaria bags, with prayers written on bottom

Christmas Hours 10 - 2

Sun, Dec 13 (3rd Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday for the coming of the Lord is near!)

- **TDIH:** In 2000, VP 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 hanging chads?

Mon, Dec 14 (Special exam schedule; 1:10 dismissal)

- **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 – but not at school.



Tue, Dec 15 (Special exam schedule; 1:10 dismissal)

- **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.
- **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.



Wed, Dec 16 (Exam Schedule; 1:10 dismissal)

- **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. The ships holding the tea were built in America and owned by Americans according to [Boston Tea Party Ships & Museums](#). The museum states hundreds took part, with 116 individuals taking credit. The Sons of Liberty planned 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 and lasted 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.
- **Chocolate Covered Anything Day:** Feel free to celebrate – if your health allows it!

Thu, Dec 17 (Exam schedule; Christmas (not winter) Holidays begin at 11:30)

- **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, controlled, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC – for 12 seconds, 120 feet. It was the first controlled, sustained flight in a heavier-than-air craft.

Fri, Dec 18 – Sun, Jan 03 – 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 4, 2021 -- School resumes at 8 am; second semester begins with A B C D



Rise Up, O Men of God

I call the following to your attention in alphabetical order, not necessarily order of importance:

ADMISSIONS FOR 2021-22: WE NEED YOUR HELP! COVID-19 restrictions are forcing changes to our usual recruiting strategies. The Office of Catholic Schools will not allow Shadow Days and have limited on-campus tours to prospective families. Naturally, we can do some tours and had a limited Open House on Oct 31. And, of course, we have great printed materials and are upgrading our website. But now, **more than ever, I count on you to spread the good news about Saint Paul's to prospective families. I need each of you to be an "admissions director" and speak to a prospective family about sending their son to SPS. I am counting on you! Thanks! Apps are due on Dec 15!**

ANNUAL FUND: I hope you received your annual fund brochure recently. Thanks to those who have already responded. We launched our 2021 Annual Fund on Sep 14th, -- the school's birthday and with Hurricane Sally knocking on our door. This year, the AF might be the most important one ever. Since our ability to fundraise is severely handicapped by COVID, and with traditional income sources such as football gate, etc. anticipated to be severely reduced, we will need the support of generous benefactors more than ever. Thanks to the Development Team for celebrating our birthday on Sept 14th with a giving day to **#BackThePack**. Your gifts to the Annual Fund ensure that not only will we endure for years to come, but we will thrive and continue to build upon our 109-year legacy of quality education. *The strength of the Wolf is the pack* and we ask for your support so that we may celebrate many more birthdays together. All sizes of gifts are appreciated and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

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!



Ethan distributes luminarias

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. Here's the scoop: *Research shows that feeling grateful doesn't just make you feel good. It also helps – literally helps – the heart. A positive mental attitude is good for your heart. It fends off depression, stress and anxiety, which can increase the risk of heart disease, says Paul Mills a professor of family medicine and public health at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. Mills recruited 186 men and women, average age 66, who already had some damage to their heart, either through years of sustained high blood pressure or as a result of heart attack or even an infection of the heart itself. They each filled out a standard questionnaire to rate how grateful they felt for the people, places or things in their lives. It turned out the more grateful people were, the healthier they were. "They had less depressed mood, slept better and had more energy," says Mills.* Read or listen to the full story at

<http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/11/23/456656055/gratitude-is-good-for-the-soul-and-it-helps-the-heart-too>. Spend more time being grateful! It's good for the soul and the heart!



Construction on new Band Building is underway!

BAND HALL HISTORY: In the summer of 1966, the school constructed a “recreation center” for the recreational needs of the students living in La Salle Hall dorm. At a cost of \$15,000, a building was constructed to provide ping pong, pool, games and TV for boarders. Eventually, arcade-type games and a

snack bar were added. In addition, a nine-hole miniature golf (putt-putt) course was built in front of the building, complete with lighting for nighttime use.

The facility, known simply as “the rec hall”, served the recreational needs of the boarding students until the summer of 1995, when, once again, the needs of the school dictated change. The overall population of the school was growing, but the population of the boarding program was shrinking. Accordingly, the decision was made to move the “rec hall” into La Salle Hall itself and to move the band hall (which was located on the third floor of Benilde Hall) into the rec hall building, thus allowing us to construct five more classrooms in Benilde Hall. The miniature golf course had also deteriorated and was removed.

The building has served the Marching Wolves well since that time, but, again, needs dictate change. In addition to overall building deterioration, our band programs have been expanding of late and now include concert, jazz, and drum corps components in addition to the renowned Marching Wolves, now almost one hundred members strong! They are deserving of a better facility. This new facility will provide expanded space, restrooms, acoustics, and aesthetics to our music program. Construction has begun and this \$2.3 million project will be completed in the summer of 2021. Interested in supporting the renovation, whose overall cost will approach \$2.3 million? We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.



Support the Marching Wolves by helping fund the new band hall, already under construction!

We have [Naming Opportunities!](#) For more information, call Danielle Lavie at 985-892-3200 ext 1970 or development@stpauls.com or Br. Ray Bulliard at 985-892-3200 ext 1901 or broray@stpauls.com.

BOOK STORE: All school supplies will be available for purchase, as well as St. Paul's apparel. Hours?

- M – F: 7:30 am - 8:15 am and 11:15 – 12:45
- By appointment. Email spsbookstore16@gmail.com
- **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore.** Proceeds fund activities throughout the year. **Recently, we received \$10,000 worth of Chromebooks for student use in main school building!**
- **Bookstore Christmas Hours from the Mothers' Club:** The Bookstore has announced their Christmas shopping hours. See below. Come do your Christmas Shopping and take advantage of some great bargains! 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!


● **ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' CLUB**

● **BOOKSTORE**

● **SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS**

● **Saturday, December 12th**

● **10:00 am – 2:00 pm**



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

Applied to the account of: _____

Special Message: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Compliments of: _____

Date: _____ Issued by: _____



BLOOD DRIVE: Our annual blood Drive will be Monday, December 8th. 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 BAC.



No, Really...

Take the Meals!

Take advantage of the Free Meals provided to our students!

Reasons why you should take advantage of free school meals:

- They are FREE and may help you stretch your household budget.
- They save you time shopping and prepping meals.
- They are available in school.
- They are delicious, nutritious, fun and convenient.
- Healthy food fuels students for learning.

Each meal served provides funding to your school's Nutrition Services department from the USDA.

You are helping keep our staff employed.

You are not taking food away from someone who needs it more. We have plenty to go around!

We love to provide meals to our students. It's what we do best!

The USDA is covering the cost of these meals during COVID-19.

Free Meals will be provided throughout the entire 2020-2021 school year.



ARCHDIOCESE OF
NEW ORLEANS

School Food and Nutrition Services of New Orleans, Inc.

CAFETERIA: A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT from the Federal School Lunch Program:

- ALL students may receive a FREE BREAKFAST and LUNCH **throughout the rest of the school year!** Students MUST still obtain the meals with their ID card (no ID, no food) but it is FREE.
- Students MUST still order lunch during first block, but it will be FREE.
- This is a great opportunity for our students – and savings for you! And it helps keep the cafeteria staff employed! Encourage your son to take advantage of this!

CALENDAR FOR 2020-21: The calendar assumes that we are in full operation. Naturally, any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or acts of nature may result in alteration.

- Mon - Thu, Dec 14-17 Semester Exams
- Thu, Dec 17 Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
- 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 (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
- Wed-Fri, Apr 28-30 Senior Final Exams
- Thu, May 13 8th Promotion Ceremony (6:30)
- Sat, May 15 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 18-21 Final Exams for 9 - 11
- Mon, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Day
- Tues, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Day



- Note that public schools schedule 175 instructional days while Catholic schools schedule 177
- In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays. Also, please check the calendar for vacation dates and do not schedule vacations in conflict with school.

CARE & VIGILANCE: As we approach holidays, remember Saint De La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras this week. **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.**

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 17 in the afternoon through Sunday, Jan 3. 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.

CHRISTIMAS (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 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. 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 findings 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.. 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 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, 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 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. Now defined as 'Christmas Music', no mention of Christmas, or any other holiday, is made in the song. Another JB fun fact – It is the first song broadcast from space.

COLD WEATHER CLOTHING: Only Saint Paul's outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. **If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. This will be handled confidentially and appropriately.** ONLY SPS cool weather clothing is allowed.

COVID INFO LETTER: Before Thanksgiving, you received a letter from Trevor Watkins concerning enforcement of our COVID protocols, especially mask wearing. Know that the letter was sent with my FULL approval and support as President and CEO of Saint Paul's. Unfortunately,

we will have to start preventing some chronic offenders from attending in-person classes if they continue to ignore that protocols that have been mandated to us by the LA Dept of Education, the LA Dept of Public Health, and the Archdiocese of New Orleans – which we agreed to as a condition to open school to in-person learning on August 6, along with the other five Catholic schools here in Western St. Tammany.

COVID UPDATE: From the Dept of Catholic Education & Faith Formation last week: *Governor Edwards announced that on Wed, Nov 25, Louisiana will move into a modified Phase 2 for four weeks. Based on the Governor's message, he acknowledged that schools were doing a good job. Governor Edwards communicated that there are no immediate plans to change the manner in which we are currently operating our schools. Conversely, he did indicate a new, decreased mandate of 25% capacity for sporting events. On Thanksgiving Day, we received the following from DCEFF: Schools will be allowed to operate under Phase 3 guidance at this time with the exception of sporting event limitations.*

COVID UPDATE II: “What we’re seeing now is as concerning as it has ever been. There is no question about that,” said Assistant State Health Officer, Dr. Joseph Kanter. In region nine, which includes the five Northshore Parishes, all of them are dealing with increases. Northshore hospitals systems in Tangipahoa, St. Tammany and Washington Parishes are banding together, asking folks to pay attention and putting out a radio public service announcement urging folks to mask up. “Wear your mask. It’s important. It just might save the life of your grandmother, your son, your neighbor, or You. Together, we can do this,” said the PSA.

EXAMS: Semester exams begin soon. Exams are SEMESTER exams which cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and goes on a transcript) will be averaged as follows: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the exam. Encourage your son 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 exam schedule is printed at end.

GOOD NEWS DEPT: Last week we received a \$6016 check from The Lasallian Christian Brothers Foundation in Napa, CA from the September Brother Timothy wine sale and is designated for financial aid for financially needy students. All 22 schools in the San Francisco New Orleans Province of Christian Brothers benefit from this sale. Patrons buy the wine, which is donated by Hess Winery, and the proceeds go directly to the school of the purchaser’s choice. It’s a win-win: great wine for the connoisseur and money for the schools.

GOOD NEWS DEPT II: Dr. Paul van Deventer -- father of two SPS alums, a team doctor, and good SPS friend – has donated weight equipment from one of his businesses, Pinnacle Fitness. The equipment is in excellent condition and better than some of the equipment we currently have in our already impressive weight room. All we needed to do was pay for the transportation and installation of the new equipment – which has been covered by a donation. Thank you, again, Dr. van Deventer! Our physical training guru, Kristian Gibbe, is elated!



Just some of the Pinnacle weight equipment being donated to SPS by
Dr. Paul van Deventer

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

- 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!

ID CARDS, TEMP BRACELETS, AND MASKS: Students must wear all three of these DAILY.

Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing all three. If he forgets, he must purchase replacements from Sgt. Pressley.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE RERUN: I have printed this for the last seven years but it's worth another read, as *IAWF* is a Christmas classic. 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. Maranatha!

- **Basketball:** Big varsity wins against Holy Cross, Wests Jeff, & St. Thomas!
- **Drama:** “Clue” closed out a GREAT run! Thanks, Marian Players, Mr. Carmadelle & Mr. Baumgartner! I thoroughly enjoyed the play!
- **#iGiveCatholic** garnered \$14,245 from 72 donors Many, many thanks to our generous supporters, those faculty and students who made videos and the Development Team for organizing and promoting the event. Special thanks to Mimi Montiero who was tenacious in promoting this event with our constituencies. And extra special thanks to senior Zach van Zandt who filmed and edited the videos.
- **Golf Tournament:** The skies cleared and the sun, Gene Bennett, & Mickey Champagne smiled on our golfers on Friday.
- **HR Make-up Breakfasts:** Students and their guests seemed to appreciate this make up HRB.
- **Internet Outage:** We lost internet last Wed for the whole day, throwing us back into the “dark ages” of teaching! The day taxed our patience, flexibility, and creativity – but we managed! For example, my class was scheduled to view a group presentation that had been stored on Google Slides. Instead of abandoning the presentation, the class quickly called it up on the presenter’s phone and put the phone under the ELMO which projected it onto the screen! Problem solved! I was proud of their quick thinking!
- **Luminarias:** Last Thursday night’s Festival of Lights bathed our campus with beauty and inspiration, with the 1000+ luminarias glowing softly but strongly on a cool, damp, south Louisiana night. Due to COVID, we were unable to do the traditional caroling around Founders Oak or the moving chapel service where Student Council President Davis Lagarde was looking forward to inspiring us with his words on HOPE. And what’s an SPS event without food? Such was the case with no Mothers’ Club reception! But it was still great. Thanks, Student Council, and all who helped.
- **Soccer:** Wolves traveled to Lafayette for a tournament. I don’t have results but I am sure we did well.
- **Wolf Packs:** Making and dedicating the luminaria bags is always a special treat! I was touched by the prayers my class wrote. They were inspiring prayers, not just intentions. Wonderful!
- **Wrestling:** Great showing against powerhouse Jesuit – 48 to 18 in favor of the Wolves! WOW! Geaux Wrestling 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. Stress with your sons to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside Attendance Office.

PAPER WOLF: Read The Paper Wolf! (www.thepaperwolf.com) I do! We've got an outstanding, AWARD WINNING digital newspaper! Compliment the outstanding staff. Subscribe! Support the future of journalism! Geaux Paper Wolves!



PROJECT CHRISTMAS FROM CAMPUS MINISTRY: We recognize that the holiday season comes with much joy for a majority of children and families in St. Tammany Parish, but we would be remiss to recognize that there is also a great number of children and families in St. Tammany Parish who experience much sadness during the holiday season. We also recognize the added financial hardships brought on by COVID-19 this holiday season. In our partnership with St. Tammany Project Christmas, we have once again “adopted” 40 children spread across 17 families. Project Christmas has provided us with a series of wish list items specifically requested by the families. Students and families alike can support our partnership with Project Christmas in two ways: purchasing gifts and/or sending in a monetary donation:

1) Sign up to purchase wish list item(s) using this Sign Up Genius link.

(<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAFA82DA6F94-sttammany>) On that link, you can find a list of many wish list gifts items sent to us by Project Christmas via our adopted families. Beneath each wish list item you can also see the age and gender of the adopted angel for which that gift is designated. Once purchased, gifts can be brought to Andrea Francis in the Administration Building or the Claire Coutrado in the Main School Building by Thursday, December 3rd. All gifts should be unwrapped, and please indicate the student name with the purchased gift either on a piece of masking tape or on exterior of bag.

- Sign Up Genius Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080D4BAFA82DA6F94-sttammany>

2) Parents and students can support us by sending in monetary donations from Sunday, November 15th - Thursday, December 3rd. Approximately 30% of wish list gifts are not listed in the above Sign Up Genius. A monetary donation will allow us to purchase items either not listed or purchased via the Sign Up Genius. Monetary donation also allows us to contribute to a holiday meal for our adopted families. Monetary donations can be sent in two ways

- Use our online giving platform (<https://www.stpauls.com/support/donate-now/>) and designate your gift as Project Christmas/Missions.
- Send a monetary donation via cash or check (made out to SPS) with your son to be collected by his religion teacher.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS, MISSION COLLECTIONS AND OTHER WORTHY CAUSES: We encourage our students to be generous with these causes. However, I again want to reassure parents that we DO NOT want to cause an economic hardship for our families. Please speak with your son about

charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow's Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give a lot – or even give at all. Let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too. Let's face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul's. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I've launched our Annual Fund Drive, and if you can give, that's great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul's. In turn, we pray for financial health for all.

REPORT CARDS AND SEMESTER GRADES: We emailed a first quarter report card on Tuesday, Oct 20. Let me know if you didn't receive it, but check your spam folder first as they often land there. **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. And, yes, we will have Honor Roll breakfasts! Details above! Check out the exam schedule below.**

RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2021 - 22: Yes, it is time to start thinking about next year! Shortly after Christmas, we will begin registering current students for 2021-22. Here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9th graders we can accept.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2020 - 21, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about January admissions.**





RIP: Brother Paul Walsh, FSC died on 11/28 at our retirement home in Napa, CA. He was 95. Brother Paul is no stranger to SPS, having served for years as Assistant Principal in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He was the mastermind behind the Modular Scheduling Movement at SPS. He also served terms as principal and president of De La Salle in NO for many years. In fact, he was my high school principal (there were no presidents back then) at DLS. He also served as the Brother Provincial of the former New Orleans-Santa Fe Province of Christian Brothers. May good Saint Joseph, Patron of a Peaceful Death, lead him into paradise where he will undoubtedly be greeted by Saint La Salle and all our holy Brothers. Eternal rest grant unto Brother Paul, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen! [Pic is from the 1968 *Conifer*; Paul was SPS's AP]

We extend our sympathy, too, to the Jesuits on the passing last week of Father Paul Schott, SJ, who was president of Jesuit High School in the 19702.

SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the one-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledges. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the candidates in last year's election were speeding and the running of stop signs? And SPS students/parents came in for their fair share of blame!
- 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 cars?

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. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Please reinforce this with students whenever possible. And please set a good example yourself!

SOCIAL HOSTING /UNDERAGE DRINKING: With the holiday season upon us, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens 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 website, or you can follow us at

Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana

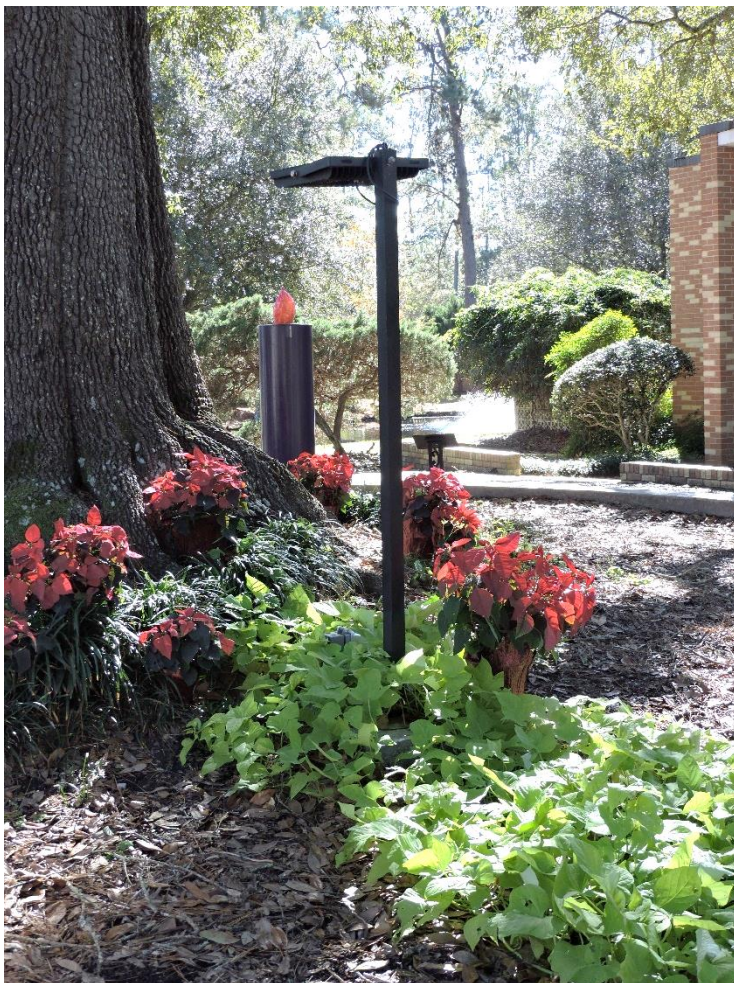
Twitter @SPSWolfpackStudy

STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL: Ben's Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. 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. The space will be supervised by faculty.

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.

TUTORING: Tutoring offered by National Honor Society members is underway and occurs every day at lunch in the library for the remainder of the school year. All students are welcome to utilize this free tutoring service. Essay proofreading services also provided. Encourage your son to use this awesome opportunity to get help from their most capable peers. **It is not embarrassing to do so!**

VAPING: The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, all too often ignore the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. 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.



WAITING'S VALUE: During Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to “wait” is a chief characteristic for success in life as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford U. 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 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 one of Santa's reindeer works for Proctor and Gambel? A: 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.*
- *Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive"? A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"*
- *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.*

A LOOK AHEAD:

December

- 7 – CDEF
- 8 – GABC – Prayer Service
- 9 – DEFG – President's V. Assembly
- 10 – ABCD
- 11 – EFG + Make up period
- 14-17 Exam Schedules (see below)

First Semester Exam Schedule 2020

- () Indicates Exam Review Period

Friday, December 11 – EFG

- **TWO LUNCH 2:50 DISMISSAL (80 Minute Periods)**
- 1st Block 8:00AM—9:35AM (Announcements/CNN + 80 minutes)
- 2nd Block 9:45AM—11:05AM
- 3rd Block 11:15AM—1:05PM
- 1st Lunch 11:05AM—11:35AM
- 2nd Lunch 12:35PM—1:05PM
- Dismissal 1:05
- 4th Block – 1:05 -2:00 - MAKE UP AND REMEDIATION PERIOD

Monday, December 14 – A(BC)

- 8:00-9:00 Teachers available in classrooms for extra help
- 9:00 – Prayer and Announcements
- 9:10-9:40 Period A Exam Review
- 9:40-9:50 Break
- 9:50-11:20 Period A Exam
- 11:30 -12:00 - Period B Review - First Lunch (Benilde/LaSalle)
- 12:00-12:30 – Period B Review – Second Lunch (School Building/Gyms/Theater)
- 12:40-1:10 – Period C Review
- 1:10 Dismissal

Tuesday, December 15 – BC(DE)

- 8:00-8:15 Prayer and Announcements
- 8:15-9:45 Period B Exam
- 10:00-11:30 Period C Exam
- 11:30- 12:00 – First Lunch (Benilde/LaSalle)
- 11:30-12:00 – Period D Exam Review
- 12:00-12:30 – Second Lunch (School Building/Gyms/Theater)
- 12:00-12:30 – Period D Exam Review
- 12:35 – 1:05 – Period E Exam Review
- 1:10 – Dismissal

Wednesday, December 16 – DE(FG)

- 8:00-8:15 Prayer and Announcements
- 8:15-9:45 Period D Exam
- 10:00-11:30 Period E Exam
- 11:30- 12:00 – First Lunch (Benilde/LaSalle)
- 11:30-12:00 – Period F Exam Review
- 12:00-12:30 – Second Lunch (School Building/Gyms/Theater)
- 12:00-12:30 – Period F Exam Review
- 12:35 – 1:05 – Period G Exam Review
- 1:10 – Dismissal

Thursday, December 17 – FG

- 8:00-8:15 Prayer and Announcements
- 8:15-9:45 Period F Exam
- 10:00-11:30 Period G Exam

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 weeks! The next newsletter will appear on Sunday, Jan 03.**

As usual, I'll close with my usual 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 2020 [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 which 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

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

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



...by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing the Mission, living courageously, AND RESPECTING ALL PEOPLE! Let's give it our best this week and begin the holidays with no problems – as befits a Blue-Ribbon Lasallian Catholic School of Excellence!

“Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”
~ St. John Baptist de La Salle (Meditation 99.2)

Two of my favorite luminaria pics:




Above Photo by Brother Javier Hansen, FSC

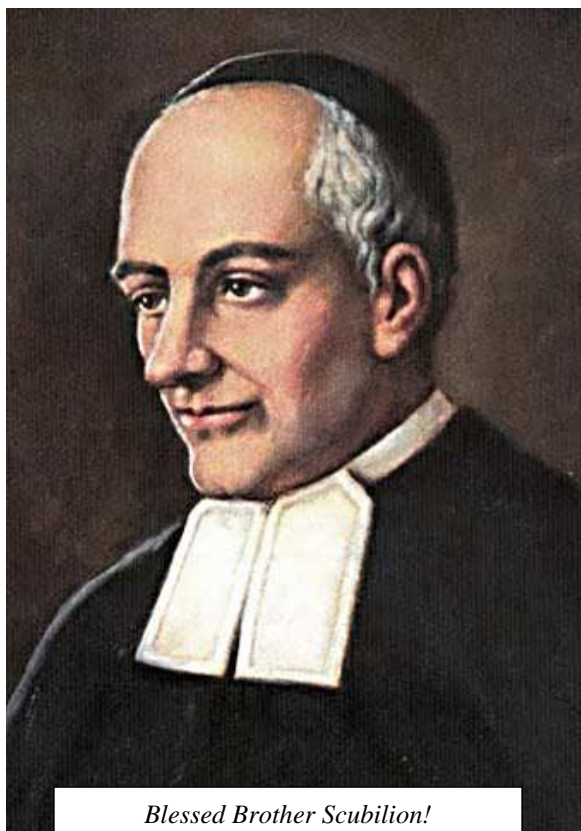


Above Photo by Michael Silvestri '21

Maranatha! Come, Lord!

 <p style="text-align: center;"> <i>Quality Education!</i> 2020-2021 ACT 36 SUBJECT SCORES </p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">  LASALLIAN EDUCATION <i>Transforming Lives Since 1680</i> </div>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">CONGRATULATIONS!</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"> William Allen - 36 Reading Maxwell Anderson - 36 Reading Wesley Coles - 36 Reading William Ditta - 36 Reading Preston Orgeron - 36 English Alexi Sotiropoulos - 36 Reading </p>
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Perfect ACT subject scores from the SEPTEMBER test! October test results coming soon!



*Blessed Brother Scubilion!
 Help us respect all people!*

Blessed Brother Scubilion Rousseau, FSC was a French Brother who spent 34 years of his religious life ministering to the enslaved people on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Pope Saint John Paul II beatified him in 1989. From the Christian Brothers Website (www.lasalle.org): *As a devout young man in his native village in Burgundy, Jean Bernard Rousseau was serving as a catechist when he was introduced to the Brothers, who had just opened a school nearby. He entered the Paris novitiate in 1822.*

After ten years in elementary schools throughout France, Brother Scubilion left France in 1833 to dedicate the remaining thirty-four years of his life to the enslaved natives on the island of Reunion in the Indian Ocean. Remembered as the “catechist of the slaves,” he inaugurated evening classes for them, which were well attended, even after a long day of exhausting labor. He devised special programs and techniques, suited to their needs and abilities, in order to teach the essentials of Christian doctrine and morality, and prepare them to receive the sacraments. He won them over by his kindly manner and his respect for them. After the emancipation of the slaves in 1848, he continued to care for them and to help them adapt to their new life of freedom and responsibility. In the last years of

his life, despite failing health, he assisted the local pastor in visiting the sick, winning over sinners, encouraging vocations, and even effecting what seemed to be miraculous cures. At his death he was venerated on the island as a saint.

Stop the spread of germs that can make you and others sick!



Wash your
hands often



Wear a cloth
face cover



Cover your coughs
and sneezes



Keep **6 feet** of space
between you and
your friends



RISE UP, O MEN OF GOD

..... THE CLASS OF 2021

National Merit Semi-Finalists



Jake Holincheck



Davis Lagarde



Lucca Ferrante



Ben Broussard



Trey Paine



Gabe Gros



Hunter Kergosien



Brady Talley



Axel Henderson



NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS: Last week, NINE SPS seniors were named National Merit Semi-Finalists – more than double any school in St. Tammany Parish. Wow. This is QUITE an accomplishment! I take great pride in recognizing the following NM Semis: **Ben Broussard, Lucca Ferrante, Gabe Gros, Axel Henderson, Jake Holincheck, Hunter Kergosian, Davis Lagarde, Trey Paine, and Brady Talley.**

..... THE CLASS OF 2021

National Merit Commended Scholars



Vageli Liokis



Aiden Plauché



Scott Woodard



Cole Piazza

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED STUDENTS: Last week, FOUR SPS seniors were named National Merit COMMENDED STUDEENTS. Wow. This is QUITE an accomplishment! I take great pride in recognizing the following NMCSs: **Vageli Liokis, Cole Piazza, Aiden Plauche, and Scott Woodard.**

