



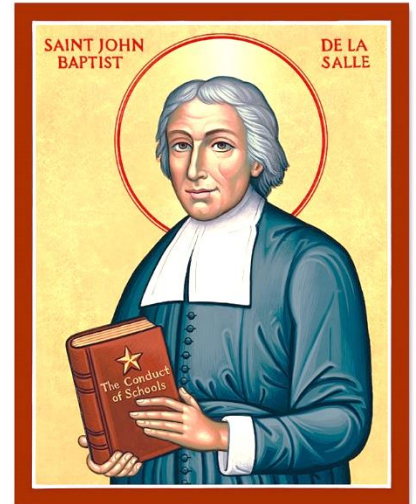
The President's Hebdomadal **Blue-Ribbon** Newsletter
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 03 - 09, 2022



Welcome back and Happy 2022 – which we pray is better than its two immediate predecessors! I hope your holidays were physically renewing and spiritually fulfilling and that you have entered 2022 with hope, optimism, faith, and zeal.

As in the past, I begin by offering you words from our Founder. St. John Baptist de La Salle closes his meditation to the Brothers for Jan 1 by bluntly asking:

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



He then reminds the Brothers (and us today) to make the following resolutions:

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

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

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

I wish you a blessed, safe, healthy, and happy 2022 and a successful second semester – the final one for the Class of 2022!

Mon, Jan 3 (A B C D)

- **This Day in History:** In 1938, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, an adult victim of polio, founds the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which he later renamed the March of Dimes Foundation.
- **TDIH:** In 1959, President Dwight Eisenhower signs a special proclamation admitting the territory of Alaska into the Union as the 49th and largest state.
- **Fruitcake Toss Day:** OK, here's your excuse to get rid of that fruitcake!

Tue, Jan 4 (Assembly; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1965, President Lyndon Baines Johnson lays out for Congress a laundry list of legislation needed to achieve his plan for a Great Society.

- **TDIH:** In 1974, President Richard Nixon refuses to hand over tape recordings that were subpoenaed by the Senate Watergate Committee. He would resign eight months later.
- **Spaghetti Day:** Grab a bowl, fill it with spaghetti, top it with your favorite sauce, and dig in. Spaghetti is one of over 600 shapes of pasta – by far, the most popular. Pasta dates back to ancient times. Arab cultures were selling dried spaghetti-like noodles in the early 1200's. The Chinese were cooking noodles as far back as 5,000 B.C. While ancient cultures were making and eating spaghetti and other pastas well before it came to Europe. It was introduced into the US through the travels of Thomas Jefferson, who brought it back from Naples, Italy in 1789. Italian immigrants also brought it over with them to the U.S., where its popularity quickly spread. Spaghetti in Italian means thin string or twine.
- **Trivia Day:** Spout some useless piece of trivia to everyone you meet today!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Slidell as we open District play! Geaux BB Wolves!
- **Soccer:** 9th at Mandeville

Wed, Jan 5 (B C D E)

- **TDIH:** In 1933, construction begins on Golden Gate Bridge, as workers began excavating 3.25 million cubic feet of dirt for pilings. The Bridge officially opened on May 27, 1937, the longest in the world at the time. The first public crossing took place the day before, when 200,000 people walked, ran, and roller skated over it.
- **TDIH:** In 1945, Japanese pilots received the first order to become kamikaze, meaning “divine wind”. The suicidal blitz revealed Japan’s desperation. Most of Japan’s top pilots were dead, but younger ones needed little training to take planes full of explosives and crash them into ships. At Okinawa, they sank 30 ships and killed almost 5,000 Americans.
- **Bird Day:** Enjoy our feathered friends today! Saint Paul’s has plenty!
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Bonnabel (6)



Development Team plus interns address Christmas cards!

Thu, Jan 6 (F G A B)

- **Twelfth Night!** The Twelve Days of Christmas are over! No more turtle doves, French hens, milking maids, leaping lords or swimming swans. Keep the golden rings, however. Enjoy the quiet from that angry partridge and those darn drummers drumming! Trivia: do you know the traditional names of the three kings? Answer at end of newsletter.
- **TDIH:** In 1838, Samuel Morse successfully tests the first electric telegraph.

- **Bean Day:** Celebrate the lowly legume! Enjoy a tasty bean dish! The USDA suggests adults should eat more than 3 cups of beans weekly for heart and cancer health -- but avoid crowded spaces.

Fri, Jan 7 (C D E F)

- **TDIH:** In 1789, America holds first presidential election (Spoiler Alert: G. Washington won!)
- **TDIH:** In 1953, President Harry Truman announces the development of hydrogen bomb one thousand times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Japan.
- **I'm Not Gonna Take It Anymore Day:** Well, I'll let you decide what you're not going to take anymore. Just hope it's not SPS, although some will probably vote for the newsletter – or the SPS President!
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Slidell (7)

Sat, Jan 8 -- Feast of the Patroness of Southeast Louisiana, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

This devotion originated with a French Ursuline nun, who brought to New Orleans a statue she had commissioned under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. (Succor means “help.”) This statue now stands above the main altar in the Ursuline Chapel on State Street. OLPS played a prominent role in Battle of New Orleans and the great New Orleans fire. Today, we pray to her for help in the New Battle of New Orleans against violence, murder and racism. Our Lady of Prompt Succor! Hasten to help us!



*Original OLPS
brought from
France in 1727 by
Ursuline nuns.*

- **TDIH:** In 1815, two weeks after the War of 1812 officially ended, U.S. General Andrew Jackson achieves the greatest American victory of the war at the Battle of New Orleans. Today we remember the 2207th anniversary.
- **TDIH:** In 1935, Elvis Presley is born in Tupelo, MS. Listen to some Elvis today! His first stage performance came in 1945, when he was 10 years old. He sang “Old Shep” at a talent contest, and came in fifth, winning \$5 worth of ride tickets for the Mississippi-Alabama fair. The following year, he wanted a bicycle, but his parents were too poor to buy one. His mother, Gladys, talked him into accepting a substitute gift: a guitar, which cost \$12.95 at the Tupelo Hardware Company.
- **JoyGerm Day:** Spread joy via acts of kindness such as a hug, kiss, love letter, compliment, or any unexpected act of compassion today.
- **Argyle Day:** Wear your argyle (diamond shaped blocks against a colored background) today!
- **Commitment Day:** Applicants for next year will test today. Every Catholic high school in the Archdiocese does this. We use the test for placement; some schools use it for admission decisions. Wherever a student tests, that school becomes the school of first choice and other schools may not recruit them until admission decisions are issued in late February. Hence, this is called Commitment Day. Pray for a good showing.
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th v. Brother Martin (2 & 3); JV & Varsity v. Hammond (4 & 6)
- **Wrestling:** SPS Junior High Tournament
- **Soccer:** 8th v. Newman (10); JV v. F’bleau (11)

Sun, Jan 9 -- Feast of the Baptism of the Lord: According to the Catholic Church calendar, today ends the Christmas season. In early centuries, Christ’s birth didn’t have its own feast. It was originally part of a great feast on Jan 6 called “Epiphany” (celebrated this year on Jan 2) that celebrated “manifestations” of Christ – his birth, Magi recognition, baptism in the Jordan and miracle at Cana. In the 4th century, western world Christians

pulled Christmas out of Epiphany and gave it a feast of its own on Dec 25. The time between this new feast on and the feast of the Epiphany became the Christmas season – the 12 days of Christmas. But eventually an “octave” was added to Epiphany – which extended the celebration. The Baptism of the Lord was eventually placed at the end of the octave and now it is the feast that brings the Christmas season to a close.

- **TDIH:** In 1793, Jean Pierre Blanchard made the first balloon aerial voyage in the New World at the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia at dawn. He sold tickets and the almost the entire population of Philly turned out, in addition to a large number of visitors from the surrounding countryside.
- **TDIH II:** 1493, Christopher Columbus sails near Dominican Republic, sees three "mermaids"—really manatees--and describes them as "not half as beautiful as they are painted" – an example of understatement.
- **Static Electricity Day:** Find a Van de Graaff generator to touch and celebrate the wonders of the old balloon-sticking-to-the-wall trick, the hair-raising that takes place after we take off winter hats, and the shock of electricity that we get from petting a cat after scooting across a carpeted floor in socks.



Student Ambassadors helped make Oktoberfest a success!

Rise Up, O Men of God

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

ACT ACADEMY: A great New Year's Resolution! 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/>

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.

ADMISSIONS FOR 2022-23: I am pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to you for spreading the good news about SPS to your friends and neighbors. The next step in the process is Commitment Testing this Sat, Jan 08. **Please stress with people that this is a placement test, not an admissions test. We base admissions on the total elementary school record. Since we give priority in admissions to those who attend testing, encourage anyone still considering SPS to apply and attend testing on Sat. This is not a final step anyone's part – it just keeps the door open.**


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 supporting SPS in some other way, I understand! Thank you for your generosity. Can you send \$10 to the Annual Fund so I can show an increase in participation?
- Please consider helping if you have not already done so and are in a position to do so. Many thanks!

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

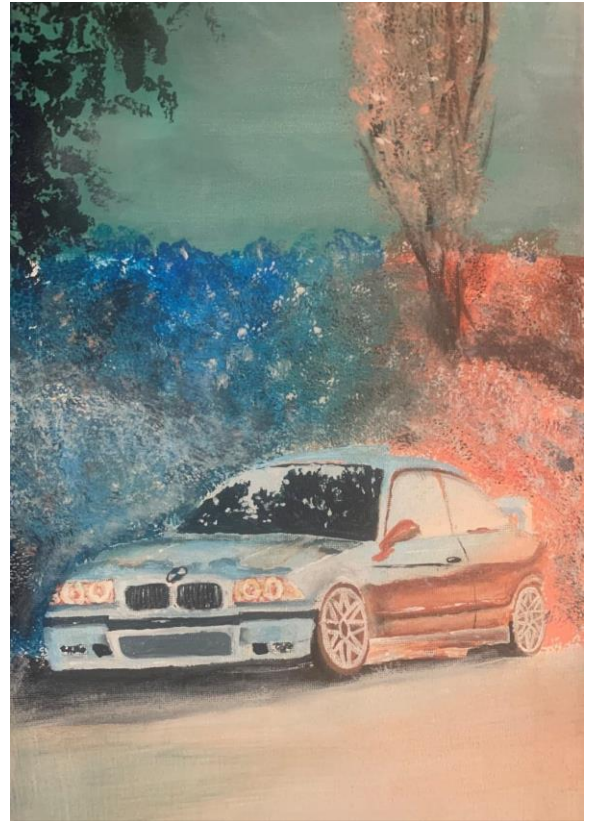
APOLOGY / MY PHONE: Our phone system took a hit during Ida. Over the holidays, I discovered a number of voice mails from Ida through early December that never made it to my phone. If you called me, therefore, and I didn't return the call, I deeply apologize! We think everything is back in working order!

ASSEMBLY ON DEC 14: I hope students enjoyed our Dec 14 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Began by listening to the Overture from George Frideric Handel's *Messiah* (never "The" *Messiah*) -- one of the most beloved Oratorios (a musical selection with for orchestras, choirs & solos often based on religious themes so they could be performed in churches.) It's one of the most famous musical compositions in the world, based on the Judeo - Christian concept of Messiah (anointed one). It was composed in just 24 days in summer of 1741 (incredible!) and first performed in April of 1742. It's one of my most favorite pieces of music. While the music was playing, **junior Noah Strickland** lit three Advent candles. I encouraged the students to make the most of the remaining days of Advent. And since Hanukkah celebrated only a few days before, I had **junior Sam Gold** tell the Hanukkah story, recite the Hanukkah blessing, and explain the menorah candles. I was very pleased with the students' attention and hope they now know the Hanukkah story.
- 
- A portrait of George Frideric Handel, a Baroque composer, shown from the chest up. He has long, curly, light-colored hair and is wearing a dark coat over a white cravat. He is holding a sheet of music in his left hand.
- George Frideric Handel
- Recognized and congratulated Computer and Engineering Department Chair Rachel Peak, who was recognized by The College Board's AP Program for her outstanding work in being a reader for the AP Computer Science exams – quite an honor. Well done, Mrs. Peak!
 - Recognized and congratulated those who gave "the gift of life" at our Dec 3 Blood Drive: **Mr. David Arbo, Parent Mrs. Emily Achee, Cole Cartier, Evan Abraham, Joseph Thompson, Kyle Kersker, Cavin Taylor, Alex Fowler, Grant Voyles, Brody Reina, Dylan Underwood, & Kason Shaw.** Thanks!
 - Recognized and congratulated several groups who did volunteer work lately:
 - SPS Habitat Humanity Club did their monthly work day laying sod. Thanks to **Walker Dubreuil, Preston Orgeron, William Ditta, Nicholas Achee, Blake Weimer, Camden Cantrell, Kieffer Schwartz & Mr. Richard Pichon!**
 - The Saint Paul's School sophomore class made quite the impact during a day of service helping with projects at New Heights, New Orleans City Park, the city of Covington cemetery, and Rev. Atkins Park in Covington. We received the following email from the Volunteer Coordinator at City Park in New Orleans: *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. Thank you for supporting City Park through service.

- Recognized and congratulated sophomore **Jack Bakaly** for being named STEWARD OF THE MONTH at Mary Queen of Peace Parish for his dedication to altar serving and involvement with Youth Group.
- Recognized and congratulated sophomore **James Scheuermann** for having his art work featured on the December issue of Wolf Tracks. Here is what art teacher Mr. Andrew Dart said about the piece: *This appears to be a split-complimentary scheme (using a section of complimentary colors on the color wheel), using the cool blues to recede into the background "pushing" the car to the foreground's warmer reds, which add a lot of depth. It has an overall impressionistic quality that makes good use of texture, namely the foliage juxtaposed with the sleekness of the BMW. I hadn't seen this work yet, but I like it!*
- Recognized and congratulated the Ultimate Frisbee Wolves for reviving the sport at SPS and having spirited competition against Rummel, Brother Martin, and Catholic of BR.



James's painting!

- As time was running short at this point, I reminded the students of my custom of giving them a musical treat by playing one of my favorite pieces of classical Christmas music: *For Unto Us a Child is Born* from George Fredrick Handel's *Messiah* (not "The" Messiah!) and for three minutes and 45 seconds, we had a virtual 18th century English concert hall with Handel, one of the greatest of the Baroque composers, conducting his musical masterpiece. It was beyond wonderful.
- I then had the boys enter the Christmas spirit by singing two carols: Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer and Joy to the World. They were fantastic! Ask your son about it.
- I then invited Brother Jerry Vincent, Director of the Saint Paul's Brothers Community, to briefly address the boys and offer a Christmas gift. Brother Jerry stressed with the students that while most of the Brothers are retired, they still regularly keep up with SPS events, especially our successes on the field, the court and in the classroom. On behalf of the retired Brothers, he offered heartiest congratulations on our recent Blue Ribbon and said that the retired Brothers wanted the school administration to issue a holiday in recognition of that accomplishment. Accordingly, April 4 is now designated as Blue Ribbon Holiday on our school calendar. Thanks, Brother Jerry and the retired Brothers!

- We then closed with the boys singing O Come, O Come Emmanuel for the final time this school year. They were great.
- Then, I reminded the students to pray “Maranatha” – one of the oldest prayers in the Church, which means “Come, Lord” in Aramaic – the language Jesus probably spoke. Junior **Hunter Calvin** extinguished the Advent candles, and I reminded the students what the candles represent – the coming of the Lord into our hearts and our world.
- It was a magical assembly! At least I thought so!

ATTENDANCE: 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.**



Habitat Wolves continue their service at job site!

BEN BLANCHARD ANNIVERSARY: This week we observe the six-year anniversary of the passing of SPS alum Ben Blanchard, '00. If you were here, you remember the BAC was filled with 1000 people who came to support Ben's Family. As we continue to support the Blanchard Family in their loss, it's appropriate to re-print some of Ben's **Final Words to his Family:** *At the end of the day, all you have is your family, your friends and your reputation, which is easy to lose and hard to build.* We are honored that in memory of Ben, the Blanchard Family purchased the naming right to the Benilde Hall library/media center.

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
- All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!



The Gold Family visited Rome over the holidays and recognized this painting of St. La Salle in the Vatican Museum! L to R: Jackson '19, Max '15, and Samuel '23

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

CAFETERIA:

- ALL students may continue to 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.
- 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 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.

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

COVID: The Governor's comments last Thursday concerning schools were followed up by recommendations from the Louisiana Department of Health and the Department of Catholic Education of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. Trevor Watkins will send a letter later today explaining SPS's response to these recommendations. As of now, these are recommendations and not mandates, but we encourage all to comply, lest they become mandates. And we continue to pray...

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 2022 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.

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

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

- **Report Cards** will be emailed on Jan 5, although grades were accessible on Plus Portals for a while. **Let me know if you did not receive a report card. There are no parent-teacher conferences until Feb, so email any concerns to teachers.**
- **Semester Exams** DID NOT lower most student averages. The overwhelming number of students earned the same grade on exams that they had going into exams. There were a few exceptions – on BOTH ends of the spectrum (students who did worse and students who did better.) **What the semester exams did accomplish is give your son college preparatory experience.**
- **Honor Roll Breakfasts:** Here's the schedule for the second quarter HR breakfast schedule:
 - *Jan 19 – 8th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 20 – 9th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 21 --10th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 26 – 11th HR Breakfast*
 - *Jan 27 – 12th HR Breakfast*
- All breakfasts last from 7:45 – 8:20 Note: HR is based on **second QUARTER (not semester) grades.**

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

- Office Depot, please give the SPS school code (70041640) and SPS receives 5% of your purchase!
- Box Tops for Education – these are redeemable for cash. Have your son bring them to his math teacher.
- And, of course, there's AmazonSmile!

JANUARY: According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, the Latin month name *Januarius*, from which we get the word *January*, was associated by the ancient Romans with their god Janus --god of doorways and gates (in Latin, *janua*), and also of beginnings, so the name is appropriate for the year's first month. Curiously the early Roman calendar began with March, not January, so the origin of the Latin name is mysterious. Here are some of the causes celebrated in January: Apple and Apricots Month, Artichoke and Asparagus Month, Bath Safety Month, Be Kind to Food Servers Month, Birth Defects Month, California Dried Plum Digestive Month, Celebration of Life Month, Financial Wellness Month, Get A Balanced Life Month, Get Organized Month, International Creativity Month, Clean Up Your Computer Month, Glaucoma Awareness Month, Hot Tea Month, Mentoring Month, Polka Music Month, Poverty in America Awareness Month, Soup Month, Volunteer Blood Donor Month, Oatmeal Month, Rising Star Month, Shape Up US Month, Teen Driving Awareness Month, Tubers and Dried Fruit Month, Thyroid Awareness Month, & Worldwide Rising Star Month – something for everyone!

LAST TWO WEEKS:

- **ACT on Dec 11:** A flawless administration to over 200 test takers, thanks to Don and staff
- **Advent Wreath /Prayers:** Campus Ministry's unorthodox but powerful Advent wreath certainly drew attention to this meaningful season – and drew positive comments! And Jeff Ramon's exam week prayer services were moving and effective. I hope your son told you about them.
- **Alumni:** Alums were busy with Trivia Night and Christmas on Columbia gathering with SSA.

- **Athletics:** Thanks to all the coaches who kept our student athletes focused on their seasons by having practices during the holidays. This provided a positive, safe, healthy activity for our students.
- **Basketball:** Lots of games and practices – and a tournament in Birmingham to boot!
- **Bookstore:** The MC did brisk business with their extended hours before Christmas. Thanks, MC! Your hard work directly benefits our students and staff.
- **Christmas Eve Mass:** A COVID casualty last year, we resumed this year. Thanks to Brother Ken who organized the 10 pm Christmas Eve liturgy, celebrated by Father Matthew, in the school chapel. A large crowd, composed largely of alums and current families, attended.
- **Christmas Luncheon:** Thanks, MC for a wonderful Christmas faculty/staff lunch on Dec 17!
- **Exam week** went well, thanks to your care and vigilance.
- **Project Christmas:** Thanks to all. We made a significant impact.
- **Soccer:** Lots of games and wins over the holidays – and a tournament in Los Angeles to boot!
- **Wolf Tracks:** The holidays didn't stop Danielle from publishing a Dec issue! Excellent issue, Danielle!
- **Wrestling Wolves:** WWs were busy over the holidays with practices and matches and their tournament.

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.

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

PAPER WOLF: Read The Paper Wolf! (www.thepaperwolf.com) I do! We've got an outstanding, AWARD-WINNING digital newspaper!

Compliment the outstanding staff.
Subscribe! Support the future of journalism! Geaux Paper Wolves!



REPORT CARDS will be emailed this Wednesday, January 5. Let me know if you don't receive it. Grades, however, are currently visible on Plus Portals.

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.**



SAN FRANCISCO NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT: Brother Robert Schieler, FSC, Superior General of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, has informed Brother Nick Gonzalez, FSC, that he will be appointed to a four-year term as Brother Visitor of the District of San Francisco New Orleans (SFNO), effective July 1, 2022. Brother Nick will be SFNO's second Brother Visitor, succeeding Brother Donald Johanson, FSC, who has served as SFNO's Brother Visitor since 2014. The appointment follows the completed nomination process held by the District and the review of results and recommendation by the Institute's General Council. Brother Robert's formal announcement and canonical letter of obedience, as well as a message from Brother Nick to the District, will be issued after the first of the year, 2022. We offer our prayer,

support and congratulations to Brother Nick!



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 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 late-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.

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!**

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: 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.

WEEKLY HUMOR: Some bird jokes in honor of Bean Day this week:

- *What do you call a bean that was previously famous? A "has bean".*
- *What did the pasta say to the green bean? Penne for your thoughts.*
- *What did the mama green bean say to her son who got home late? Where have you bean?*
- *What did the green bean say to the corn that graduated from high school? Corn-gratulations.*
- *What did the green bean have to pass to get its law license? The salad bar.*
- *What did the bean say to a friend who returned from holiday? You've bean gone forever!*
- *What did the coffee bean say to its wife? You are brew-ti-ful.*
- *What did Hamlet say? To bean or not to bean, that is the question.*

- *What are zombies' favorite beans? Human beans.*
- *What appliance stressed out the green beans? The pressure cooker.*
- *What kind of stockings do you need to grow green beans? Garden hose.*
- *What kind of shows do green beans do? Pod casts.*
- *What kind of beans can't grow in a garden? Jelly beans.*
- *What is your favorite pirate movie? Pirates of the Carib-bean.*
- *What holiday do green beans like most? St. Patrick's Day – because they fit right in!*
- *What happens to coffee beans when they have a similar experience? They are having a deja brew.*
- *What do you get when you cross a cow with a coffee bean? De-calf.*
- *What do you call executive peas? VI-Peas.*
- *What do you call a pea that works in the circus? A tra-peas artist!*
- *Coffee beans must have low self-esteem because they're always getting roasted!*



Marching Wolves prepare for the Mardi Gras season by participating in the Madisonville Christmas Parade in December!

Second Semester Period Rotation

January

- 3 – ABCD – Classes Resume
- 4 – EFGA President's Assembly
- 5 – BCDE
- 6 – FGAB
- 7 – CDEF
- 10 – GABC – Late Start (9 am)
- 11 – DEFG - Pack Time
- 12 – ABCD
- 13 – EFGA
- 14 - BCDE
- 17 – MLK Holiday
- 18 – FGAB - President's Assembly
- 19 – CDEF - 8th HR Breakfast
- 20 – GABC - 9th HR Breakfast
- 21 – DEFG - 10th HR Breakfast
- 24 – ABCD – President's Assembly
- 25 – EFGA - Mass – Feast of St. Paul
- 26 – BCDE - 11th HR Breakfast
- 27 – FGAB - 12th HR Breakfast
- 28 – CDEF
- 31 – GABC

February

- 1 – DEFG - Pack Time
- 2- ABCD
- 3 – EFGA – Career Day of Juniors
- 4 - BCDE
- 7 – FGAB - Late Start – Safe Schools Training / Parent Teacher Conferences 5-7
- 8 – CDEF - President's Assembly
- 9 – GABC – Pre ACT for 8th Graders
- 10 – DEFG – Pre ACT for 9th Graders
- 11 – ABCD – Pre ACT for 10th Graders
- 14 - EFGA
- 15 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 16 – FGAB
- 17 – CDEF
- 18 – GABC – Life Skills Day for Seniors
- 21 - DEFG
- 22 – ABCD - President's Assembly
- 23 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat
- 24 – BCDE – Juniors on Retreat
- 25 – Faculty Retreat – no classes for students



Alumni Director Al Nastasi spoke to senior classes before Christmas about the relationship between SPS and alumni – which the Class of '22 will soon become.

March

- 7 - FGAB
- 8 – CDEF - ACT for Juniors
- 9 – GABC – President’s Assembly
- 10 - DEFG
- 11 – ABCD -End of 3rd Quarter
- 14 – EFGA - Late Start (9 am)
- 15 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 16 – FGAB
- 17 - CDEF
- 18 – GABC - Mass – Feast of St. Joseph
- 21 – DEFG - Benito Juarez’s Birthday
- 22 – ABCD - President’s Assembly
- 23 - EFGA
- 24 – BCDE - 12th HR Breakfast
- 25 – FGAB - 8th HR Breakfast
- 28 - CDEF
- 29 – GABC -Pack Time
- 30 – DEFG - 9th HR Breakfast / Senior Retreat (March 30 - April 1)
- 31- ABCD -10th HR Breakfast / Senior Retreat

April

- 1 – EFGA -11th HR Breakfast / Senior Retreat
- 4 – Blue Ribbon Holiday
- 5 –8 Leadership Week
- 5 – BCDE -Leadership Breakfast
- 6 – FGAB- Leadership Speaker
- 7 – CDEF – Founder’s Day Mass
- 8 – GABC – Year-In-Review Assembly
- 11 – DEFG – Late Start
- 12 – ABCD - President’s Assembly
- 13 – EFGA - Passion Play
- 14 – BCDE - *Mandatum*
- 25 – FGAB - Last Pack Time
- 26 – CDEF - President’s Assembly
- 27 – GABC – Senior Exams
- 28 – DEFG – Senior Exams
- 29 – ABCD – Senior Exams

May

- 2 - EFGA
- 3 – BCDE - Pack Time
- 4 – FGAB
- 5 – CDEF
- 6 – GABC

- 9 – DEFG – 8th Grade Exams
- 10 – ABCD - Last President's Assembly / 8th Grade Exams
- 11 – EFGA - 8th Grade Exams
- 12 – BCDE - 8th Grade Promotion
- 13 – FGAB
- 14 – 12th Grade Graduation
- 16 – CDEFG (5 Period Day)
- 17 – 20 – 9th -11th Final Exams
- 20 – Last Day of School – noon dismissal



As Christmas 2021 fades, let us not forget the inspiration by Student Council on luminaria night: *AGAPE!*

Whew! I've worn you out in this first week of 2022, but you had the last two weeks off! Even though it's a New Year, I will still close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to anymore since it stopped broadcasting but I still remember it and LOL): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Know of my prayer for you and your family, especially as we begin the New Year! Again, thanks for being part of SPS 2021 - 22! Happy New Year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Blessed Beyond Measure to See 2022 as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

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

Answer to Jan 06 Trivia Q: The three kings are traditionally named Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar



.... 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 2022 with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon.



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



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

Saint Paul's School



National Blue Ribbon School Awardee 2015 and 2021



Saint Paul's



Thomas
Casanavette



Daniel
Whalen



Eamon
Shaw



Brody
Reina



William
Ditta

2021 National Merit Semifinalists



Preston
Orgeron



Walker
Dabreuil



Michael
Olsen



Gage
Graham



Andrew
Hightower



Carter
Murphy



Zachary
Nichols

Saint Paul's

2021 National Merit Commended Scholars



Marco Vargas



Blake Weimer



