

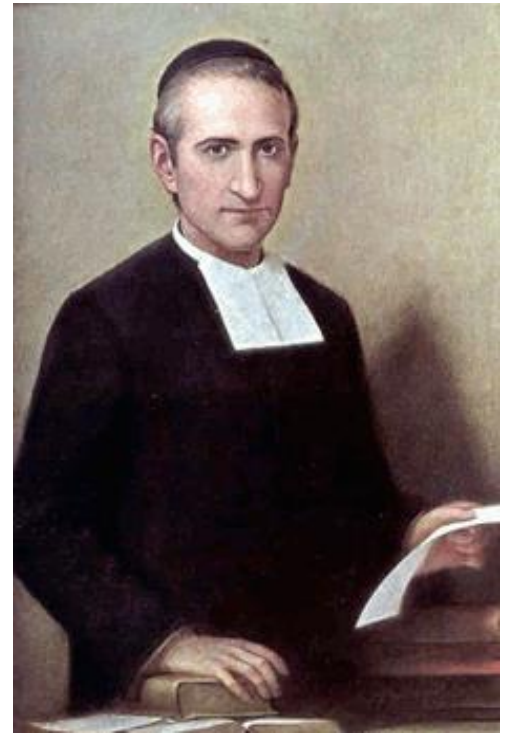


The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
February 08 – 21, 2021



Welcome to sixth week of third quarter! Wow! Time flies when you are having fun!

On Tuesday, Feb 9, Lasallians observe the feast of **Saint Brother Miguel Febres Cordero** (1854-1910.) Born into a prominent Ecuadorian family, and **crippled from birth**, Miguel became the **first native Ecuadorian Christian Brother**. He had such a reputation as scholar, teacher, & saint that **Pope John Paul II canonized him in 1984**. **Teaching remained Brother Miguel's priority, and his students admired his simplicity, concern for them, directness, and piety.** Miguel excelled as a teacher and looked “for every possible way to make the **lessons and work agreeable and pleasant** for students.” After Brother Miguel had taught the same material for twenty years, a confrere asked him why he **spent so much time with lesson plans**. Brother replied: ***I can find a better way of presenting it every year. If I teach this material for another 20 years, I will find newer and better ways of explaining it.*** His lessons were prepared, organized, clear and relevant -- even if he used student “lingo” to do it. **Miguel insisted on student mastery of material. How can we make this feast meaningful for us? Here are reflection questions I posed to our faculty. I humbly submit they apply to parenting, too, so I've adjusted the language of the questions:**



- Do I teach my children in ways that are clear, agreeable, and pleasant?
- From year to year, do I look for ways to parent in a better way?
- How do I improve my parenting? Through education? Professional organizations? Collaboration with teachers and other parents? Praying?
- Can I say along with Brother Miguel, ***"I must engage in all the works that I undertake with a spirit of love, of gratitude for the divine goodness which employs me for His glory and the salvation of souls"***?

Brother Miguel is an Ecuadorian hero with stamps issued and public monuments in his honor. Even though we may never merit a stamp or monument, **our dedication, preparation, patience, and masterful lessons will make us heroes in the lives of our students and children.** Saint Brother Miguel! Pray for us!

Note: Saint Miguel is the Patron of San Miguel High School, the Lasallian School in Tucson.

We wish our Lasallian colleagues a most holy and happy feast day.

Mon, Feb 8 (9 am start; F G A B; Sudden Impact for Mr. Ramon's F Period)

- **This Day in History:** In 1943, Japanese troops evacuate Guadalcanal, leaving the island in Allied possession after a long campaign. The victory paved the way for other Allied wins in the Solomon.
- **Boy Scout Day:** Today celebrates the birthday of Scouting in US. On Feb 8, 1910, Chicago publisher William Dickson Boyce filed incorporation papers in the District of Columbia to create BSA. SPS is proud to have so many students still actively involved in scouting and reaching Eagle
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th at St. Charles
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Ponchatoula at Tangi Lanes



Junior Honor Roll Breakfast

Tue, Feb 9 (C D E F; Feast of St. Brother Miguel Febres Cordero)

- **TDIH:** In 1825, the U.S. House of Representatives votes to elect John Quincy Adams, who won fewer votes than Andrew Jackson in popular **vote**.
- **TDIH:** in 1964, **The Beatles appeared on the Ed Sullivan show for first time**, as teenage girls screamed hysterically in the audience and 73 million people watched from home — a record for American TV at the time.
- **TDIH:** in 1870 that the **U.S. National Weather Service was established**. Originally called the Weather Bureau, it was part of the War Department. It became a civilian agency 20 years later, under the Department of Agriculture, and then the Commerce Department in 1940. Today, the National Weather Service is based out of Silver Spring, Maryland. It plays a very big role in making sure that American air travel is safe, providing up-to-minute weather updates to air traffic controller centers across the nation.
- **National Pizza Day**
- **Basketball:** Varsity v. Northshore (6)

Wed, Feb 10 (G A B C)

- **Today is the feast of St. Scholastica** (480-547), who was the twin sister of St. Benedict, founder of the Benedictines. We rejoice with SSA on this feast and offer them prayer. The Benedictine nuns no longer serve there, but we remember gratefully their work from St. Scholastica Priory (on Stafford Road) for north shore Catholic education at SSA, St. Peter, & OLL. In remembering the sisters, we recall St. La Salle's words *"What glory there will be for those who have instructed youth, when their zeal and devotion to procure the salvation of children will be made public before all people! All heaven will resound with thanksgiving!"* Remember and celebrate these wonderful women and ask St. Scholastica to bless their legacy -- and our school and work as well.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hammond at Tangi Lanes

Thu, Feb 11 (D E F G)

- **Today** we commemorate Our Lady's appearance in 1858 in Lourdes to Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old farmer's daughter. Today, 2-3 million pilgrims annually visit Lourdes. While this apparition occurred after the time of Saint La Salle, we know the Founder's great devotion to Mary: *"Beg the Most Blessed Virgin to obtain grace for you."* I encourage you to do so this week – and always.
- **TDIH:** In 1809, Robert Fulton patents the steamboat.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, The Yalta agreement is signed by Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin. The aim of the conference was to shape a post-WWI peace that represented not just a collective security order but a plan to give self-determination to the liberated peoples of post-Nazi Europe. The meeting was intended mainly to discuss the re-establishment of the nations of war-torn Europe. However, within a few short years, with the Cold War dividing the continent, Yalta became a subject of intense controversy.
- **Be Electrific Day:** Today honors the birth of Thomas Alva Edison and recognizes his electrical inventions, including the light bulb. Where would we be today without TAE!
- **Don't Cry Over Spilled Milk Day:** Today recognizes that everyone spills a little milk now and then. It's a day to be optimistic, think positive, look on the bright side, and to find something good in everything that happens. As the song says: *Don't Worry, be Happy!* Try to smile all day today!
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hannan at Tangi Lanes
- **Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent holidays begin 2:51 pm**

Fri, Feb 12 (Faculty Retreat; no classes for boys)

- **Vietnamese New Year** (known in Vietnam as **Tet Nguyen Dan**, or simply **Tet**) begins today. Tet celebrates the new year based on the Chinese lunar calendar. On the Gregorian calendar, the Lunar New Year falls between the end of Jan and the middle of Feb. In most of Vietnam, celebrations last at least three days. The Vietnamese spend time with family and friends and reminisce about the past year. According to Vietnam zodiac, Vietnamese New Year 2021 is a year of the "Ox." Happy New Year to our Vietnam brothers and sisters, especially our Vietnamese Lasallians (yes, we have Lasallian schools in Vietnam!)



An SPS student prays. I will continue...

- **Oglethorpe Day:** General James Oglethorpe and 100 other Englishmen, landed at what is now Savannah, GA, on this day in 1733 and named the colony Georgia for King George II.
- **Lost Penny Day:** Today you can make a few pennies, by seeking out lost pennies, of which there are probably quite a few in the nooks and crannies of your home. An individual penny may not have a lot of monetary value these days. However, finding a penny is a sign of good luck. Go on a hunt for lost pennies today, and pile up some good fortune. Did you know that the first U.S. penny was designed by Benjamin Franklin, and minted in 1787? Since then, billions of pennies have been minted and put into circulation. In 1909, the penny became the first coin to bear a president's image. It was first released on February 12, 1909, to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's 100th birthday. Things to do on National Lost Penny Day:
 - Seek out lost pennies. Make a game of it. Be sure to include the kids in this scavenger hunt.
 - Flip a coin (a penny) to help you make decisions today.
 - Donate your pennies to a good cause. (SPS?)
 - Roll up and cash in your horde of pennies.
 - Start a penny collection.
 - Throw pennies in a fountain and make a wish.
 - Give someone a penny for their thoughts.
- **Basketball:** JV & Var at Mandeville
- **Baseball:** Varsity v. Hahnville (Mike Miley)

Sat, Feb 13

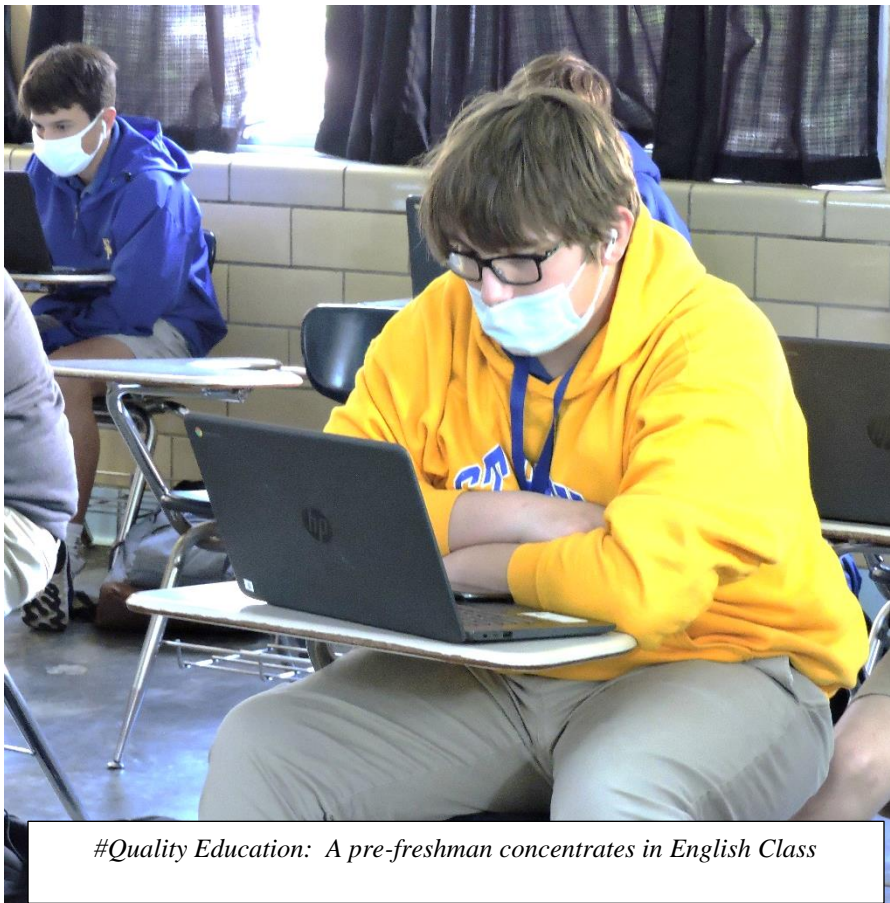
- Today, the Lasallian World remembers the 39th anniversary of the death of a Christian Brother James Miller, recently named “Blessed” by the Catholic Church – the last step before official sainthood. Here’s info on Brother James as remember this ordinary man who did the extraordinary. From the Catholic newspaper of the Archdiocese of Minneapolis-St. Paul:
- *Brother James Miller was a Christian Brother who could have stayed comfortable teaching at a private Catholic school in St. Paul. Instead, his story reflects a timeless Christian obligation: to reach out to those who cannot reach, to provide services to those who cannot afford it, and to change unjust systems through giving the poor a human and Christian education.*
- *At his request, Brother James began serving in Huehuetenango, Guatemala, in 1981. There he gave young men practical training and an academic curriculum, and maintained buildings and grounds. As Guatemala was in a civil war, many young men were literally taken off to be soldiers. If they refused, their families would be tortured and killed. The brothers would go and retrieve their students from the military.*
- *Extreme tensions arose between military and the brothers. Death threats toward the brothers, and all religious in Guatemala, were common. Such threats did not deter religious from walking with the people who lived in fear and oppression. On a Sat afternoon, Feb. 13, 1982, while Brother James was repairing the wall of the school, men in plain clothes approached and unloaded their guns into him, killing him.*
- *Brother James’ mission did not die with him. We are called to reach out to the dear neighbor, to make education accessible to all, and question systems that oppress and deny the dignity of every person.*



- **TDIH:** In 1945, a series of Allied firebombing raids begins against the German city of Dresden, reducing the "Florence of the Elbe" to rubble and flames, and killing as many as 135,000 people. It was the single most destructive bombing of the war—including Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and all the more horrendous because little, if anything, was accomplished strategically, since the Germans were already on the verge of surrender. It inspires novelist Kurt Vonnegut to write his classic novel, *Slaughterhouse Five*.
- **TDIH:** In 1965, President Lyndon Johnson authorizes Operation Rolling Thunder, a sustained bombing of North Vietnam that he and his advisers had been contemplating for a year.
- **Basketball:** JV District Tournament

Sun, Feb 14 -- Happy Valentine's Day! St. Valentine is a saint shrouded in mystery. The Church recognizes at least three St Valentines, all of whom were martyred. One legend says that Valentine was a priest in 3rd century Rome. When Emperor Claudius decided single men made better soldiers than those with wives, he outlawed marriage. Valentine defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for helping Christians escape Roman prisons. Legend has Valentine sending the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl -- who may have been his jailor's daughter -- who visited him. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression still used today. While the truth is murky, the stories emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and romantic figure. Celebrate those who you love!

- **Donor Day:** Today raises awareness of the need for organ and blood donations. For more info, go to organdonor.gov or resolve to donate blood at the local blood bank.
- **Ferris Wheel Day:** Today commemorates the birthday of George Washington Gale Ferris, a civil engineer and the creator of the first Ferris Wheel, created for the World's Colombian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893.



#Quality Education: A pre-freshman concentrates in English Class

Mon, Feb 15 (Mardi Gras Holiday)

- **TDIH:** In 2019, Brother Jeffrey Calligan, FSC – the 16th Christian Brother Principal/President of Saint Paul's School – died in Covington after an extended illness.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, the American battleship *Maine* was blown up while at anchor in Havana Harbor, at 9:40 PM. The ship sank quickly, and 260 members of its crew were lost. Inflamed public opinion in the US ignored the lack of evidence to establish responsibility for the explosion. "Remember the *Maine*" became the war cry, and a formal declaration of war against Spain followed on April 25.
- **World Whale Day:** Celebrate the whale today!

Tue, Feb 16 -- Mardi Gras Holiday – which will certainly be different this year! Enjoy it anyway!

- **TDIH:** In 1923, in Thebes, Egypt, English archaeologist Howard Carter enters the sealed burial chamber of the ancient Egyptian ruler, King Tutankhamen. Anyone remember when the Tut Exhibit came to NO?
- **Innovation Day:** Spot a problem, think of a solution, and before you know it, you're innovating! **Innovation Day** is all about imagining new, better ways of doing things. And you're never too young to innovate: lollipops, earmuffs, trampolines, Braille and countless smart phone apps have all been invented by children.
- **Do A Grouch A Favor Day:** Do something nice for your favorite grouch!
- **Almond Day:** Celebrate the almond today! They are packed with vitamin E, magnesium and fiber and are considered a heart-healthy food.

Wed, Feb 17 – Ash Wednesday Holiday (Remember that we are dust and to dust we shall return!)

- **Distribution of Ashes in Age of COVID:** Sprinkling or individual cotton swab sticks will be used.

Thu, Feb 18 – Sun, Feb 21 – Beginning of Lent Holidays

Mon, Feb 22 – Classes resume at 8 am with periods A B C D



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

ADMISSIONS (NEW) FOR NEXT YEAR: I am VERY pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to all who helped make this happen. Thanks for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at Saint Paul's School! Thank you!

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! 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!

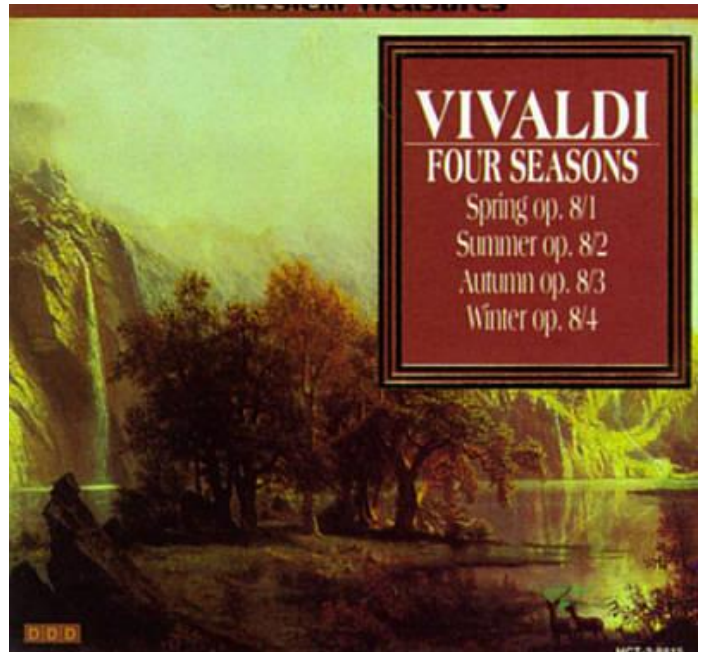
ANNUAL APPEAL AND GRANDPARENTS: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to 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 LETTER EXCERPTS: A few more unedited comments:

- *There are many clubs that peak my interest. [His spelling PIQUES MY interest!]*
- *I would like to study at The Sorbonne in Europe; SPS will help me achieve this. [Wow. The Sorbonne!]*
- *PS: Can I chase the ducks on campus? Let me know as soon as possible. [An emphatic “no!”]*
- *I feel in my heart that St. Paul's is the best school I could go to. [Always listen to your heart!]*
- *When people ask me where I go to school, I want to say “St. Paul's.” [Don't worry; you will be able to!]*
- *I have only heard great things about this prestigious school. [I like his vocabulary!]*

ASSEMBLY ON JAN 26: I hope the students enjoyed my Jan 26th Assembly. Here is some of what we did:

- Began by listening to the first movement of “Winter”, part of “The Four Seasons Suite” by Baroque composer Antonio Vivaldi. This perennial favorite musically mimics the people surviving the harshness of winter, complete with ice storms, slips, and falls. And as it's winter here in south Louisiana, it was only appropriate that we listen to Vivaldi! I reminded the boys about how we calculate the beginning of winter via the winter solstice, which occurred on December 21.
- Reminded the boys that our Mission Statement calls us *to offer strong academic, athletic, and extracurricular programs in a safe and disciplined environment and to live the Gospel values of Jesus.*



- Reminded the boys about the New Year's Resolutions I asked them to adopt: don't litter, be kind, ask for help, make the most of each day, and rise up as a man of God.
- Reminded the boys that we were approaching the mid-point of the third quarter – and to keep their GPAs in mind!
- Read an email from a former SPS parent praising senior Owen for helping with relief efforts by giving up a Sunday to help purchase supplies. Here's what the email said: *A young man who's a senior there spent his entire afternoon with me Sunday at Sam's Club loading carts, dragging them around the store,*

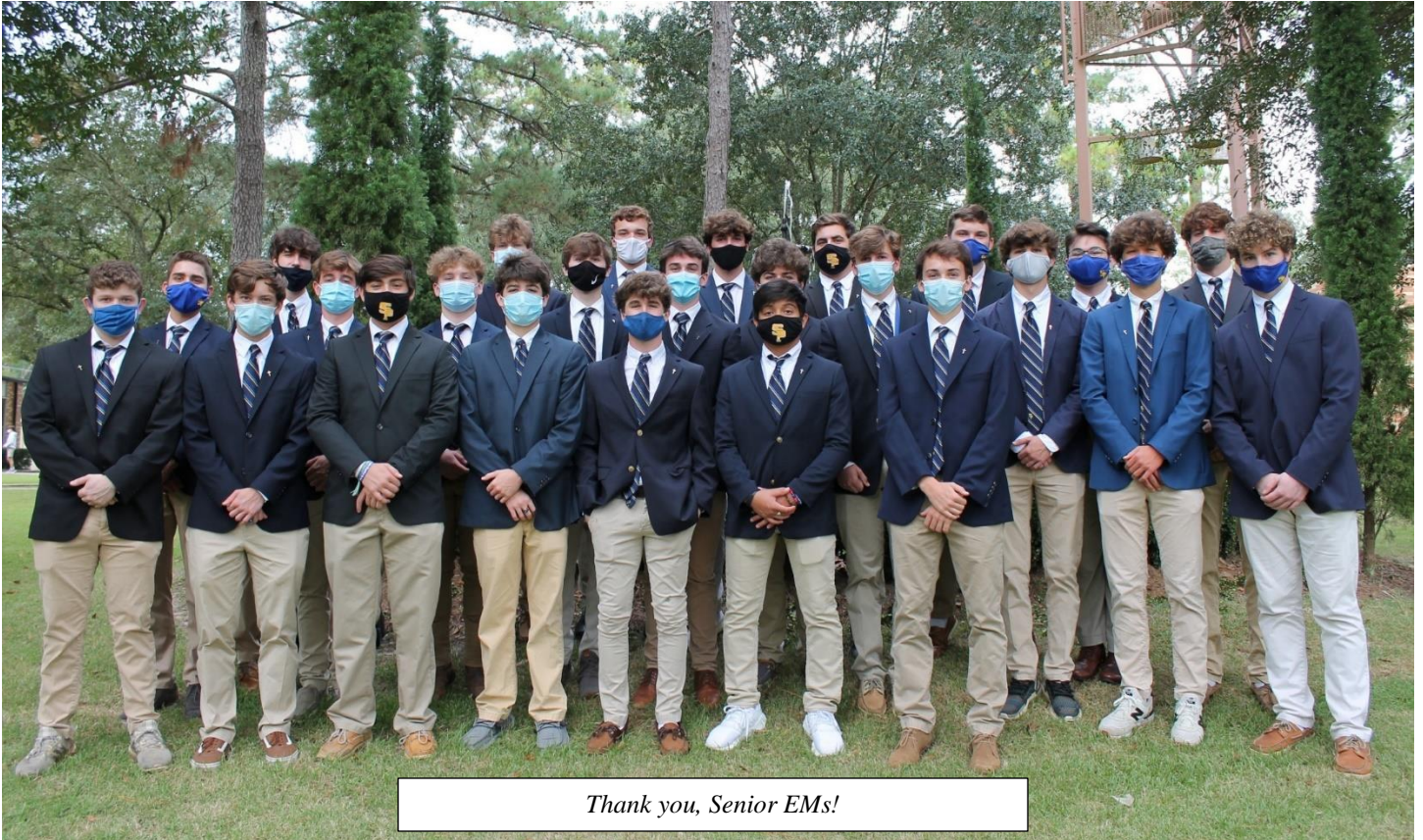
comparing prices for me and then loading/unloading the truck with the supplies. The inspiring part of his contribution was that over an almost 7 hour period of time to complete the task, not once did he check his watch, his phone nor insinuate that he'd rather be doing something else. He was genuinely grateful to be a part of our efforts and it's yet another testament to the Lasallian principles instilled in the great young men at St. Paul's. That young man's name is **Owen Hayden**. I just wanted you to know as you take pride over the years in good hearted gestures and acts of kindness from the Wolf Pack.



- Recognized and congratulated the Ethical Wolves, who were celebrating their one-year anniversary of participating in the Ethics Bowl at Rice University in Houston. Congrats to the Ethical Wolves, known by their scientific name *lupus ethicam*: Miguel Seruntine, Max Anderson, Callan Danenhower, Michael Silvestri, Zachary Nichols, Charles Ducombs, Turner Land, Dr. Shawn Mullet. **Note: picture was taken last year before the mask mandate!**
- Projected a picture of our science lab in the 1920's and compared it to our science facilities today. That led to recognizing and congratulating the HOSA Wolves who placed third in the recent online
- Recognized and congratulated the Power Lifting Wolves for their showing at the PJP II Meet recently:
 - **Zachary Montz** **1st place 123 lbs.**
 - **Nick Raspino** **2nd place 132 lbs.**

- **Cody Campbell** **1st place 165 lbs.**
- **Doug Ricalde** **2nd place 198 lbs.**
- **Chandler Loescher** **2nd place 220 lbs.**
- **Nick Piazza** **4th place 220 lbs.**

- Recognized and congratulated the Eucharistic Ministers who are serving us so well!



- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions – which will “roll over” to the next assembly.
- We ended the assembly by reciting a prayer attributed to St. Mother Theresa:

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you. Be honest and sincere anyway.

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

- I then extinguished the virtual candle and reminded the boys what the candle represents: the presence of God among us. I exhorted them to leave the gym and spread God's love to all whom they meet. The students exited to the sounds of Vivaldi!
- It was a great 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**

BALLARD BRANDS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: Saint Paul's is grateful for the generosity of Ballard Brands. All of the coffee grounds from the PJ's Coffee on Hwy 21 near I-12 are being donated to the agriculture class project on composting, soil, and sustainability in agriculture. Thank you!!!



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.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: Let's all use this month to celebrate the contribution of African-Americans to our great country and reinforce our American and Christian ideals of equality of all, praying with Archbishop Gregory Aymond for an end to racism.

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!**

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Last week we received our quarterly check of \$106.10 – which was considerably lower than previous checks. Now every \$106.10 helps, but I know we can do better. Encourage your sons to bring these items to their math teachers. Each one earns SPS 10 cents – which can add up quickly. Thanks, math teachers, for coordinating this painless fundraiser.



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.*

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 NEXT YEAR (2021-22): Some important dates:

Saint Paul’s School 2021 – 2022 (not this year) Calendar

Mon - Tue, Aug 2 & 3	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 4	Teacher Prep Day
Thu, Aug 5	School Opens with a full day of instruction
Mon, Sep 06	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 8	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 8	Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00 -- Tentative)
Sat, Oct 30	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon, Nov 08	Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Nov 22 - 26	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 29	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Mon - Thu, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Thu, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Mon, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King Holiday
Fri, Feb 25	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 28 - Mar 04	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Mar 11	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 13	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 15 – 22	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 25	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 27 – 29	Senior Final Exams
Sat, May 14	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Tue – Fri, May 17 - 20	Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
Mon, May 23	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Tue, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

CALENDAR FOR SECOND SEMESTER 2021 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.

- 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 all others, 8 - 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.

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.

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.

DRIVING: I call the following to your attention:

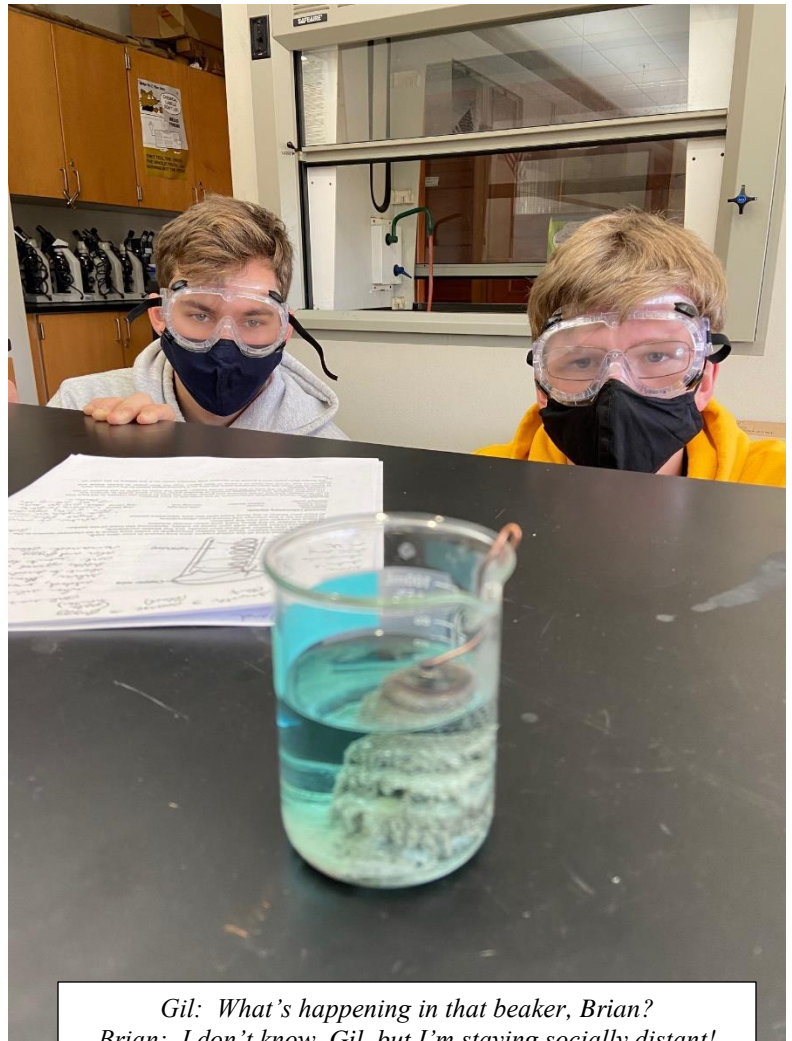
- **Driver's License Requirement:** You need TWO of these: one when your son applies for his learner's permit and ANOTHER when he goes for his permanent license. Several parents have been turned away, not knowing they needed another form. Don't blame me! This is a legislative action.
- **SAFE DRIVING:** 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.

HELPING SAINT PAUL'S: Don't forget these painless ways to help:

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) & SPS receives 5% of 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!

HONEY SALE: We now have a Beekeeping Club! Yes, really! And they are selling honey. The club is called SASS – which stands for Saint Paul's Apian Student Society! Very clever! The honey comes from hives in Abita and has received rave reviews. Proceeds will go towards acquiring more hives and expanding the beekeeping club's operation.

- 1 pint = \$14/pint
- 2+ pints = \$12/pint
- Half pint = \$8
- Note: The price includes a \$1 deposit on the mason jar.
-
- If you are interested in buying honey, please text Dr. Shawn Mullet at 617-388-6643. If you know anyone beyond the Saint Paul's community who might be interested, please spread the word. Thank you for your support. By helping SASS, you are helping SPS students connect to the natural environment and experience what it means to run a small business in the community.



Gil: What's happening in that beaker, Brian?
Brian: I don't know, Gil, but I'm staying socially distant!

LAST WEEK:

- **ACT:** Another flawless administration thanks to Don et al.
- **Basketball:** District wins over Hammond & Covington; JV, too! Wow!
- **Bowling:** Big win over Hannan! Geaux Bowling Wolves!
- **First Friday Devotions:** Students were prayerful and responsive to these important devotions.
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** In spite of COVID protocols (only one guest, socially distanced and wearing masks) and quarantines, the breakfasts went well. These are affirming events. As usual, I gave a vocabulary lesson. I encouraged the boys to be: *pertinacious ripsnorters* (*resolute, wonderful, superlative people*) and never to be *obstreperous ninnyhammers* (*sulky, non-cooperative simpletons*). We had to postpone the senior honor roll breakfast as more than half of them were quarantined! We will fete senior HR students on Mar 01 – and hope that all of them are back with us! I am grateful to Shellie Campo and Physical Plan crew for logistics and Hwy 190 Chick-fil-A manager Rick Gonzales for excellent food service. I'm grateful to Joe Dickens for reading names! **Note: Because of many quarantined absences, we will have makeup HRBs on Feb 24 (8th & 9th), 25th (10th & 11th) & Mar 01st (seniors.)**
- **LHSAA:** A clean paperwork audit by the LHSAA! Congrats to C Team (Claire, Carol, and Craig).

- **Soccer:** Wolves defeated Ponchatoula in first playoff round; we next take on Southside! Geaux Wolves!
- **Track (Indoor):** Evan Pardo placed 2nd in the 3200 at the prestigious LSU Last Chance Meet on Sat.
- **Wolf Packs:** Thanks to Campus Minister Jeff Ramon for a great WP on Catholic Schools Week.
- **Wolf Tracks:** Thanks to Danielle Lavie for another great issue!

LENTEN PRACTICES: The guidelines for Catholics are as follows: Fasting is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59. Those who are bound to fast may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted, if necessary, to maintain strength according to each one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years or older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays of Lent. The determination of certain days as obligatory days of penance should not be understood as limiting the occasions for Christian penance.

MARDI GRAS / BEGINNING OF LENT HOLIDAYS:

- These holidays begin Thursday at 2:51. **Please do not begin them any earlier!**
- Even though parades have been cancelled, I worry about the temptations to which our students will be exposed. I pray that they make good, safe, and healthy choices. I will be addressing this on Tuesday during my assembly. I dub it “the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” assembly.
- Mardi Gras ends on Tue at midnight – and the season of Lent begins. Please encourage your son to observe Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.
- Classes resume on Monday, Feb 22 at 8 am with periods A B C D. **Please do not extend the holiday.**
- **SCHOOL OFFICES WILL CLOSE NEXT WEEK (Not shouting, just emphasizing.) Please anticipate any needs, especially those pesky driver's license Proof of Attendance forms. I will be around all week, so feel free to contact me, but I don't always know how to help (some would say I never know how to help!) But I will try!**

RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2021 - 22:

- Current 8th graders re-registration is now overdue. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can add.
- Current 9th – 11th grade students – your deadline is this Thursday, Feb 11.
- 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. And hiring of staff is based on enrollment, so we really need to know your intentions. Thank you for this courtesy.**



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 Mardi Gras season looming, 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:

- **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.

SUPERINTENDENT DR. RAENELL HOUSTON: From Dr. Houston to all Catholic schools: *I respectfully request that you use prudent judgement and follow all civil parish guidelines for... events that take place outside of the regular school day and outside of typical school operations. If compliance with local civil guidance cannot be guaranteed and/or an event is likely to lead to a high risk of transmission of the COVID-19 virus, the event should be rescheduled for a later date when it is safer to do so.*



Many thousands will miss the perennially favorite Marching Wolves in Mardi Gras parades this year!

TEEN LIFE COUNTS: A guest speaker from the Jewish Family Service's Teen Life Counts has visited all of the sophomore religion classes. Teen Life Counts is an educational suicide prevention program designed to help teens learn the warning signs of suicide and how to seek help if they believe a friend is in danger. Through participation, our students learn to be more sensitive to their friends' comments and feelings as well as to be

more aware of how they can

appropriately deal with personal challenges they may experience in their own lives. Because of the exploding suicide rate in St. Tammany Parish, St. Paul's takes this issue especially seriously. We strive to do everything possible to keep our students safe. Our sophomores have participated in Teen Life Counts for many years. We believe it is a beneficial experience for both them and their families. For additional information about the program, visit <http://www.jfsneworleans.org/programs-services/teen-life-counts/>

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: I received more emails from people who enjoyed the church bulletin bloopers last week and asked for more! I aim to please, so here are more:

- *The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer conference includes meals.*
- *The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thu morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch after the B.S. is done.*
- *Our youth basketball team plays Wed at 8 pm in the rec hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.*
- *Jean will be leading a weight-management series on Wednesday nights. She's used the program herself and has been growing like crazy!*
- *Christian Youth Fellowship Sexuality Course, 8 p.m. Please park in the rear parking lot for this activity.*
- *The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.*
- *If you are going to be hospitalized for an operation, contact the pastor. Special prayer also for those who are seriously sick by request.*
- *Don't miss this Saturday's exhibit by Christian Martian Arts experts.*
- *We have received word of the sudden passing of Rev. Smith this morning during the worship service. Now let's sing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."*
- *On the main page of the web site for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada: "In a show of near anonymity, the convention approved full communion with the Anglican Church of Canada."*
- *Lift up in prayer our brothers and sisters who are suffering during our prayer time.*
- *Glory of God to all and peas to his people on earth!*
- *African Missionary Bertha Belch speaks Wed at 7. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



Students socially distance during Eucharistic Adoration

YEARBOOKS: How do you submit a senior ad (**Feb 21 deadline**) or purchase a yearbook?

- Go to www.yearbookforever.com
- Search for “Saint Paul’s” exactly as displayed here.
- Select “Purchase a 2020-21 Product” in the list.
- Select “Buy Personal Ad” or "Buy a yearbook" option on the right side of the page.
- Follow the rest of the on-screen instructions and submit your results.
- ***Seniors do not purchase a yearbook. The yearbook is included in tuition.**

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:

February

8 – FGAB
9 – CDEF – President’s Assembly
10 – GABC
11 – DEFG
12 – Faculty Retreat; no classes for students
22 – ABCD
23 – EFGA – Pack Time; pre-ACT for sophs
24 – BCDE – Makeup HR Breakfast for Grades 8 & 9
25 – FGAB – Makeup HR Breakfast for Grades 10 & 11
26 – CDEF

March

1 – GABC – Honor Roll Breakfast for Grade 12
2 – DEFG – President’s Assembly; ACT for Juniors
3 – ABCD
4 – EFGA
5 – BCDE
8 – FGAB
9 – CDEF – Pack Time
10 – GABC – ACT for 11th
11 – DEFG – Fun Lunch for Seniors during Period G
12 – ABCD –End of Q3
15 – EFGA – 9:00AM Late Start
16 – BCDE – President’s Assembly
17 – FGAB
18 – CDEF
19 – GABC - Mass
22 – DEFG
23 – ABCD
24 – EFGA



A student prays...

- 25 – BCDE - Junior Retreat
- 26 – FGAB – Junior Retreat/Senior Life Skills Day
- 29 – CDEF
- 30 – GABC – Senior Retreat
- 31 – DEFG – Senior Retreat

April

- 1 – ABCD – Senior Retreat
- 2 – Good Friday – no classes
- 12 – EFGA
- 13 – BCDE
- 14 – FGAB
- 15 – CDEF
- 16 – GABC
- 19 – DEFG
- 20 – ABCD
- 21 – EFGA
- 22 – BCDE
- 23 – FGAB
- 26 – CDEF
- 27 – GABC
- 28 – DEFG – Senior Exams
- 29 – ABCD – Senior Exams
- 30 – EFGA – Senior Exams

May

- 3 – BCDE
- 4 – FGAB
- 5 – CDEF
- 6 – GABC
- 7 – DEFG
- 10 – ABCD
- 11 – EFGA
- 12 – BCDE
- 13 – FGAB
- 14 – CDEF
- 17 – GABC
- 18 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11
- 19 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11
- 20 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11
- 21 – Exams – Grades 8 - 11



A junior and his mom enjoy some quality time (and a Chick-fil-A) at the Honor Roll Breakfast.

Whew! Enough for now. **But you get a break next week as the newsletter goes on Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent holidays.** Enjoy your Sunday without me cluttering up your email “in” box.

Even though it’s Feb of 2021, 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

Ready to Read During Mardi Gras/Beginning of Lent Holidays as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School

Now let’s go out there to be light, HOPE, and love to the students entrusted to our care by doing the ordinary things extraordinarily well, doing God’s will, remaining faithful, letting Our Lady of the Star guide us to God, beseeching our Holy Founding Brothers to help us continue the Lasallian Mission, living courageously and respecting all people.



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



