



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue-Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 04 - 10, 2021



Welcome back and Happy 2021 – which has to be better than its predecessor! I hope your holidays were physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered 2021 with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal. As in the past, I begin by offering you words from our Founder, Saint John Baptist de La Salle:

Saint John Baptist de La Salle closes his meditation to the Brothers for Jan 1 by bluntly asking:

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

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

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

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



At our opening of school prayer service last August, Student Council President Davis Lagarde challenged the faculty to make the most of the 2020 - 21 year – in spite of COVID. He exhorted us to do our best to touch the hearts of the students entrusted to our care. He challenged us to remember how much of an impact we make. He encouraged us to encourage students to make the most of their year by getting involved and giving their best to all their endeavors – in spite of COVID. I asked the teachers in their newsletter this week if they have been faithful in doing so and, if not, to renew their resolve to adopt the tried-and-true methods of the Lasallian educator.

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

I wish you a blessed, safe, healthy, and happy 2021 and a successful second semester – the final one for the Class of 2021!

Mon, Jan 4 (Classes resume from Christmas holidays; second semester begins; A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1965, in his State of the Union address, President Lydon Baines Johnson lays out for Congress a laundry list of legislation needed to achieve his plan for a Great Society.
- **TDIH:** In 1974, President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over tape recordings and documents that had been subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee, marking the beginning of the end of his Presidency. He would resign eight months later.
- **Spaghetti Day:** Eat spaghetti today! Don't forget meatballs and parmesan cheese! Spaghetti is one of over 600 shapes of pasta. Pasta dates back to ancient times. Arab cultures sold dried spaghetti-like noodles in the early 1200's. The Chinese cooked pasta noodles as far back as 5,000 B.C. Spaghetti was introduced into the United States through the travels of Thomas Jefferson, who brought it back from Naples, Italy in 1789. Italian immigrants also brought it over with them to the U.S., where its popularity quickly spread. Spaghetti in Italian means thin string or twine. Enjoy today!
- **Trivia Day:** Spout some useless piece of trivia to everyone you meet today!

Tue, Jan 5 (President's Assembly; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1933, construction begins on Golden Gate Bridge, as workers began excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for structure's huge pilings. The Golden Gate Bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest bridge span in the world at the time. The first public crossing took place the day before, when 200,000 people walked, ran and roller skated over the bridge.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, Japanese pilots received the first order to become kamikaze, meaning "divine wind". The suicidal blitz revealed Japan's desperation. Most of Japan's top pilots were dead, but younger ones needed little training to take planes full of explosives and crash them into ships. At Okinawa, they sank 30 ships and killed almost 5,000 Americans.
- **Bird Day:** Enjoy our feathered friends today!
- **Basketball:** 8 v. Ponchy; JV & Varsity v. Slidell
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Denham Springs



A foggy Dec morning at Ben's fountain.

Wed, Jan 6 (B C D E)

- **Twelfth Night!** The Twelve Days of Christmas are over! No more turtle doves, French hens, milking maids, leaping lords or swimming swans. Keep the golden rings, however. Enjoy the quiet from that angry partridge in the pear tree and those darn drummers drumming! Trivia Question: do you know the traditional names of the three kings? Answer at end of newsletter.

- **TDIH:** In 1838, Samuel Morse successfully test the first electric telegraph.
- **Bean Day:** Celebrate the lowly legume! Enjoy a tasty bean dish! The USDA suggests adults should eat more than 3 cups of beans weekly for health, reduced risk of heart disease, and certain cancers -- but avoid crowded spaces.
- **Senior Retreat** would ordinarily begin today. With COVID aging, it is not possible. We have booked the retreat center for later in the semester, hoping that things will improve enough to still have this meaningful senior activity. We are also planning contingency events just in case.
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th v. Rummel

Thu, Jan 7 (F G A B)

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

Fri, Jan 8 (Regular; C D E F)

- **Feast of the Patroness of Southeast Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.** This devotion originated with a French Ursuline nun, who brought to New Orleans a statue she had commissioned under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. (Succor means “help.”) This statue now stands above the main altar in the Ursuline Chapel on State Street. OLPS played a prominent role in Battle of New Orleans and the great New Orleans fire. Today, we pray to her for help in the New Battle of New Orleans against violence, murder and racism. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!
- **TDIH:** In 1815, two weeks after the War of 1812 officially ended, U.S. General Andrew Jackson achieves the greatest American victory of the war at the Battle of New Orleans. Today we remember the 206st anniversary of this historic event.
- **TDIH:** In 1935, Elvis Presley is born in Tupelo, MS. Listen to Elvis today!
- **JoyGerm Day:** Spread joy via acts of kindness such as a hug, kiss, love letter, compliment, or any unexpected act of compassion today.
- **Argyle Day:** Wear your argyle (diamond shaped blocks against a colored background) today!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Slidell
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Slidell



Sat, Jan 9

- **TDIH:** In 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first balloon aerial voyage in the New World at the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia at dawn. He sold tickets to the event and the excitement he generated was so great that almost the entire population of Philly turned out, in addition to a large number of visitors from the surrounding countryside.



A Wolf prepares to give The Give of Life!

- **TDIH II:** 1493, Christopher Columbus sails near Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids"—really manatees--and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted" – a great example of understatement.
- **Static Electricity Day:** Find a Van de Graaff generator to touch and celebrate the wonders of the old balloon-sticking-to-the-wall trick, the hair-raising that takes place after we take off winter hats, and the shock of electricity that we get from petting a cat after scooting across a carpeted floor in socks.
- **Commitment Day:** Applicants for next year will be on campus for testing. Every Catholic high school in the Archdiocese will participate. We use the test strictly for placement; some schools use it for admission decision. Where a student tests becomes the school of first choice and other schools may not recruit them until admission decisions are issued in late February. Hence, this is called Commitment Day. Pray for a good showing. And, yes, we are modifying our testing to insure COVID mitigation measures are in effect, including mask wearing and social distancing.
- **Soccer:** SPS 8th grade tournament
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th v. Brother Martin (10 & 11)

Sun, Jan 10

- **Feast of the Baptism of the Lord:** According to the Catholic Church calendar, today ends the Christmas season. In early centuries, Christ's birth didn't have its own feast. It was originally part of a great feast on Jan 6 called "Epiphany" (celebrated this year on Jan 4) that celebrated "manifestations" of Christ – his birth, recognition by the Magi, baptism in the Jordan and miracle at Cana. In the fourth century, Christians in the western world pulled Christmas out of Epiphany and gave it a feast of its own on Dec 25. The time between this new feast on December 25 and the feast of the Epiphany on January 6 became the Christmas season – the 12 days of Christmas. But eventually an "octave" was added to feast of the Epiphany – which extended the celebration. The Baptism of the Lord was eventually placed at the end of the octave and now it is the feast that brings the Christmas season to a **close**.
- **TDIH:** 1982, SF 49ers wide receiver Dwight Clark makes leaping catch in end zone on a pass from QB Joe Montana with 51 seconds left in the NFC, sending the '9ers to Super Bowl & beginning a dynasty of the 1980s. To see "the catch", click here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dCEaA1PytY>
- **Houseplant Appreciation Day:** With Christmas decorations gone, attend to your houseplants.
- **Cut Your Energy Costs Day:** Do all you can to conserve energy today – and every day

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: I am VERY pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to you for spreading the good news about SPS to your friends and neighbors. The next step in the process is Commitment Testing this Sat, Jan 09. Please stress with people that this is a placement test, not an admissions test. We base admissions on the total elementary school record. **Since we give priority in admissions to those who attend testing, encourage anyone still considering SPS to apply and attend testing on Sat. This is not a final step anyone's part – it just keeps the door open.**

ALUMNI NEWS: I noticed the following alums graduated from LSU in Dec. Congrats to them:

- Business: Justin Guillory, Blake Locicero, Chris Lowder, Nash Odenwald, Jared Simoneaux (cum laude), Michael Stanton
- Engineering: Evan Hood and Joseph Monahan
- Human Sciences & Education: Ryan Fair, Grant Gallaspy, Tyler Reynolds, Al Satches (cum laude)
- Humanities & Social Sciences: Sean Whitehead
- Communications: Christopher Barnett

ANNUAL APPEAL: Many thanks to those who have responded. For clarity, I offer the following:


- Almost **all private schools conduct annual funds**; many are high pressured; ours is not – but I need your support to keep it from being high pressured.
- The Annual Fund funds tactical, short term projects, e.g., technology, special programs, etc. The Capital Campaign funds large infrastructure projects (the \$4 million La Salle Hall renovation, the \$4.5 million new gym, the \$4 million Benilde Hall renovation and now the \$2.5 million band building.)
- You may “pledge” your gift and pay later or in installments (monthly, etc.). More and more families are using automatic credit card monthly payments of \$10 or \$20 dollars. **WONDERFUL!**
- Gifts of stock are welcome.
- **No gift is too small. I repeat: no gift is too small!** What's important is that everyone participates. Of course, no gift is too large!
- If you are contributing to the Capital Campaign or financially supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

ANNUAL APPEAL 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 DAY ON JAN 9: In all 22 high schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, applicants for next year take the placement test this coming Saturday, January 9, beginning at 8 am. I pray for a successful day. By policy of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, priority in being admitted will be given to those who attend this day. **If you know of any new student considering attending SPS for 8th or 9th grade next year, strongly encourage them to attend testing. This is not a commitment on anyone's part, but merely keeps the option open. Thanks for spreading the good word about SPS.**

ASSEMBLY ON DEC 09: I hope students enjoyed our Dec 09 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Began by listening to “For Unto Us A Child Is Given” from *Messiah* (never “*The*” *Messiah*), by George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) -- *one* of the most beloved Oratorios (a musical selection with for orchestras, choirs & solos often based on religious themes so they could be performed in churches.) It's one of the most famous musical compositions in the world, based on the Judeo - Christian concept of Messiah (anointed one). It was composed in just 24 days in summer of 1741 (incredible!) and first performed in April of 1742. It's one of my most favorite pieces of music. While the music was playing, **junior Zach Gros** lit two Advent candles. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining days of Advent. And since Hanukah was to be celebrated in only a few days later, I had freshman **Sam Gold** tell the Hanukah story, recite the Hanukkah blessing, and explain the menorah candles. I was very pleased with the students' attention and hope they now know the Hanukah story.
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- A portrait of George Frideric Handel, a Baroque composer. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark coat over a white cravat and a patterned waistcoat. He has long, curly, light-colored hair. He is holding a sheet of music in his left hand.
- George Frideric Handel
- We then prayed and remembered the following who entered God's Kingdom since our last assembly: ***Mrs. Marie Silvestri, grandmother of Michael '21*** and ***Mr. John Francis LeTard, grandfather of English teacher Mr. Robert Heap***
 - Began by encouraging the boys to continue keeping the campus clean of litter. They are doing better but we still have lots of room for improvement. And I had to inform the boys about some neighbor complaints and asked them to please be respectful of our residential neighborhood.
 - Then, as if by magic, the “Ride of the Valkyries” from Richard Wagner's opera **Die Walkure** started playing, which meant it was time to recognize our wrestling program – which is having an outstanding year with dual meet wins over Mandeville, Covington, Jesuit, Fontainebleau, Rummel, Shaw, and Catholic High.
 - Recognized and congratulated the Student Council and all who helped with a successful Luminaria Night. The evening was magical, even if we couldn't carol, pray in the chapel, and listen to the band play.

- Apologized to senior Max Anderson for recognizing him at the last assembly as Altar Server of the Year from MQP parish – when he was really Altar Server of the Year from Our Lady of the Lake Parish! But the MQP Server of the Year was also an SPS student: Darrin Lea, Class of 2020!
- Recognized and congratulated the members of the ACT 30+ Club – and told him that the school was giving a Chick-fil-A breakfast in their honor that week. Congrats to **Aiden Barrios, Brady Bollinger, William Ditta, Walker Dubreuil, Gage Graham, Andrew Hightower, Zachary Nichols, Michael Olsen, Preston Orgeron, Kason Shaw, Jacob Tomba, Zach van Zandt, Marco Vargas, Daniel Whalen, Jake Aertker, Christian Allison, Max Anderson, Max Barberito, Rhett Barker, Luke Beckendorf, Thomas Bitterwolf, Beau Booth, Ben Broussard, Aidan Brown, Patrick Brown, Cooper Cantrelle, Adam Cazayoux, Wesley Coles, Matthew Collings, Owen Crombie, Nick Cusimano, Ryan Daly, Charles Ducombs, Cullen Duval, Lucca Ferrante, Jacob Frolich, Donald Garvey, Patrick Gernon, Evan Green, Gabe Gros, Tyler Guice, Grant Harrison, Axel Henderson, Jake Holincheck, Hunter Kergosien, Davis Lagarde, Magnus Laue, Garret Lauterbach, Vageli Liokis** , Sam Muntan, Caleb Nicotri, Trey Paine, Cole Piazza, Jacob Pichon, Aiden Plauche, Nicholas Reardon, Joel Rodriguez, Charles Sandoz, Mitchell Schruuff, Michael Silvestri, Connor Simon, Spencer Slaton, Michael Slimming, Mitchell Smith, Alexi Sotiropoulos, Brady Talley, Ben Torres, Preston Willis, and Scott Woodard
- As time was running short at this point, I reminded the students of my custom of giving them a musical treat by playing one of my favorite pieces of classical Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel’s *Messiah* (not “The” Messiah!) and for three minutes and 45 seconds, we had a virtual 18th century English concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.
- Then, I reminded the students to pray “Maranatha” – one of the oldest prayers in the Church, which means “Come, Lord” in Aramaic – the language Jesus probably spoke. Junior **Brian Lea** extinguished the Advent candles, and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world.

It was a magical assembly! At least I thought so!

ATTENDANCE: Make the following part of your New Year Resolutions: If your son is absent, phone Suzy in the Attendance Office before 9 am at 892-3200, ext. 1980, & **SEND A NOTE when he returns**

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.

BEN BLANCHARD ANNIVERSARY: Last week we observed the five-year anniversary of the passing of SPS alum Ben Blanchard, Class of 2000. If you were here, you remember the Briggs Center was filled with 1000 people who came in support of Ben's Family. It was an emotionally moving experience. As we continue to support the Blanchard Family in their loss, it's appropriate to re-print some of Ben's **Final Words to his Family:** *At the end of the day, all you have is your family, your friends and your reputation, which is easy to lose and hard to build.* We are honored that in memory of Ben, the Blanchard Family purchased the naming right to the new Benilde Hall library/media center – aka Ben's Den.

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!**

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. Note: “extras” such as juice, ice cream, etc. are NOT free and students will be charged. The free lunch includes milk.
- 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!

CAFETERIA FREE BREAKFAST/LUNCH CLARIFICATION: ONLY the basic lunch / breakfast is free. If students purchase “extras” such as juice, water, or desserts, they will be charged for these. Make sure your son understands this policy.

CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER 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, Jan 4 Classes resume & Second Semester begins
- Mon, Jan 18 Martin Luther King Holiday
- Mon, Feb 1 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
- 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
- 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
- We are still determining final exam dates for 8th grade. Sorry for the delay. We will publish soon.
- 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.

CAR BURGLARIES: Mayor Mark Johnson and Covington Police Chief Culotta recently sent an email informing us that car burglaries are rising. Lock your car and do not leave valuables visible.



Johnny helps with Project Christmas

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 IN ST. TAMMANY: From the Jan 1, *Advocate*: The parish's numbers recently have surged anew: More than 1,120 positive cases in the past seven days and a positive test rate of 13.8%, significantly higher than the state average of 10.7%, Louisiana Department of Health data shows. We must, therefore, continue our **COVID protocols, especially mask wearing, are still in effect.** These are 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 Aug 6, along with the other five Catholic schools here in our area.

COVID UPDATE: From the Dept of Catholic Education & Faith Formation last week: Governor Edwards announced on TUE, DEC 22, that Louisiana will continue in a modified Phase 2 for an additional three weeks. **Based on the Governor's message, he**

continues to acknowledge that schools are 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. Schools will be allowed to operate under Phase 3 guidance at this time with the exception of sporting event limitations.

COVID UPDATE II: Tangipahoa, Washington and St. Tammany Parishes have very high positivity rates of COVID. “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.

DRIVING: I call the following to your attention:

- **Driver’s License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner’s permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don’t blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** Parents –let’s start 2021 with a resolution for safe driving! Set an example for the students! Students – the neighbors are watching (and filming!) and we will take action! This applies at all times: after school, after practice, on weekends, at games, etc. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, no cell phone use during school zone hours, buckle up, etc. Thank you!
- **School Zone Cell Phone Ban:** It is illegal to use a cell phone in a school zone while driving. I see some students and parents driving in the morning and using a cell phone. This sets a bad example – and is illegal. Please do not drive on campus during school zone hours while using a cell phone.

FORTNITE ADDICTION: Several reputable journals ran stories recently on a growing phenomenon: addiction to Fortnite. Here’s an article from The Denver Post:

<https://www.denverpost.com/2018/12/02/fornite-addiction-video-game-rehab/> Some parents have even sent their kids to Fortnite rehab! I definitely am concerned for some of our students!

GOOD NEWS DEPT: Over the holidays, we received our quarterly AmazonSmile donation: \$516.37. Thanks to all who IDed SPS to receive a percentage of their AS purchases.

GRADES, EXAMS, REPORT CARDS, HONOR ROLL BREAKFASTS, ETC.

- **Report Cards** were emailed on Jan 1, although grades were accessible on Plus Portals for a while. **Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb, so email any concerns to teachers.**
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on

BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) **What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience .**

- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Here's the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - Jan 27 – 8th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 28 – 9th HR Breakfast
 - Jan 29 --10th HR Breakfast
 - Feb 01 – 11th HR Breakfast
 - Feb 02 – 12th HR Breakfast
- COVID mitigation protocols will be in place – as they were for 1st quarter. ONE GUEST ONLY. All breakfasts last from 7:50-8:30. Note: HR is based on **second QUARTER, not semester, grades.**

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.

JANUARY: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the Latin month of Januarius, from which we get the word *January*, was associated by the ancient Romans with their god Janus. *Janus* was a god of doorways and gates (in Latin, *janua*), and also of beginnings, so the name seems appropriate for the first month of the year. Curiously, the early Roman calendar began with March, not January, so the origin of the Latin name is somewhat mysterious.

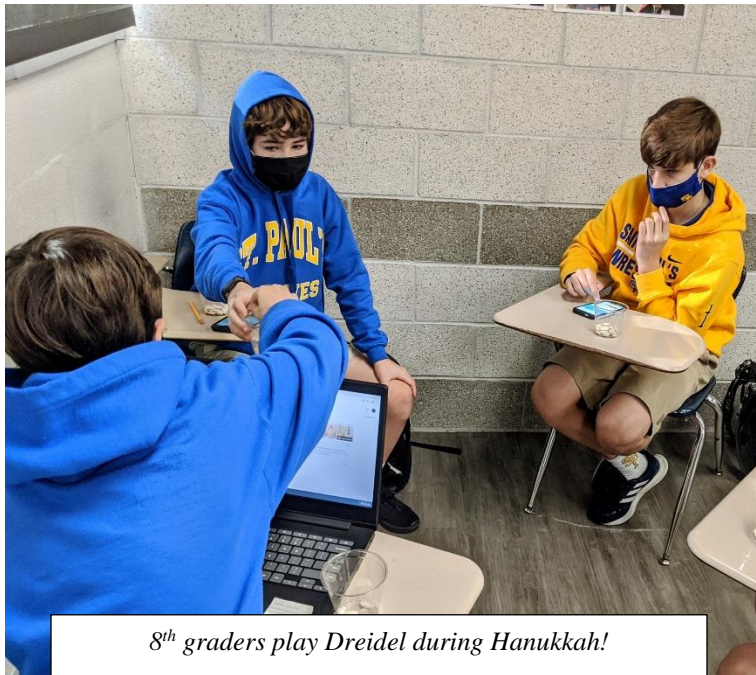
Here are some causes celebrated in January:

Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, Clean Up Your Computer Month, Glaucoma Awareness Month, Hot Tea Month, Mentoring Month, Polka Music Month, Poverty in America Awareness Month, Soup Month, Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month.



LAST TWO WEEKS:

- **ACT on Dec 12:** A COVID-compliant administration to over 150 test takers.
- **ACT 30+ Breakfast:** A well-deserved recognition of our great test takers on Dec 10!
- **Advent Wreath /Prayers:** Campus Ministry's unorthodox but powerful Advent wreath certainly drew attention to this meaningful season – and drew positive comments! And the exam week prayer services were moving and effective. Thanks to all who helped produce them.
- **Alumni:** Al Nastasi and the alums were busy in December with the postponed Golf Tournament and the Class of 2020 yearbook distribution day, but the Alumni Basketball Game, Trivia Night, Feeding the Needy, and Christmas on Columbia gathering with SSA were all COVID casualties.



8th graders play Dreidel during Hanukkah!

- **Athletics:** Thanks to our coaches who kept our student athletes focused by having practices during the holidays. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.

- **Baptism:** While we occasionally have a baptism in Our Lady of Peace Chapel (most recently Maggie Dale and Joseph Ramon), we were privileged to have the baptism of one of our students there on Dec 10. Freshman Dylan Underwood was baptized into the Catholic Church in the presence of family and friends, mostly from his religion class. His godparent was his religion teacher, Mrs. Catherine Tonry.

Thanks to her and Father Doug from OLL, who performed the rites. We welcome Dylan into the Communion of Saints in the Roman Catholic Church! God bless you, Dylan!

- **Blood Drive:** 21 pints of blood were donated on Dec 8 by faculty, staff and students who gave the gift of life as a Christmas gift.
- **Bookstore:** The MC did brisk business with their extended hours before Christmas. Thanks, MC!
- **Christmas Eve Mass:** A COVID casualty! Ordinarily, Brother Ken organizes the 10 pm Christmas Eve liturgy, celebrated by Father Matthew, in the school chapel. A large crowd, composed largely of alums and current families, usually attend – but not this year.
- **Christmas Faculty/Staff Lunches:** Thanks to Rick Gonzalez of Chick-fil-A for 12/11 lunch and to the Mothers' Club who organized a staff Christmas lunch on 12/17, observing all COVID protocols.
- **Exam week** went well. We had a few "issues" but most understood semester grading policy.
- **Project Christmas:** Thanks to all. We made an impact. We also donated \$500 to Sister Theresa and her "Blue Shack" work in Covington's West 30's area and \$500 to the Rotary Club program.
- **Rotary Club Feed the Needy** shifted gears and held the event off campus. It just was not possible to stage this massive event on our campus under mandated COVID protocols.
- **Soccer:** Lots of wins over the holidays!
- **Wolf Tracks:** The holidays didn't stop Danielle Lavie from publishing a Dec issue! Excellent issue!
- **Wrestling Wolves:** WWs were busy over the holidays with practices and matches.

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.

MONEY: Parents, please stress with you son that they should NOT bring large sums of money to school. There is absolutely no need for students to have large cash amounts – which they invariable talk about which tempts others.

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!



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 weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2021 - 22, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for 2021-22, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about transfer admissions.**



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 streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of automobiles, 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

SOCIAL MEDIA II:

- **Parents: please stress with your sons the consequences of inappropriate social media posting. Cyber-bullying is against the law and has legal implications. And the school will take strong measures against any inappropriate posting.**
- **Students: THINK before you post!**

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.

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!**

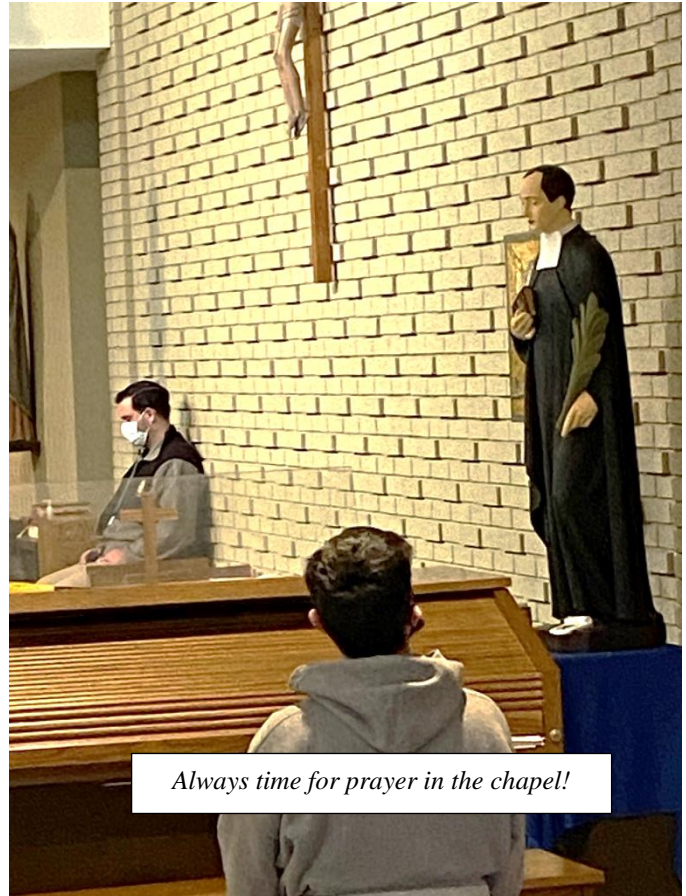
UNIFORM SHIRTS: We have a large number of pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition if your son has outgrown his and purchasing new ones is difficult for you. Just come to the Admin Bldg. Nothing will be done to embarrass your son. We also have khaki pants available – all for the taking.

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.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Some jokes in honor of Bird Day on Tue:

- *What do you give a sick bird? Tweetment!*
- *What is black & white, black & white, black& white and...? A penguin falling down stairs!*
- *Why do teachers carry birdseed? For parrot-teacher conferences!*
- *What is a polygon? A missing parrot!*
- *What kind of bird works at a construction site? A crane!*
- *Why do flamingos lift one leg? If it lifted both, it would fall!*
- *Why do birds fly south in the winter? It's too far to walk!*
- *What did the sick chicken say? Oh no! I have the people-pox!*
- *What do you call a funny chicken? A comedi-hen*
- *Why do humming birds hum? They can't remember the words!*
- *What bird is always depressed? The blue jay*
- *Why do seagulls live by the sea? Because if they lived by the bay, they would be bagels!*
- *When should you buy a bird? When it's going cheep.*
- *What is green and pecks on trees? Woody the Wood Pickle*
- *A rooster sat on a top of a barn. If it laid an egg, which way would it roll? Roosters don't lay eggs!*
- *What do you call a crate of ducks? A box of quackers.*
- *Why didn't the rooster cross the road? Because it was chicken.*
- *What robs you while you're in the bathtub? A robber ducky.*
- *How did the egg cross the road? It scrambled across!*
- *Why did Mozart sell his chickens? Because they kept saying "bach bach"! [LOL!]*

A LOOK AHEAD AND SECOND SEMESTER PERIOD ROTATION: Here is the period rotation for most of second semester to use when making unavoidable doctor appointments, etc. so your son will know what classes he is missing. This is subject to change if unavoidable conflicts (weather, etc.) occur:



January

- 4 – ABCD
- 5 – EFGA – President's Assembly
- 6 – BCDE
- 7 – FGAB
- 8 – CDEF
- 11 – GABC
- 12 – DEFG – Pack Time
- 13 – ABCD
- 14 – EFGA
- 15 – BCDE
- 18 – MLK Day
- 19 – FGAB – President's Assembly
- 20 – CDEF
- 21 – GABC
- 22 – DEFG – 9:00 AM Late Start
- 25 – ABCD – Mass – Feast of St. Paul
- 26 – EFGA - PSAT
- 27 – BCDE -8th HR Breakfast
- 28 – FGAB -9th HR Breakfast
- 29 – CDEF -10th HR Breakfast – 8th on retreat

February

- 1 – GABC -11th HR Breakfast
- 2 – DEFG – Pack Time -12th HR Breakfast
- 3 – ABCD – PreACT 10th
- 4 – EFGA – PreACT 9th
- 5 – BCDE – PreACT 8th
- 8 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF – President's Assembly
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG
- 12 – Faculty Retreat
- 22 – ABCD
- 23 – EFGA – Pack Time
- 24 – BCDE
- 25 – FGAB
- 26 – CDEF

March

- 1 – GABC
- 2 – DEFG – President's Assembly

- 3 – ABCD
- 4 – EFGA
- 5 – BCDE
- 8 – FGAB
- 9 – CDEF – Pack Time
- 10 – GABC
- 11 – DEFG – ACT – 11th
- 12 – ABCD –End of Q1
- 15 – EFGA – 9:00AM Late Start
- 16 – BCDE
- 17 – FGAB
- 18 – CDEF
- 19 – GABC - Mass
- 22 – DEFG
- 23 – ABCD
- 24 – EFGA
- 25 – BCDE - Junior Retreat
- 26 – FGAB – Junior Retreat
- 29 – CDEF
- 30 – GABC – Senior Retreat
- 31 – DEFG – Senior Retreat

April

- 1 – ABCD – Senior Retreat
- 2 – Good Friday

Whew! I've worn you out in this first week of 2021, but you had the last two weeks off! Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of the 2020-21 edition of Saint Paul's! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Blessed Beyond Measure to See 2021 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

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

And as Christmas 2020 fades into history, let us not forget the inspiration by the Student Council on luminaria night: *HOPE*

Answer to Jan 06 Trivia Q: The three kings are traditionally named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. But you knew that.

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



Photo above by Brother Javier Hansen, FSC

Photo Below by Michael Silvestri '21





Quality Education!

2020-2021

ACT 36

SUBJECT SCORES



LASALLIAN
EDUCATION

Transforming Lives Since 1680

CONGRATULATIONS!

- William Allen - 36 Reading
- Maxwell Anderson - 36 Reading
- Wesley Coles - 36 Reading
- William Ditta - 36 Reading
- Preston Orgeron - 36 English
- Alexi Sotiropoulos - 36 Reading

Perfect ACT subject scores from the SEPTEMBER test! October test results coming soon!



Quality Education!

2020-2021

ACT 36

SUBJECT SCORES



LASALLIAN
EDUCATION

Transforming Lives Since 1680

CONGRATULATIONS!

- Luke Beckendorf - 36 English
- Beau Booth - 36 Reading
- Cooper Cantrelle - 36 Math
- Wesley Coles - 36 Math
- Vageli Liokis - 36 Reading
- Aiden Plauché - 36 Science

*October 6 Test Date

Perfect ACT subject scores from the OCTOBER test! December 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



..... THE CLASS OF 2021

National Merit Semi-Finalists



Jake Holincheck



Davis Lagarde



Lucca Ferrante



Ben Broussard



Trey Paine



Gabe Gros



Axel Henderson



Hunter Kergosien



Brady Talley

NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS: 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: 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.**

