



The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter
Celebrating 109 years of educational excellence in Covington
340 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world



February 22 - 28, 2021 -- First Week of Lent

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

Welcome to the 7th week of the 3rd quarter, the last week of February, & the first week of Lent.
 What is Lent?

- Lent is 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays.
- The word comes from Anglo-Saxon "lencten" meaning spring. The 40 days represent time Jesus spent in wilderness preparing for ministry and being tempted by Satan.
- Purple is typically associated with Lent, suggesting repentance and solemnity. Purple is full of symbolism. Its deep richness invites us to slow down and consider the sacrifices Jesus did for us.
- In most Christian denominations, Lent starts on Ash Wed, derived from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance to God. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday.
- Mardi Gras, aka Shrove Tuesday, was Feb 16. It was also Pancake Day. Shrove is the past tense of the word shrive, meaning to confess and seek forgiveness. Legend says eating pancakes on Shrove Tuesday came about as a way to use butter, eggs, milk, and fat in preparation for fasting during Lent.
- The practices of Lent involve prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Lent originated in the first three centuries A.D. and, over the centuries, developed from a one- or two-day observance to forty days.
- In Eastern traditions, there is no Ash Wednesday. Rather, the Orthodox Church observes Clean Monday, a time to purify the soul of sinful, selfish attitudes. Indeed, the entire first week of Lent is often dubbed "Clean Week," a time of confession, abstinence and spring-cleaning.
- McDonald's Filet-O-Fish sandwich was inspired by Lent. Lou Groen, a McDonald's owner in a Catholic section of Cincinnati, saw burger sales drop on Fridays. His solution, in 1962, was the now-famous fish sandwich.



*Ben's Fountain on Mardi Gras morning.
 (Pic courtesy of Bro. Javier)*

Here's a prayer appropriate for Lent:

Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs filling. Fill it, Lord. I am weak in faith; strengthen me. I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen my faith and trust in you. In you, I have sealed the treasure of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright. With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the fullness of righteousness. Therefore, I will remain with you, of whom I can receive. Amen.

Mon, Feb 22 (Regular; A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge delivers first radio broadcast from White House.
- **TDIH:** In 1980, the underdog U.S. hockey team, defeats the four-time defending gold-medal winning Soviet team at the XIII Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, New York.
- **Single Tasking Day:** Concentrate on one task at a time today without feeling guilty about wasting time!
- **Be Humble Day:** Practice humility today! And we've all got things to be humble about.
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Albany at Tangi Lanes
- **Baseball:** Varsity at Catholic High (5)



Jackson poses with his winning mole!

Tue, Feb 23 (E F G A; pre-ACT for sophomores)

- **TDIH:** In 1896 - The Tootsie Roll was introduced.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, U.S. flag was raised on Iwo Jima. Joe Rosenthal's photo, showing 5 Marines & 1 Navy man struggling to hoist the flag pole, became the most reproduced photograph in history and won a Pulitzer Prize.
- **Inconvenience Yourself Day:** Often, we think our lives and schedules are more important than some else's. We inconvenience other people to make our own lives easier and forget the impact of our actions on others. Concentrate today on trying to make someone else's life easier and happier rather than focusing on ourselves – I know what you're saying: if he wanted to make our lives more convenient, he wouldn't write these newsletters!
- **Tennis:** SPS v. Catholic High

Wed, Feb 24 (Makeup Honor Roll Breakfast for grades 8 & 9; last Sudden Impact for sophs; B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1803, the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice John Marshall, decides *Marbury vs. Madison* and confirms the legal principle of judicial review--the ability of the Supreme Court to limit Congressional power by declaring legislation unconstitutional--in the new nation.

- **TDIH:** In 1868, the House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson, who was later acquitted by the Senate.
- **Tortilla Chip Day:** Enjoy your favorite chip today
- **Baseball:** 8th v. Holy Ghost (DH, 4:30 & 6); Sub Varsity at St. Thomas

Thu, Feb 25 (Makeup HRB for grades 10 & 11; F G A B)

- **TDIH:** On this day in 1827, a group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations.
- **TDIH II:** In 1862, The U.S. Congress passes Legal Tender Act, authorizing use of paper notes to pay the government's bills. This ended a long-standing policy of using only gold or silver to pay, and it allowed the government to finance the enormously costly Civil War long after its metal reserves were depleted.

- **TDIH III:** In 1807, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is born. Although not read much today, Longfellow was an American literary giant of the 19th Century. Who can forget his poem “Evangeline” or the opening lines of “Paul Revere’s Ride”: *Listen my children and you shall hear / Of the midnight ride of Paul Revere?*
- **Tennis:** SPS v. Covington
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Albany

Fri, Feb 26 (Regular; C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1993, a bomb explodes in the parking garage beneath the World Trade Center in New York City. Six people died and 1,000 were injured by the powerful blast, a precursor to the 9-11 attack.
- **For Pete’s Sake Day:** Who is Pete and why do we do or not do things for his sake?
- **Pistachio Day:** Crack a handful of these addictive nuts today and enjoy! Some pistachio facts:
 - Pistachios grow on trees. A pistachio tree takes 7-10 years to mature and produce nuts.
 - While native to the Middle East, California is the major producer in the US
 - Pistachios are harvested in Sept by machines that shake the trees
 - Red pistachios are dyed due to consumer demand for the color
 - Its open hull is unique. The nut is ripe when the hull splits open
 - In the Middle East, they are called “smiling nuts” and in China they are called “happy nuts.”
 - Pistachios are nutritious so eat ‘em up today!
- **Wrestling: State Tournament begins today through Saturday. Geaux Wolves!**
- **Baseball:** Varsity in tournament in Mobile through Saturday



Sat, Feb 27

- **TDIH:** In 1827, masked and costumed students dance in streets of New Orleans, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi. And we're still reeling from the effects!
- **Polar Bear Day:** Today celebrates the world's largest carnivore which can grow up to 9 feet tall (when standing) and 1400 pounds. Polar bears live at the North Pole region, and are native to Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Norway, and Russia. Celebrate polar

bears today! Visit the international website at <http://www.polarbearsinternational.org/bear-facts/>

- **Chili Day:** Enjoy a bowl of your favorite chili today! (Mine is New Mexican green chili!)
- **Soccer: State Final – Strawberry Field in Hammond; 7:30**
- **Lacrosse:** Var/JVA at Catholic High; JVB at Bro. Mar

Sun, Feb 28

- **TDIH:** In 1953, Cambridge University scientists James Watson and Frances Crick announce they have determined the double-helix structure of DNA, the molecule containing human genes.
- **TDIH:** In 2013 - Benedict XVI resigned as pope. He was the first pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415 and the first to resign voluntarily since Celestine V in 1294.
- **Public Sleeping Day:** Since today is Sunday, feel free to observe this day!

Rise Up, O Men of God

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

ADMISSIONS FOR 21-22: On Thursday, we will mail acceptance letters to next year's new students (mostly pre-freshmen but a few new freshmen, too) – as will all Catholic high schools in the Archdiocese. Both the quality and quantity for SPS are very good! **Thank you for spreading the good news about Lasallian education at SPS!** On Friday, we will email a “welcome video” to our accepted applicants. Thanks to Junior Zachary van Zandt for making the video.

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:

- *The buildings look like one of the top colleges such as Yale or Harvard.* [Flattery will get him admitted!]
- *There is a brotherhood at St. Paul's that I can't wait to be a part of.* [Patience! Your time is coming!]
- *If you are looking for a passionate person to overcome any academic challenge with great potential, you should consider me as one of your students.* [We will, but we will start with spelling.]
- *I make excellent grades.* [Another candidate for spell-check!]
- *I want to attend St. Paul's for many reasons. First, I love the football coaching staff.* [Priorities!]
- *I have not always been a big fan of school but I think this will change at SPS.* [We will do our best!]

ASSEMBLY ON FEB 09: I hope students enjoyed my President's Assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Began by listening to the music of world-famous cellist Yo Yo Ma playing "Ecstasy of Gold", a song from the 1960's classic spaghetti - Western film, "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly." I explained that I chose YoYo Ma's version because, in addition to being outstanding, Ma's life is dedicated to promoting world peace and human rights. Several years ago, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor an American President can bestow. And I told them I use the song at the assembly before Mardi Gras, because that holiday, while having so much good, is also sometimes filled with the bad and the ugly. I beseeched the students to choose only the good this Mardi Gras season and to avoid the bad and the ugly. As the prayer candle was virtually lit by, we prayed in a special way for the following:

- Since Feb 9 was the feast day of Christian Brother Saint Miguel Febres Cordero, the first Ecuadorian Christian Brother, I played a three-minute video of his life. Wanna' see it? Here's the link:

<https://youtu.be/n9ASRpMRz5E>



*The Canada geese have returned!
Can spring be far behind?*

- Saint Scholastica Academy. Since the next day would be the feast of St. Scholastica, it was only appropriate that we pray for our older sister school, which was founded in 1903 and has been providing quality Catholic education for young women since that time.
- And we prayed for those who have entered God's kingdom since our last assembly: **Mr. John C. Chatman, father of Harrison Becnel '24; Mrs. Lynda Jeansonne, grandmother of Michael '21; Mr. Gerardo "Gerald" Gamez, assistant principal of Cathedral High School in El Paso, Texas (a Lasallian Catholic School)**

- Welcomed the students to the sixth week of the third quarter and exhorted them to make the most of our remaining time this school year.
- Asked the students to reflect on how my “new year’s resolutions” that I asked them to adopt were going: no littering, respecting the neighborhood, asking for help when needed, making the most of each day and rising up as men of God
- Reminded the students that we were past the half-way way of the third quarter and reminded them to be concerned about their GPAs.
- Recognized and congratulated SPS Alumnus and **Coach Ryan Spencer** on the birth of his second son, **Beckham Knox Spencer** on Feb 2. Student Council President **Davis Lagarde** presented Coach Spencer with a welcoming gift for Beckham.
- Recognized and congratulated SPS Alumnus and **Coach Ryan Spencer** for being named to Southeastern Louisiana University’s All – Decade Baseball Team! During his baseball career at SLU, Coach Spencer was a three-year letter winner; won Southland All-Conference and LSWA All-Louisiana honors in 2005 ... hit .310 with 11 doubles, 12 home runs and 62 RBIs that season ... had an RBI total that was the sixth-highest by a Lion at the time ... led team in home runs twice and RBIs once ... finished career ranked 6th in RBIs, 7th in hits and 12th in HRs.



Welcome to the World, Beckham!



- Recognized and congratulated senior **Evan Pardo** for being named by NOLA.com as the Male Metro Cross Country runner of the year!
- Recognized and congratulated senior **Austin Peak** and junior **Cameron Smith** for being named by NOLA.com to the All-Metro Male Swim Team.

- Recognized and congratulated senior Jacob **Frolich** for being named by NOLA.com to the All-Metro Large School Football Team.
- Recognized and congratulated the **Varsity Soccer Wolves** for being undefeated in District and, thus, the District champs!
- Recognized and congratulated the **Varsity Basketball** Team for being undefeated in District with just a few games left to go.



Congrats, Jacob!

- Recognized and wished the best to the **Wrestling State qualifiers:**

- 106 - Conlan Enk
- 113 - Trey Faherty
- 120 - Jake Houser
- 126 - Michael Rader
- 132 - Carter Duet
- 138 - Sean Cripple
- 145 - Grant Nastasi
- 152 - Grant Vicknair
- 160 - Peyton Ward
- 170 - Landry Barker
- 182 - Blain Cascio
- 195 - Josh Sabadie
- 220 - Ian Lyons
- 285 - Preston Hickey



- Recognized the **Marching Wolves** who, but for COVID, would be marching in eight Mardi Gras parades. To get everyone in the virtual spirit of Mardi Gras, I then played a three-minute video of the Marching Wolves in one of last year's parades. It was great. Wanna' see it? Here's the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wb3b6hDERRo>



Marching Wolves head out to entertain the residents of Covington with a "parade" approved by city officials.

- Ran out of time before I ran out of recognitions, so they will "roll over" until the next assembly.
- We then ended with the virtual extinguishing of the prayer candle and my reminding the students of 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 "Ecstasy of Gold" from "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly."

ATTENDANCE: 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!!!



Big Thanks to St. Paul's Marching Wolves

who brought their Mardi Gras dance moves and Carnival sound to the downtown streets of Covington in a show of appreciation to those residents and businesses that decorated their "House Floats." Here, the band splits itself around the Emile "Boss" Frederick Oak on South Vermont Street.



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.



Work proceeds on new band / music building!

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



DONATE BLOOD SUPPORT THE MARCHING WOLVES

HOW CAN I HELP?

Mention Saint Paul's Marching Wolves (Group # 213674) at the time of donation and our band will receive a \$5 credit.

The band with the most blood donors will receive a \$500 bonus. The runner up will receive a \$250 bonus.

Valid during month of February at any location of The Blood Center. Must be 16 and older to donate.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

1-800-86-BLOOD or
www.thebloodcenter.org

Mandeville Donation Center
4350 LA-22 (near Rouses)

Mon/Tues/Thurs 11-6

Wed 9-5

Fri 7-3

Sat 9-3



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!**



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.

- 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

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.



Student artwork adorns La Salle Hall lobby.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS: US Catholic School enrollment dropped 6.4% from previous year amid the pandemic and economic stresses — the largest single-year decline in at least 50 years. Also, between the 2019-2020 school year and current year, nationwide enrollment dropped by 110,000 to about 1.6 million students. The closures disproportionately impacted urban communities with significant numbers of minority children. Indeed, some of the largest enrollment losses were in big-city dioceses, including 12.3% in Los Angeles, 11.1% in New York and 8.2% in Chicago." For the full article, click on this link: [AP](#),

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.

FIVE CORE DINNER: Please consider joining us in this innovative and enjoyable way to both help SPS and learn about Lasallian Catholic Education here at SPS. Here is a link for more info: <https://www.stpauls.com/support/events/five-core-dinner/>

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. 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.



Chemistry Students celebrated Mole Day with games.

- 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.

LAST TWO WEEKS:

- Basketball: **DISTRICT CHAMPS** with wins over Mandeville & Fontainebleau with a tough loss in OT to Ponchatoula. Congrats to **Evan Seicshnaydre** for becoming 25th SPS player to reach 1000 points!
- Retreat: Our faculty had a wonderful morning retreat on Feb 12. I am sure the boys enjoyed the day off. Among other things, we viewed videos of Lasallian students' responses to the pandemic, which were powerful and illuminating. And the Mothers Club's lunch was plentiful and tasty! Thanks, MC!
- Soccer: **Two wins propel Wolves into Division I State Finals – for 11th consecutive year! WOW! Geaux Wolves! Congrats to Coach Sean Moser and the team!**
- Weather: Last week's bitter cold resulted in a few frozen pipes and plants. Physical Plant crew did all they could to winterize campus, but the cold was just too much to handle. I pray your homes were spared damage.

LASALLIAN LOCAL LEGACY: The coming of the De La Salle Christian Brothers to Saint Paul's in 1918 marked the return of the Lasallian Mission to the Archdiocese of New Orleans. This was not the first time, however, that the Brothers ventured into the Deep South. The Brothers had opened a college in Pass Christian, MS in 1866 – just one year after the end of the Civil War. In 1867, nine of the Brother faculty succumbed to yellow fever and were interred at Saint Paul's Cemetery in Pass Christian. The college continued until 1875, when it was closed. Our own Brother Javier recently went on a Lasallian scavenger hunt and found the tomb. We remember these Brothers who first brought the Lasallian vision to Deep South Mississippi. Brothers Reynold, Castoris, Basile, Gaudentius, Eusebius, Urban, Savinian, Alexander, Arsenian and Roddolphus! Pray for us!



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.

RE-REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FOR 2021 - 22:

- **RE-REGISTRATION IS NOW OVERDUE!** We need to know if your son is returning in order to plan for next year. We will soon start scheduling and course selections, and non-registered students will not be allowed to choose classes.
- **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 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!

SOPHOMORES: Here is info for Tuesday's pre-ACT test administration: ----**arrival 7:45am directly to assigned testing room.** No pre-registration is needed for this test.

- All sophomores will take the Pre-ACT on Tuesday 2-23-2021 during E & F
- All sophs must arrive by 7:45 and go directly to your assigned testing room.
- Bring **#2 sharpened pencils, calculator, and sweatshirt** (NO mechanical pencils)
- All students should take their books with them and place them along the side walls of their testing room.
- Testing is 130 minutes. We will begin testing promptly at 8:00AM. We will end by 11:20AM.
- Sophomores will either go to 1st lunch or G period after testing, followed by A period. (Remember to take your backpack and belongings with you after testing)
- Sophomores will report to Period G & A for class
- Students will be grouped by their World History class and administered in the Briggs, 116, B201, B301, and 105
 - World History H period B Coach Moore—Briggs
 - World History H period C Coach Moore—Briggs
 - World History H period E Coach Moore—Briggs
 - World History period F Coach Moore—Briggs
 - World History period B Mr. Dart—room B301 Benilde (Mr. Eubanks' room)
 - World History period A Coach Moore—room B201 Benilde (Mr. Moore's room)
 - World History period E Mr. Dart—room 116 Main Building (Mrs. Travers' room)
 - World History period C Mr. Dart—room 105 Main Building (Mrs. Hightower's room)

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.*

TUTORING: Third quarter is almost over! **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: ALERT! VAPING IS ON THE RISE! After having made headway against this insidious habit, we are discovering increased levels of usage by some students. 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 teacher/student jokes and some great puns:

- *Teacher: I want you to tell me the longest sentence you can think of. Johnny: Life imprisonment!*
- *Teacher: Where do door-makers get their education? Johnny: The school of hard knocks!*
- *Teacher: Why do you have cotton in your ears? Do you have an infection? Johnny: Well, you keep saying that things go in one ear and out the other so I am trying to keep them it all in!*
- *Mom: 'What did you learn today?' Johnny: 'Not enough. I have to go back tomorrow.'*
- *What kinds of tests do they give witches? Hex-aminations!*
- *Teacher: how many seconds are in a year? Johnny: 12 – Jan 2nd, Feb 2nd, Mar 2nd, etc.*
- *Teacher: Use the word “gruesome” in a sentence. Johnny: Mom grew some flowers in her garden!*
- *Teacher: How can you prevent diseases caused by biting insects? Johnny: Don't bite any.*
- *Crushing pop cans is soda pressing.*
- *Big shout out to my fingers. I can always count on them.*
- *Our mountains aren't just amusing. They're hill areas.*
- *Turning vegan would be a big missed steak.*
- *Well, to be frank, I'd have to change my name. [LOL!]*
- *Ban pre-shredded cheese. Make America grate again.*
- *Despite the high cost of living, it remains popular.*
- *My mood ring is missing and I don't know how I feel about that.*
- *OK, I'll stop!*



A chemistry student's creativity for Mole Day! Wonderful!

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT: For our Pack Time during Catholic Schools Week, the students were invited to write short, impromptu reflections on being in a Catholic school. Some teachers shared copies with me of what a few students wrote – and I would like to publish excerpts which I know will encourage us all. I have not corrected the spelling or grammar – remember, these were quick five-minute reflections with no time for proofreading/correcting. Here is one from junior Zachary van Zandt:



Having gone to Catholic School all my life I have learned two important lessons, lessons that I could only learn at a Catholic school. How God's goodness is so great that we as feeble humans cannot understand his ways, and how Christ is the perfect example of a model man. These two things came to me not in the form of a booming voice, but in the milestones in my life that God gave me; milestones that I can only have crossed with help of a Catholic School. The first, God's impeccable and confusing nature that only benefits us. In my life I've suffered loss, both recently and in the distant past. In these momentous events of my life, the one that guided me through was of course God, but as I mentioned before, not through a booming voice. Instead through the Catholic schools that I have had the privilege and blessing of attending; they subliminally told me everything I needed to hear through their teachings and principles, and for this I am grateful. Second, the knowledge that Christ is the perfect model man. I attend an all boys school, and to put it simply there are two types of students at this school: boys and men. I'm not particularly a tall or large person in any way, but through my time at this Catholic school, I have instead become gargantuan in my understanding of manhood. This understanding can be defined in no better way than through the example of Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. True Man. Thanks to my Catholic school education and the love and respect I have been honored with in my life, I now have cherished advice that will serve as a perfect conclusion to my message here, "Rise up o' Men of God."

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

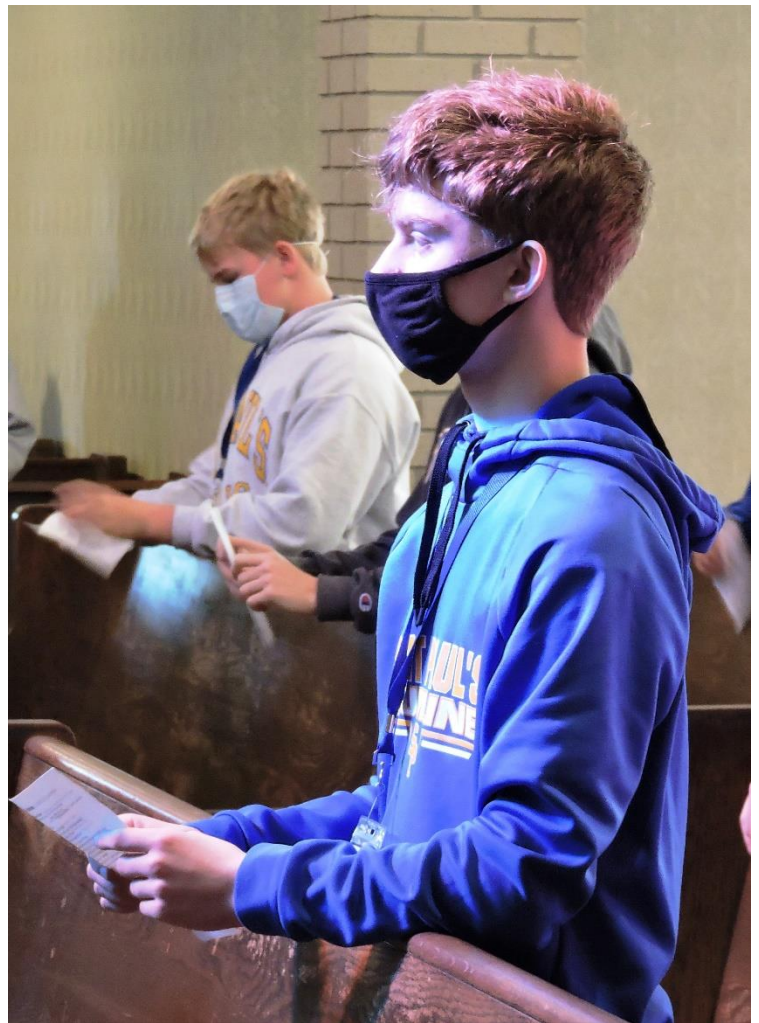
- 22 – ABCD
- 23 – EFGA – Pack Time; pre-ACT for sophs
- 24 – BCDE – Makeup HR Breakfast for Grades 8 & 9
- 25 – FGAB – Makeup HRB for Grades 10 & 11
- 26 – CDEF

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
- 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



Students pray...

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

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Whew! Enough for now.

Even though it's the last week of 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

Praying for Lenten Grace for All ass 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.





Another Bro. Javier pic: A cold February morning dawns at SPS!

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



