



The President's Hebdomadal *Blue Ribbon* Newsletter
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
December 06, 2021 – January 2, 2022



Welcome to the penultimate week of the second quarter and my final 2021 newsletter.

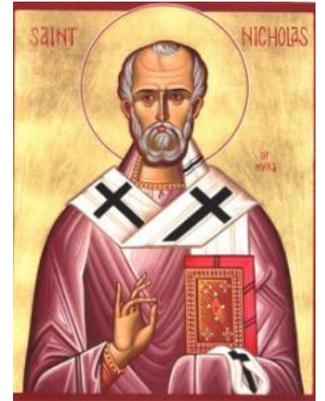


Wait for the Lord, whose day is near!
Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!



Mon, Dec 6 (G A B C – 9 am start)

- **Traditional Feast of St. Nicholas:** From American Catholic.org: *Eastern and Western Churches honor Nicholas; it is claimed that, after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. We only know that Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia, a province of Asia Minor. Perhaps the best-known story about Nicholas concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. Over the centuries, this particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of tongue, Santa Claus—expanding the example of generosity showed by this holy bishop.*
- **This Day in History:** In 1884, in Washington, D.C., workers place a nine-inch aluminum pyramid atop a tower of white marble, completing the construction of the Washington Monument
- **Microwave Oven Day:** Celebrate this marvel of technology and microwave something today



Tue, Dec 7 (President's Assembly; D E F G)



- Dec 7 marks the two - year anniversary of the Catholic Church beatifying Brother James Miller, FSC as a martyr for the Catholic Faith. For Catholics, this is one step away from official sainthood. As our Superior General, Brother Robert, wrote at the time: *Brother James (1944-1982) was martyred on Feb 13, 1982 in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. His murder was a futile attempt to extinguish the light of Christ and calls us to remember those countless others...whose lives were cut short because they strove to awaken people to the inherent dignity of God's daughters and sons. Brother James was committed to the well-being of the young people entrusted to his care, especially indigenous young men at risk. Brother James' beatification is evidence that great things are possible through the ordinary activities of our ministry of human and Christian education. Blessed Brother James! Help us live courageously this Advent and always!*

- **TDIH: Pearl Harbor Day.** In 1941, The Empire of Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. This “day which will live in infamy” forced the US into World War II. We remember those who gave their lives for us.
- **Letter Writing Day:** When was the last time you wrote a letter? Been too long? Then write one today!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at East Jefferson
- **Soccer:** JV & Varsity v. Denham Springs
- **Indoor Track Call Out Meeting**

Wed, Dec 8 (A B C D; Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception; All School Mass; Dress Uniform Day)

• In his meditation for the **Immaculate Conception**, Saint La Salle tells the brothers to “*Look upon Mary as the masterpiece from God’s hands and ask him to free you from everything that might make you fall into the least fault, especially into any sins.*” So great was this feast that in the rules of some early communities, the brothers are told that “everything that is most beautiful will be used” to celebrate it. And considering the austerity in which the early brothers lived, that’s important! May Our Lady, important to Lasallians, shower us with blessings! May “everything that is most beautiful” on our campus, especially students & faculty, honor her always.



• **The Year of St. Joseph, proclaimed by Pope Francis last year at this time, ends today.** But St. Joseph remains Patron of the Universal Church – and the Patron of a Happy Death.

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

• **TDIH II:** 1660, a female actress appeared as Desdemona in **Shakespeare’s Othello**, probably the first appearance by a woman actress in England. For years, female roles were played by boys or men. The British saw women on stage earlier when a troupe from France included women. But they were not received well — according to one audience member, the women were “hissed, hooted, and pippin-pelted off the stage.” In 1632, William Prynne published a 1,100-page book condemning theater, particularly actresses. But by 1660,

actors were confident enough to feature a woman as Desdemona. There is no record of who the actress was, but scholars guess that it was Margaret Hughes, whom Samuel Pepys described as “a mighty pretty woman.”

- **Brownie Day:** Enjoy this chewy, chocolate treat – if your health allows it!
- **Basketball:** 9th & JV at Mandeville; 8th at Ponchatoula Jr Hi
- **Wrestling:** Dual Meet at Catholic in BR

Thu, Dec 9 (E F G A)

• **Today’s feast of Saint Juan Diego** celebrates Mary’s appearance to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, in Mexico City. She told Juan, “*I will show and offer all my love, compassion, and help to the*



A student writes his prayer intention on a luminaria bag during Wolf Packs last week.

people. *I am your merciful Mother. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy their suffering.*" She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. The skeptical bishop asked for a sign; Juan offered his coat, where the image of Mary (still existing today) was miraculously imprinted as Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Guadalupe" means River of Light; Mary gave birth to Jesus, Light of the World.

- **TDIH:** In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's publishes his poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," which commemorates 600 courageous British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during Crimean War.
- **TDIH: In 1608,** British poet John Milton is born. Considered by some to be second only to Shakespeare, his works include *Paradise Lost & Paradise Regained*.
- **TDIH:** In 1886, American industrialist Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn. He developed a method of deep-freezing foods and was a founder of General Foods Corp.
- **Pastry Day:** Indulge with your favorite pastry – again, if your health allows it!
- **Cross Country End of Season Awards Banquet**



The campus was festooned with luminarias last Thu, thanks to Student Council and helpers!



Wolves prepare luminaria bags, with prayers written on bottom

Fri, Dec 10 (B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died in Italy. His will stipulated that his large estate be used for recognizing persons who made valuable contributions to humanity. Today, \$1 M Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature (yeah!) and peace on the anniversary of his death.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, the US and Spain signed The Treaty of Paris following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the US Senate and was signed by President William McKinley.
- **Human Rights Day** promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors the birthday of Melvin Dewey who created the classification of books used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are really bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHUQb5xg7A#t=26>. I would invite you to our library to see DDS in action, but that, too, when the way of the Benilde Hall renovation!
- **Basketball:** 8th in Rummel Tournament through Saturday

Sat, Dec 11

- **TDIH: In 1941**, Germany declares war on the US, bringing the US into the European WWII.
- **TDIH: In 2013**, we dedicated the **Alumni Veteran Plaque** in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to all SPS Alumni Veterans. The plaque is hung by the ROTC classroom. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read some of the names. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We thank all who have so served our country, especially our SPS alums. Let's remember them! Alumni Director Al Nastasi is currently updating the plaque.
- **Mothers' Club Bookstore Christmas Sale (10 – 2)**
- **ACT on campus**
- **Wrestling:** JV at Zachary Tournament; JH in tournament here
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Tara
- **Soccer:** 8th in Brother Martin Tournament; 9th, JV & Varsity v. St. Amant (here, beginning at 11)
- **Robotics:** Robo-Wolves in F'Bleau Tournament

Sun, Dec 12 (Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday for the coming of the Lord is near!)

- If today were not a Sunday, we would be celebrating the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas**. Again, God shows his love for the poor. Mary assumes the form of an Indian lady and uses Juan Diego, a peasant, to bring the Message to all. This is a special day for Mexican people, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located in Mexico City. We pray, too, for the great Mexican Lasallian institutions.
- **TDIH:** In 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sends first radio transmission across Atlantic, disproving those who said that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less. The message--simply the Morse-code signal for the letter "s"-- traveled more than 2,000 miles from Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland.
- **Poinsettia Day:** Admire this iconic Christmas plant! The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician and Minister to Mexico who in 1828 sent cuttings of the plant he'd discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina. Botanically, the plant is known as Euphorbia Pulcherrima. And now you know.



Mon, Dec 13 (Exam Schedule; 1 pm dismissal)

- **TDIH:** In 2000, VP Al Gore concedes defeat to Texas Governor George Bush for the presidency, following weeks of legal battles over the recount of Florida votes. Anybody remember hanging chads?

Tue, Dec 14 (Special exam schedule; 1:00 dismissal)

- **TDIH:** In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole in Antarctica, marking the first time that humans reached the southern end of the Earth's axis. In 1799, George Washington, our first president, dies at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. He was 67.
- **Monkey Day:** "Monkey business" is officially allowed today – but not at school.



Concert band provided holiday music on luminaria night.

Wed, Dec 15 (Special exam schedule; 1:00 dismissal)

- **TDIH:** In 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence
- **TDIH:** In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* premieres in Atlanta (where else?) and shocks audiences when Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) says to Scarlett O'Hara (Vivian Leigh): *Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn* – an unheard-of use of profanity on the silver screen in those days! Oh, for those days!
- **TDIH:** In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announces that the US would recognize Communist China and sever ties with Taiwan, reversing long standing US policy.
- **TDIH:** In 2005, ten million Iraqis take part in the first democratic election since defeat of Saddam Hussein.
- **Cat Herders Day:** For all of you cat lovers, herd 'em up today! But this is also a day to attempt an impossible task – like herding cats.

Thu, Dec 16 (Exam; 1:00 dismissal)

- **TDIH:** In 1773, the “Boston Tea Party” occurs when colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships in Boston Harbor and dump 342 chests of tea into the water. The ships holding the tea were built in America and owned by Americans according to [Boston Tea Party Ships & Museums](#). The museum

states hundreds took part, with 116 individuals taking credit. The Sons of Liberty planned the Boston Tea Party, which could have attributed to the absence of violence and confrontation. The three-hour event occurred on Dec. 16, 1773, because American colonists believed Britain was unfairly taxing them.

- **TDIH:** In 1944, the infamous Battle of the Bulge began and lasted until Jan 25. This was a final, desperate attempt by Adolph Hitler to force a negotiated peace treaty with the Allied Forces on the Western Front. Caught unprepared, the Allied Forces suffered over 20,000 casualties before defeating the German army.
- **Chocolate Covered Anything Day:** Feel free to celebrate – if your health allows it!

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

- **Today** begins the "final days of Advent", characterized by the "O Antiphons" taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. Today's antiphon: ***O Sapientia:** O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*
- **TDIH:** In 1903, Orville & Wilbur Wright fly first powered, controlled, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC – for 12 seconds, 120 feet. It was the first controlled, sustained flight in a heavier-than-air craft.

Sat, Dec 18 – Sun, Jan 02 – Christmas (not winter) Holidays! You are on your own for athletic events, TDIH, National Whatever Days, H of the W, W of E, etc.

Mon, Jan 3, 2022 -- School resumes at 8 am; second semester begins with A B C D



A victory lap around the gym in honor of our Blue Ribbon!

Rise Up, O Men of God

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

ACT ACADEMY: Preparation for success on the ACT is a marathon, not a sprint. DAILY practice is ideal, starting in 8th grade. MANY materials (often free!) are available. Here is a good one: the ACT Academy. ACT Academy has a wealth of free prep. It grows each year and has turned into the *Khan Academy* for ACT. Encourage your sons to prep for ACT regularly. Here is the link: <https://academy.act.org/>

ADMISSIONS FOR 2022-23: WE NEED YOUR HELP! COVID-19 restrictions forced us to change our usual recruiting strategies. But now, **more than ever, I count on you to spread the good news about Saint Paul's to prospective families. I need each of you to be an "admissions director" and speak to a prospective family about sending their son to SPS. I am counting on you! Just have interested families contact our admissions office. Thanks!**

ADVENT: *Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord, be strong; take heart!* Our students will hear these words this week in chapel and in religion classes. It's a powerful moment in the faith life of our students. Ask your son about the Advent prayer services during religion classes.

AFTER SCHOOL: The Library remains open to students until 4 pm. If your son is looking for a comfortable place to wait for his ride and get a jump on his homework, this is a good option for him.

ANNUAL FUND: I hope you received your annual fund brochure recently. Thanks to those who have already responded. We launched our Annual Fund two weeks ago and we will need the support of generous benefactors more than ever. Your gifts to the Annual Fund ensure that not only will we endure for years to come, but we will thrive and continue to build upon our 110-year legacy of quality education. *The strength of the Wolf is the pack* and we ask for your support so that we may celebrate many more birthdays together. All sizes of gifts are appreciated and we thank you in advance for your generosity.

ANNUAL FUND AND GRANDPARENTS: We are blessed with many supportive grandparents. Many schools solicit donations from grandparents directly. Again, I do it differently than other schools that directly solicit grandparents. I ask that you inform your son's grandparents or, if you want, I'll be happy to send them the information directly if you wish. Just provide me with the information. **I do not want to ask grandparents without your consent but we need their support.** I have already received a number of grandparent gifts. Again, no gift is too small – and, of course, no gift is too large!

APOLOGY: In last week's newsletter, I listed the names of newly inducted Honor Society members. I inadvertently omitted the name of junior MATTHEW CODY from the list! Please accept my apology, Matthew, and know that we are proud of your academic accomplishments at SPS!



Thanks, Mothers' Club, for the beautify blue ribbon around Founders Oak to announce our Blue Ribbon School award to all!

ATTENDANCE: Please follow all SPS attendance regulations in the Student-Parent Handbook and make Mrs. Suzy's job as easy as possible. Thank you for your cooperation. The State of Louisiana limits the number of days a student may miss and still receive credit. Saint Paul's adheres to these regulations. **Please do not allow your sons to miss school for less than very serious reasons.**

ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: Four years ago, 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!

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
- **Bookstore Christmas Hours from the Mothers' Club:** The Bookstore has announced their Christmas shopping hours. See below. Come do your Christmas Shopping and take advantage of some great bargains! Normal bookstore hours are weekdays 7:30-8:15 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!

ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' CLUB BOOKSTORE

SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS



Saturday, Dec 11th

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

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.



CALENDAR FOR 2021 - 22: The calendar assumes full operation. Any disruption to the school operation due to COVID 19 or other natural disasters may result in alteration of the calendar.

- Mon - Fri, Dec 13-17 Semester Exams
- Fri, Dec 17 Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
- Mon, Jan 03 Classes resume & Second Semester begins
- Mon, Jan 17 Martin Luther King Holiday
- Mon, Feb 07 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
- Fri, Feb 25 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
- Mon-Fri, Feb 28 -Mar. 04 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
- Mon, Mar 7 Classes resume
- Fri, Mar 11 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
- Thu, May 12 Pre-freshman Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)

- Sat, May 14 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
- Tues – Fri, May 17 - 20 Final Exams for Grades 8 - 11
- Mon, May 23 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
- Tues, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

In case of emergency closings, student make-up days will be taken from scheduled holidays – as we did with Ida. Please do not schedule vacations during school time.

CARE & VIGILANCE: As we approach holidays, remember Saint De La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras this week. **We will be caring, but we will be vigilant. Please insist with your sons that they adhere to all school regulations this week, so that we can begin a problem-free Christmas holiday break.**

CHEATING: Parents, please stress with the sons the evil of cheating. An honest D is better than a dishonest A gained through cheating. The consequences for cheating are severe, so please stress with your sons the need to study – not cheat. It would be a terrible way to begin the Christmas holidays.

CHRISTMAS (NOT WINTER) HOLIDAYS: School closes from Dec 17 (after exams) in the afternoon through Sunday, Jan 2. Teachers **will not** be available for grade discussions during this time. **The business office, counseling office, and administration offices will close.** Please anticipate any needs, e.g., transcripts, driver's license forms, etc. **I will be in my office on most days catching up, SO feel free to call me. I will help if I can, but I don't always know how!** Thanks for understanding the need for the staff to have an uninterrupted Christmas break.

CHRISTMAS (NOT WINTER) HOLIDAYS II: I worry about our students over the holidays b/c of the temptations to which they will be exposed. Use any opportunity to encourage students to make healthy choices over the holidays. I offer the following from Psychemedics – a major drug testing company: *Early age marijuana use could have long-term consequences on your brain and it may even lower your IQ, according to a new study at the School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences at the University of Texas at Dallas. Researchers found that compared to nonusers, people who smoked marijuana starting as early as age 14 have less brain volume, or gray matter, in the orbitofrontal cortex. That's the area in the front of your brain that helps you make decisions. Researchers also found increased brain connectivity in chronic users, important for adaptive learning abilities. It also helps your mind make associations. This wiring of the brain starts to deteriorate with chronic marijuana use. Dr. Susan Weiss, associate director for Scientific Affairs at National Institute on Drug Abuse said the study provides more strong evidence about the dangers of marijuana. "This adds to the growing body of evidence that heavy marijuana use, particularly at a young age, is linked to significant adverse brain changes," said Weiss. "These findings challenge the widespread belief that marijuana is harmless."*

Alcohol is a drug. And every day, more than 4,750 American kids aged 15 and younger take their first full drink of this drug. That's according to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Kids who start drinking before age 15 also are five times more likely to become alcoholics or abuse alcohol than are people who wait until adulthood for their first sip. Another problem for kids who experiment is that they are more likely than adults are to consume too much alcohol over a short period of time. What few people realize is that binge drinking poses many risks that go well beyond getting drunk and acting irresponsibly. People forget

what happens when they are drunk because alcohol makes it harder for the brain to turn short-term memories into long-term ones. But for teens, alcohol's dangers go well beyond impairing memory. "For humans, this means binge drinking during adolescence may permanently change brain functioning," says Vivian Faden, a scientist at NIAAA. What's more, these changes "appear to be irreversible." Research has shown that teens who drink heavily lose more white matter in their brain over time than do teens who don't, Faden says. White matter acts a bit like the brain's superhighway system. It connects areas of the brain's so-called gray matter, which processes information. Alcohol also can hurt a portion of gray matter in a region known as the prefrontal cortex, Faden says. This area is used for attention, concentration, self-control and making decision. For full story, read: <https://student.societyforscience.org/article/alcohol-can-rewire-teenage-brainstory.html>

CHRISTMAS FUN FACT DEPT: The quintessential Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was originally titled "One Horse Open Sleigh." J.P. Morgan's uncle, James Lord Pierpoint, wrote it in 1857 as a Thanksgiving song describing sleigh races. Now defined as 'Christmas Music', no mention of Christmas, or any other holiday, is made in the song. Another JB fun fact – It is the first song broadcast from space.

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

EXAMS: Semester exams begin soon. Exams are SEMESTER exams which cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and goes on a transcript) will be averaged as follows: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the exam. Encourage your son to take his exams seriously. **It's time to start reviewing.** A good review lasts several weeks and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college. The exam schedule is printed at end.

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!



IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE RERUN: I have printed this for the last seven years but it's worth another read, as *IAWF* is a Christmas classic – even though it is way too long! Here's what Director Frank Capra said about the film: *IAWL wasn't made for the oh-so bored critics or the oh-so jaded literati. It was for my kind of people. ... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure. To show those born slow of foot or slow of mind, those oldest sisters condemned to spinsterhood, and those oldest sons condemned to unschooled toil, that each man's life touches so many other lives. And that if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole. A film*

that said to the downtrodden, the pushed around, the pauper, "Heads up, fella. No man is poor who has one friend. Three friends and you're filthy rich." A film that expressed love for the homeless and loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores. To shout to the abandoned grandfathers staring vacantly in nursing homes, to the always interviewed but seldom adopted half-breed orphans, to the paupers who refuse to die while medical vultures wait to snatch their hearts and livers, and to those who take cobalt treatments and whistle -- I wanted to shout, "You are the salt of the earth. And It's a Wonderful Life is my memorial to you!"



Sophs beautify City Park on Sophomore Service Day! See email below!

LAST WEEK:

- **Advent Devotions:** Strains of “Wait for the Lord” filled the chapel last week. Maranatha!
- **Basketball:** A positive week for the Wolves. I watched 8th & 9th best Shaw! Geaux BB Wolves!
- **Blood Drive:** Many Wolves gave the Gift of Life!
- **Blue Ribbon Assembly:** Thanks for your cooperation. All went well and we received many compliments. If you wish to view any of it, here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XDOUmJpOPV4>
- **#iGiveCatholic** garnered \$16,000+ from 75 donors Many, many thanks to our generous supporters, those faculty and students who made videos and the Development Team for organizing and promoting the event.
- **Luminarias:** Last Thursday night’s Festival of Lights bathed our campus with beauty and inspiration, with the 1000+ luminarias glowing softly but strongly on a cool, damp, south Louisiana night. With eased COVID protocols, we were able to return to our traditional caroling and chapel service, where student

council vice-president Marco Vargas inspired us with his reflection on the WORD for that night: AGAPE! And what's an SPS event without food? Such was the case with our Mothers' Club reception while being serenaded by the SPS concert band! Thanks, Student Council, and all who helped.

- **Oktoberfest:** An excellent event! Danke Schoen, Development Office!
- **Soccer:** Another exciting week for the Wolves! Lots of games but I don't have scores.
- **Sophomore Service Day:** Our sophs made QUITE the impact in the community last Tue. Here is an email from the Volunteer Supervisor of New Orleans City Park: *Wow! The volunteers from St Paul's were amazing! You all rose to the occasion and set the standard for service groups to come. They were by far the most productive volunteer group I have yet to work with. They worked quickly, followed instruction, and accepted and responded to feedback respectfully. Your leadership during this project was inspiring and the boys listened to the messages you shared and followed your lead. I would also like to commend the other chaperones as well, they kept everyone on task and relayed instructions flawlessly while also giving the boys room to enjoy themselves throughout the project. I cannot speak highly enough about the standard of performance displayed during this service project. Thanks to this collaborative effort from your staff and students, New Orleans City Park has beautifully mulched trails for the public to follow and explore nature. I look forward to working with St Paul's on future volunteer projects.*
- **Ultimate Frisbee:** Those plastic discs were flying high on Sat at SPS fought valiantly against Catholic.
- **Wolf Packs:** Making and dedicating the luminaria bags is always a special treat! I was touched by the prayers my class wrote. They were inspiring prayers, not just intentions. Wonderful!
- **Wolf Tracks:** Another great issue by Danielle! Thanks!
- **Wrestling:** GREAT win over Holy Cross – making 30 consecutive dual meet wins, dating back to 2019! And 2nd place in the prestigious South Florida Border Wars on Fri & Sat. Wow. Geaux Grappling Wolves!

LOST & FOUND: Lunch boxes, uniform shirts, books, shoes – all sorts of things are being left behind on campus – almost all with no names on them. Stress with your sons to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside Attendance Office.

MARCH THROUGH THE ARCH PICTURES FOR SENIORS ARE IN: Expressions Photography did an outstanding job in producing the pics, which are in the Administration Building and may be picked up during business hours. Your son may pick up his pic with a note from you. We do this as in the past, some seniors got the pics and left them in book bags or back car seats and the pics never made it home.

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 2022 - 23 Yes, it is time to start thinking about next year! Shortly after Christmas, we will begin registering current students for 2022-23. Here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new (if any) 9th graders we can accept.

- Current 9th – 11th grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders – well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for 2022 - 23, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- **Also, if your son does not plan on returning for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about January admissions.**



SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: A number of priests from our local parishes will be on campus Monday and Tuesday (12/6 & 12/7) for any student who wishes to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To RSVP your spot, you can either complete [this RSVP form](#) or e-mail Mr. Ramon (j.ramon@stpauls). <https://forms.gle/de6QLNcn2eTxJh8B6>. Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to receive God's Grace through the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

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

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the candidates in last year's election were speeding and the running of stop signs? And SPS students/parents came in for their fair share of blame!
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington?
- Many of our streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of the automobile, thus not designed for cars?

Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets." The Mayor is asking everyone to "relax, take a deep breath and slow down. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Please reinforce this with students whenever possible. And please set a good example yourself!

SOCIAL HOSTING /UNDERAGE DRINKING: With the holiday season upon us, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as "social hosting." I have sent a brochure on this activity, which may have legal consequences, to our parents. The brochure was provided to me by Mr. Hal Fox, owner of Fox Litho of Mandeville, and father of Hal. Here's the link: <http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246>



CORE Pack students and their mentors participate in Bocce Day at Lakeshore HS.

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, speak with your sons about social media use. We have already dealt with issues. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. In addition, SPS reserves the right to impose consequences on our students who misuse social media. And read about Tic Toc!

SUMMER CAMP DIRECTORS: I am pleased to appoint Coaches Stephen Dale and Matt Pinero as co-directors of the Saint Paul's Summer Camp Program, one of the premier summer camp programs around. They will build on what Coach Craig Ketelsen established, bringing the program to even greater success. Since both Stephen and Matt have some summer commitments with their respective sports of basketball and wrestling, the co-director model emerged as the best fit. **Stephen and Matt have hit the ground running and a schedule, along with on-line registration, is available, just in time for Christmas giving.** I am deeply appreciative to both of these outstanding coaches for assuming this important position. Athletic Director Sam Francis will serve as a consultant and assistant when needed.

THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS: This period of the school year can be a real challenge. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling a crisis. The best way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies and to think before they act.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

TRUE PRESENCE NIGHT: This Saturday, December 11th, the Archdiocese of New Orleans is holding its Northshore edition of Youth True Presence Night. The event will be held at St. Margaret Mary in Slidell (1050 Robert Blvd) and will run from 6:00-9:30p. The event will include Mass, food & fellowship, and Adoration with Archbishop Aymond. The event is free of charge! Any student interested in attending can either complete [this RSVP form](https://forms.gle/ZrytZdz4SoVvPXHe9) or e-mail Mr. Ramon by Wednesday, December 8th. <https://forms.gle/ZrytZdz4SoVvPXHe9>. Come experience a great evening with students from our area schools and our Lord!

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. **It is not embarrassing to go for tutoring!**

VAPING: Unfortunately, vaping is on the rise, even among our students. The health 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.



Wolves look their best at Blue Ribbon Assembly on Wed.

WAITING'S VALUE: During Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to “wait” is a chief characteristic for success in life as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford U. Beginning with the famous “marshmallow experiment” published in 1972 (children could choose to have one marshmallow now or two if they waited 15 minutes), researchers conducted follow up studies and tracked each child's progress in a number of areas. **They found that the children who were willing to delay gratification and waited to receive the second marshmallow ended up having higher SAT scores, lower levels of substance abuse, lower likelihood of obesity, better responses to stress, better social skills as reported by their parents, and generally better scores in a range of**

other life measures. The researchers followed each child for more than 40 years and over and over again, the group who waited patiently for the second marshmallow succeeded in whatever capacity they were measuring. **In other words, this series of experiments proved that the ability to delay gratification was critical for success in life.** Now if we could only get our students to buy into this! Here's the full article:

<http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification>

WEEKLY HUMOR: My traditional Christmas jokes to honor the season:

- *Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.*
- *Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!*
- *Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.*
- *Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A: A subordinate clause.*
- *Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? A: He wanted to sleep like a log.*
- *Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"*
- *Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Because it "soots" him!*
- *Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? A: Pour Santa flush on him.*
- *Q: Did you hear one of Santa's reindeer works for Proctor and Gambel? A: Comet cleans sinks*
- *Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? A: Claustrophobic.*
- *Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? A: Because every buck is dear to him.*
- *Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive"? A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"*
- *Holiday Tip: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until the birds have gone south for winter.*
- *Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A: It's Christmas, Eve!*
- *Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? A: The letter "D"!*
- *Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A: Santa Claustrophobia!*
- *Q: What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Black mail!*
- *And for the musically literate: Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and have time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.*

A LOOK AHEAD:

December

- 6 – GABC - Late Start (9 am)
- 7 – EEFG- President's Assembly
- 8 – ABCD – Mass – Immaculate Conception
- 9 – EFGA
- 10 – BCDE
- 13 – FGAB
- 14-17 – First Semester Exams. Christmas holidays begin after exams on the 17th – approximately 11:30.

First Semester Exam Schedule 2021

- **Monday, December 13 – FG *(A)**

- **2 PERIOD SCHEDULE (With SSR) and Exam Review for Period A**

- (85 min classes)
- CHIMES 8:00
- PERIOD F 8:05-9:35
- PERIOD G/SSR 9:42-11:22
- LUNCH 11:22-12:05
- PERIOD A 12:10-1:00 (Exam Review)
- DISMISSAL 1:00

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- **Tuesday, December 14 – A (BC)**

- CHIMES 8:00
- PERIOD A EXAM 8:15 -9:45
- PRAYER SERVICE 9:50 -10:20
- PERIOD B REVIEW 10:25 -10:55
- LUNCH 11:00 – 11:30
- P. ASSEMBLY 11:35 – 12:25
- PERIOD C REVIEW 12:30 – 1:00
- DISSMISAL 1:00

- **Wednesday, December 15 – BC (DE)**

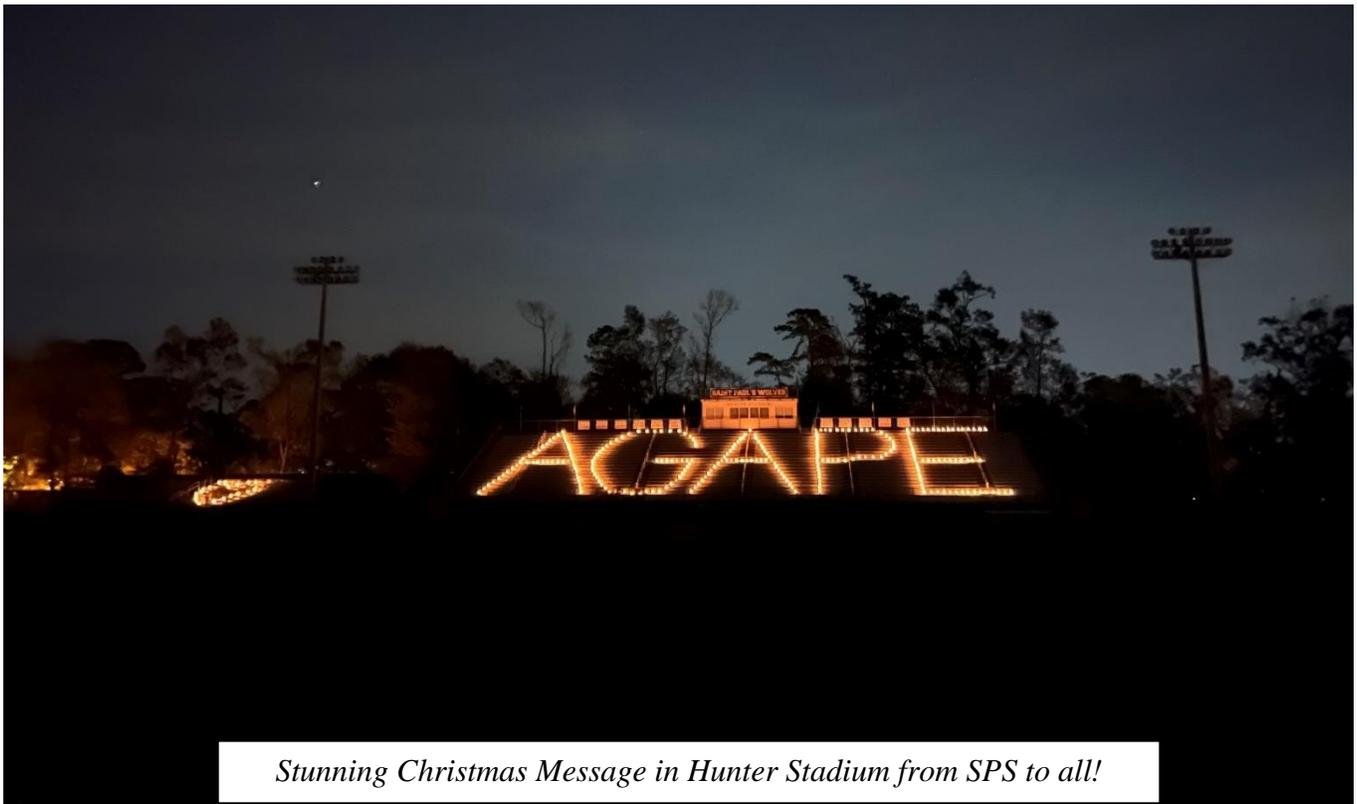
- CHIMES 8:00
- PERIOD B EXAM 8:10 – 9:40
- PERIOD C EXAM 9:50 – 11:20
- LUNCH 11:20 – 11:50
- PERIOD D REVIEW 11:50 – 12:20
- PERIOD E REVIEW 12:30 – 1:00
- DISMISSAL 1:00

- **Thursday, December 16 – DE (FG)**

- CHIMES 8:00
- PERIOD D EXAM 8:10 – 9:40
- PERIOD E EXAM 9:50 – 11:20
- LUNCH 11:20 – 11:50
- PERIOD F REVIEW 11:50 – 12:20
- PERIOD G REVIEW 12:30 – 1:00
- DISMISSAL 1:00

- **Friday, December 17 - FG**

- CHIMES 8:00
- PERIOD F EXAM 8:10 – 9:40
- PERIOD G EXAM 9:50 – 11:20
- DISMISSAL 11:20



Stunning Christmas Message in Hunter Stadium from SPS to all!

Whew! I've worn you out this week! **But the newsletter goes on Christmas (not winter) vacation so you get a break for three weeks! Next newsletter will appear on Sun, Jan 02, 2022!** As usual, I'll close with my paraphrase of a favorite NPR radio show (which I wish I could listen to now and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! This is also my last newsletter for 2021 [I can hear you cheering!] As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, I can think of no better way to end than to reprint the Lasallian Prayer for Peace which the Brothers pray at the end of their daily mass:

We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace! Amen.

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC
 Ready to Rejoice for Christmas as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School



.... by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing our Lasallian Mission, living courageously, respecting all people, and living the Gospel! Let's give it our best this week and begin the holidays with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon.

Saint Paul's School



National Blue Ribbon School Awardee 2015 and 2021



Saint Paul's



Thomas
Casnavette



David
Whalen



Kason
Shaw



Brody
Reina



William
Ditta

2021 National Merit Semifinalists



Preston
Orgeron



Walker
Dabreuf



Michael
Olson



Gage
Graham



Andrew
Hightower



Carter
Murphy



Zachary
Nichols

Saint Paul's

2021 National Merit Commended Scholars



Marco Vargas



Blake Weimer

