



*The President's Hebdomadal **Blue Ribbon** Newsletter*
Celebrating 110 years of educational excellence in Covington
341 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world
January 24 – 30, 2022



Welcome to last full week of January! 1/12th (or 0.08333...% if you prefer) of 2022 is almost history! Wow!

IF YOU ARE NOT A BETTER PERSON THIS JANUARY THAN YOU WERE IN DECEMBER, WHAT NEED HAVE YOU FOR JANUARY?

--a modification of words by *Rebbe Nachman, an Hasidic rabbi who taught in Ukraine from 1802 to 1810.*

I BEG YOUR PARDON FOR MY OFFENSES AND OMISSIONS OF TODAY, AND I RESOLVE TO MAKE TOMORROW A BETTER DAY.

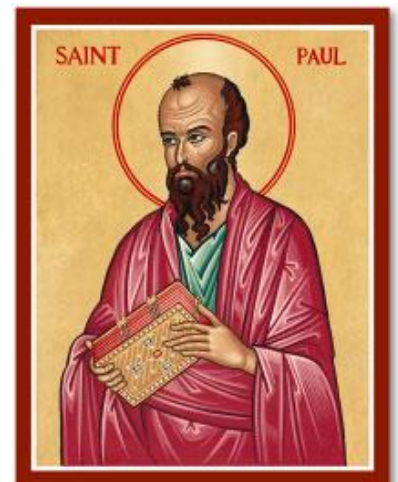
--SPS End of Day Prayer

Mon, Jan 24 (D E F G A)

- **This Day in History:** In 1965, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II, dies in London at the age of 90. Churchill was a brilliant orator and writer and the source of some wonderful Churchillian quotations such as: *We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.* Google Churchill quotationstoday!
- **Belly Laugh Day:** Celebrate the gift of laughter today!
- **Compliment Day:** Let's all give each other compliments today – deserved or not!
- **Peanut Butter Day:** Indulge!
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Hannan at Tangi Lanes

Tue, Jan 25 (Feast of Conversion of St. Paul; all-school virtual mass; Snack Day; B Mass C D E)

- **Today's feast** recalls the wonderful story of Saul of Tarsus being struck down and hearing the words "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" May we all continue our daily conversions away from sin and toward God! We will have an all-school mass today in honor of this special feast.
- **Today's mass will be virtual. Our chaplain, Father Matthew, will celebrate in the chapel. The mass will be live-streamed to all classrooms. Eucharistic ministers will bring Holy Communion to students in the classrooms. REGULAR UNIFORMS TODAY.**
- **TDIH:** In 1961, President John F. Kennedy becomes the first U.S. president to hold a live televised news conference.
- **TDIH:** In 1924, 1st Winter Olympics occur in Chamonix in the French Alps.
- **Snack Day in honor of Feast of St. Paul. Thanks, MC!**
- **Wrestling:** JH in dual meet at Rummel
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity at Fontainebleau
- **Soccer:** Varsity at Ponchatoula
- **Dads' Club Meeting – 6 pm at Seiler's Bar in Covington. Hope more SPS dads can participate!**



Wed, Jan 26 (F G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1725, Pope Benedict XIII recognized the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools as an official Religious Congregation of the Church. De La Salle had died five years earlier and the Brothers' future was unsure. Church approval, therefore, provided them with legitimacy, purpose, & promise. We continue that work here at SPS.
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th at Bro. Martin (5:30)
- **Wrestling: Lasallian Tri-meet:** SPS, De La Salle, and Rummel in wrestling gym
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Slidell (6)



Chem students write their names on the lab table so they could calculate the number of atoms of chalk it took to write their names.

Thu, Jan 27 (D E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1973, the United States, South Vietnam, Viet Cong, and North Vietnam formally sign "An Agreement Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam" in Paris bringing America's most unpopular war to an end.
- **TDIH II:** In 1756, Wolfgang Amadeus **Mozart** was born. Listen to some Mozart today!
- **Chocolate Cake Day:** Indulge and enjoy!

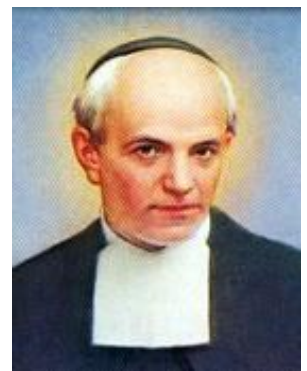
- **UN International Commemoration of Holocaust Victims:** Each Jan 27, the UN remembers the Holocaust of WW II. The day also commemorates when Soviet troops liberated the Nazi death camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in Poland on Jan 27, 1945. From the website: *In 2022, the theme guiding the United Nations Holocaust remembrance and education is “Memory, Dignity and Justice”. Holocaust commemoration and education is a global imperative in the third decade of the 21st century. The writing of history and the act of remembering brings dignity and justice to those whom the perpetrators of the Holocaust intended to obliterate. Safeguarding the historical record, remembering the victims, challenging the distortion of history often expressed in contemporary antisemitism, are critical aspects of claiming justice after atrocity crimes. The theme encompasses these concerns. We must use moments this week to remind students of this horrible stain on the history of the world – and pray such hatred never again occurs.*
- **Bowling:** SPS v. Ponchatoula at Tangi Lanes

Fri, Jan 28 (B C D E F)

- **Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas,** a Catholic intellectual giant. My personal favorite St. Thomas story is when he said that he learned more by kneeling at the foot of the crucifix than from all his university studies.
- **TDIH:** In 1986, the space shuttle *Challenger* explodes after liftoff, killing seven astronauts aboard.
- **Fun at Work Day:** Have fun today at work! Fortunately, I have fun every day by working at SPS.
- **Blueberry Pancake Day:** Enjoy!
- **Kazoo Day** celebrates kazoo playing (first introduced at the George State Fair in 1852). Toot away today!
- **Basketball:** JV & Varsity v. Slidell
- **Soccer:** Varsity v. Fontainebleau (7)

Sat, Jan 29

- **In Memoriam:** Today is the five-year anniversary of the passing of 2014 alumnus Graham Jordan, an outstanding student, athlete, and person. We continue to pray for and with his family, who are SPS neighbors. I invite you to visit Graham’s Memorial Trees and plaque and offer a prayer for him and his family.
- **TDIH:** In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven," is published. Enjoy “Nevermore!”
- **Puzzle Day:** Work a puzzle today! A crossword, jigsaw, or any type will do fine. Enjoy!
- **Corn Chip Day:** Eat a corn chip today! Did you know the corn chip was first marketed in 1961?
- **Golf:** Wolves in Blue Gator Tournament in Lafayette
- **Wrestling:** JV & Var in Parish Championships at Lakeshore
- **Soccer:** 8th, 9th, & JV at Jesuit (John Ryan Stadium)
- **Basketball:** 8th & 9th v. John Curtis (10)



Sun, Jan 30

- **Croissant Day:** Treat yourself to this French pastry!
- **Today,** Lasallians celebrate a Christian Brother feast: Saint Brother Mutien Marie. In Mutien Marie, we have another example of the Church raising someone to sainthood not for extraordinary deeds, but for extraordinary devotion to and **zeal for daily Catholic education.** Mutien was a Belgian brother who spent **58 years** teaching and prefecting at the Brothers' boarding school at Malonne. He was an effective teacher, a vigilant prefect, a catechist in the nearby parish and a great influence on his students by his patience and piety. Among the Brothers, it was said that he had never been seen violating even the smallest points in the Rule of the Brothers -- and I can assure you that there were many rules back then and the Brothers were the first ones to point out deviations by each other! St. Brother Mutien Marie -- pray for us!

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! 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.

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.
- 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.** 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 increase 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.

APPLICATION LETTERS: More unedited comments from next year's applicant pool:

- *St. Paul's Community is one of the most loving and considerate in the business.* [I agree!]
- *I am OK at football. I just need to get over my fear of being tackled.* [Yes, that will help!]
- *I hope to make honor roll to attend the breakfast and learn Brother Ray's vocabulary words!* [He's in!]
- *I cannot wait to attend St. Paul's!* [Time flies; you'll be starting in no time.]
- *I will try to go to the chapel every day.* [Wonderful! I wish all students did that!]
- *I will strive to do my best in all things if I am excepted to St. Paul's.* [We'll teach you how to spell!]
- *St. Paul's will change my educational life.* [Yes, we will, future wolf; yes, we will!]
- *I really like the weight room!* [Academics first, then the weight room!]
- *I think it is very important to attend a Blue Ribbon school.* [Me, too!]



Wolves chillaxin' at lunch last week.

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.**

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!

BROTHERS' RESIDENCE: **“Free at last! Free at last!** The retired Brothers have been freed! All have tested negative and are resuming life outside the confines of their cells, uh, rooms! We give thanks!

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.



Biomed students conduct an experiment. They look intense!

SAINT PAUL

Saint Paul's School 2022 - 2023 CALENDAR – NEXT YEAR

(Subject to change if needed)

Mon - Tues, Aug 1 & 2	Teacher Meetings
Wed, Aug 3	Teacher Prep Day
Thurs, Aug 4	School Opens with a full day of instruction
Mon, Aug 15	New Parent Reception and Information Meeting (6:30)
Thu, Aug 18	Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day
Fri, Aug 19	Senior Ring Holiday
Mon, Aug 22	Parent – Teacher Mini Schedule Night (6:30)
Fri, Sep 2	Lasallian Convocation for Faculty (no classes for students)
Mon, Sep 5	Labor Day Holiday
Fri, Oct 7	End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal
Fri., Oct 7	Grandparents Day (11:30 – 1:00)
Mon, Oct 17	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7
Sat, Oct 29	Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)
Mon-Fri, Nov 21 - 25	Thanksgiving Holidays
Mon, Nov 28	Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday
Tues - Fri, Dec 13-16	Semester Exams
Fri, Dec 16	Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams
Tues, Jan 03	Classes resume & Second Semester begins
Mon, Jan 16	Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 06	Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7 pm
Fri, Feb 17	Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 20 - 24	Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays
Mon, Feb 27	Classes resume
Fri, Mar 10	End of Third Quarter
Fri – Fri Apr 07 – 14	Easter Holidays
Mon, Apr 17	Classes resume from Easter Holidays
Wed-Fri, Apr 26 – 28	Senior Final Exams
Thurs, May 11	Pre-Freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30)
Sat, May 13	Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Thurs – Tues, May 18-23	Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Wed, May 24	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day
Thurs, May 25	Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

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

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, 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

COGNIA STEM CERTIFICATION: Following the successful COGNIA accreditation of our academic program in the fall, Joe and Trevor decided to seek COGNIA’s unique and separate STEM certification – which evaluates our commitment to and implementation of science, technology, engineering, and math at SPS. Few schools earn this prestigious certification. After rigorous evaluation (and lots of paperwork and ZOOM meetings), COGNIA happily granted full accreditation in the areas of STEM. I am most grateful to Joe and Trevor for pursuing this additional layer of validity to our academic program! Special thanks, too, to the parents who participated in the interview process: Kathy Oubre, Mark Smith, Neal Hightower, James Seese, Letha Tepper, Sean Roberts, Tara Peltier, Jade Rung & Jeanne Lea.



To quote the lead COGNIA evaluator, "We found it very difficult to find any area of improvement to recommend to your school." Their suggested "improvement list" included:

- 1. Continue to do what you are doing.**
- 2. Continue to collect data on the results of your programs so that five years from now you will be ready for your next certification.**
- 3. Consider including girls in some of your extracurricular STEM offerings (I am not yet ready for this one!)**
- 4. Celebrate your successes.**

And so we will continue to celebrate! Again, SPS takes the lead! Your sons are getting an outstanding education! Spread the word!

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.



SPS Teacher Kim Gardner receives an award for being named American History Teacher of the Year by the local and district VFW!

DAD'S CLUB: SPS dads will soon receive an email from Dads' Club President Chris Brown inviting them to our next meeting, this Tuesday at 6 m at Seiler's Bar in Covington. President Brown will talk about past successes of the DC but wants to expand the involvement of dads in the life of our school. The DC does much for SPS but there is interest in doing even more. But that means more dads need to become involved. Please consider joining this wonderful group of dads, dedicated to making their sons' experience at SPS even better! We are interested in your ideas. Thanks! Again, the meeting is Tuesday, 6 pm, at Seiler Bar in Covington. Geaux SPS Dads' Club!

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.

GRADES, EXAMS, & REPORT CARDS:

- **Report Cards** were emailed on Jan 5. **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:** Due to COVID, we had to postpone HR Breakfasts. Here is the **NEW** schedule:

Thu, Feb 24 - 12th grade

Wed, Feb 23 - 9th grade

Mon, Feb 21 -- 10th grade

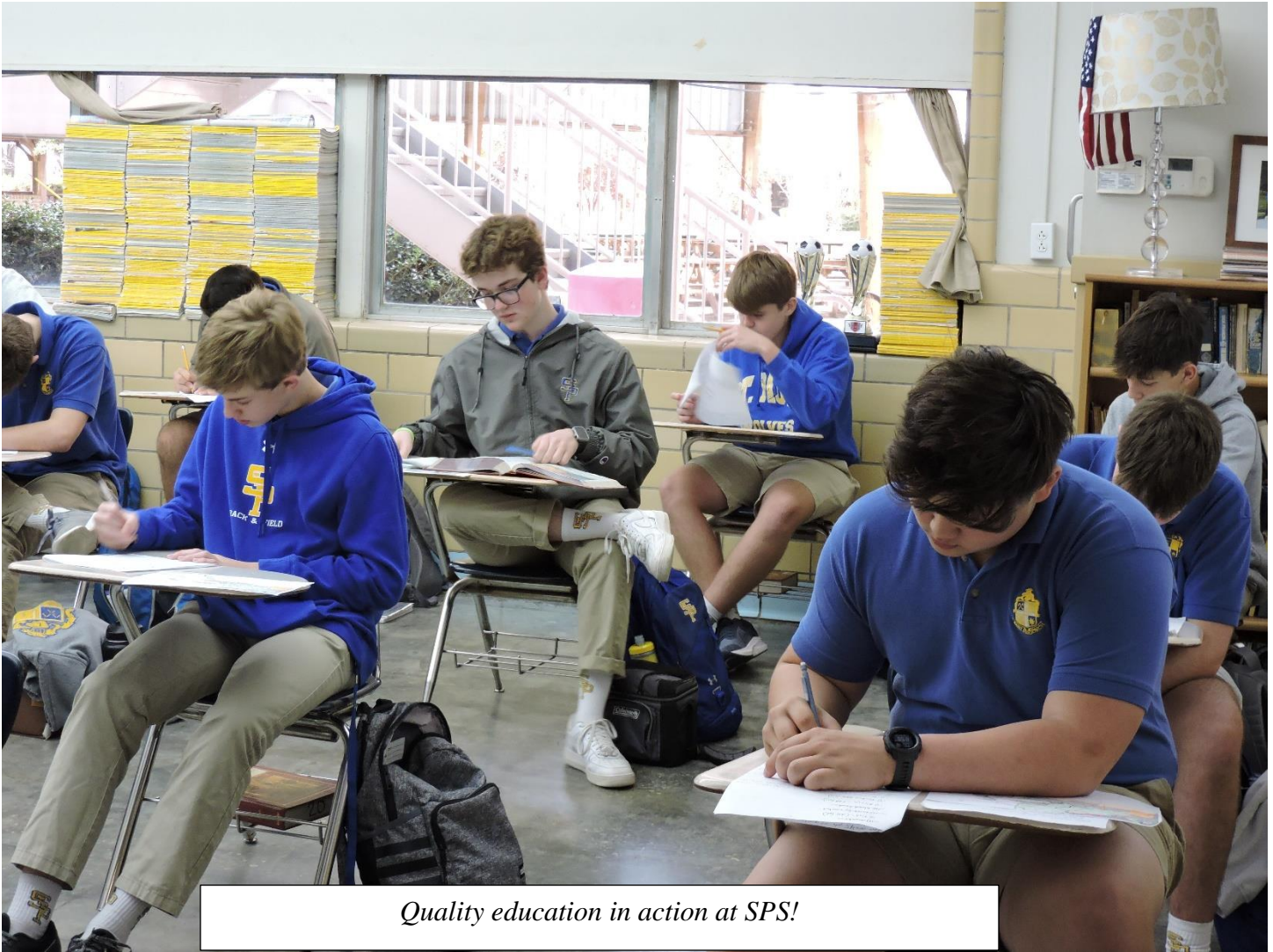
Thu, Feb 17 - 11th grade

Wed, Feb 16 - 8th grade

- All breakfasts last from 7:45 – 8:20 Note: HR is based on **second QUARTER (not semester) grades.**
- **Invitations will be emailed this week.**

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!



Quality education in action at SPS!

LHSAA: The annual convention occurs this week. Due to Covid, the schedule is greatly reduced and each member school may send only one participant. Two years of business will be transacted as there was no convention last year. LOTS of proposals will be voted on – some affecting private schools. AD Sam Francis will be our voting rep. He travels to Baton Rouge to be with the other LHSAA reps to help level the playing field (an overused convention cliché from my years attending.) Note: the LHSAA doesn't recognize Presidents so I am not relevant to them!

LAST WEEK:

- **Basketball:** GREAT JV & Var wins over Mandeville and Ponchatoula! 8th & 9th lost to Rummel but 8th beat St. Aug on Sat.
- **Bowling:** Wolves competed hard, I'm sure, but don't have results.
- **Rosary for Life:** Thanks to Religion Department and Classes for reciting the rosary in solidarity with March for Life participants. Unfortunately, Friday's cancelled classes had only half the school participate.
- **Powerlifting:** SPS Iron Wolves WON the Denham Springs Invitational on Sat. Geaux, Iron Wolves!
- **Soccer:** Great win over N'shore (5-0) and 9th won their tournament on Sat.
- **Wrestling:** DISTRICT CHAMPS (again!) with a resounding victory over Covington, 78-4! Wow!

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH: Congrats to MQP on its 25th anniversary of establishment! Join them in celebrating on January 30 at 2 pm:

The graphic features a dark green background with the text "You are invited!" in a white, cursive font at the top. Below this is a white rectangular area containing the school's crest, which is a circular emblem with a cross in the center, divided into four quadrants with a fleur-de-lis, a dove, and a cross. The text "Mary Queen of Peace Catholic School" is written around the top of the circle, and "ESTABLISHED 1996" is at the bottom. Below the crest, the text "CELEBRATING 25 YEARS" is written in a large, green, serif font. Underneath that, "LEARN LAUGH PLAY PRAY" is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the white area, the text "JANUARY 30, 2022 | MASS AT 2 PM" and "RECEPTION/OPEN HOUSE TO FOLLOW" is written in a green, sans-serif font. To the right of the white area is a QR code, and below it is a white arrow pointing up and to the left, with the text "Scan to RSVP" written in a white, sans-serif font.

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.

NEWS WORTH NOTING: According to new figures released last week by the state Department of Education, fewer than half of Louisiana public school students in kindergarten, first, second and third grades are reading on grade level. This has significant implications for the future of these students' education. Very sad!

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! We will begin registering current students for 2022-23. Here's the process:

- Current 8th graders will be asked to register during the last week of January. Paperwork will be emailed to you on Monday of this week. You will have ten days to complete the registration or let us know that your son will not be returning to this Blue Ribbon School. 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 week 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.



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 have appointed Coaches Stephen Dale and Matt Pinero as co-directors of the SPS Summer Camp Program, one of the premier summer camp programs around. They will build on what Coach Craig Ketelsen established, bringing the program 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. **On-line-line registration, is available, just in time for late-Christmas or birthday 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.

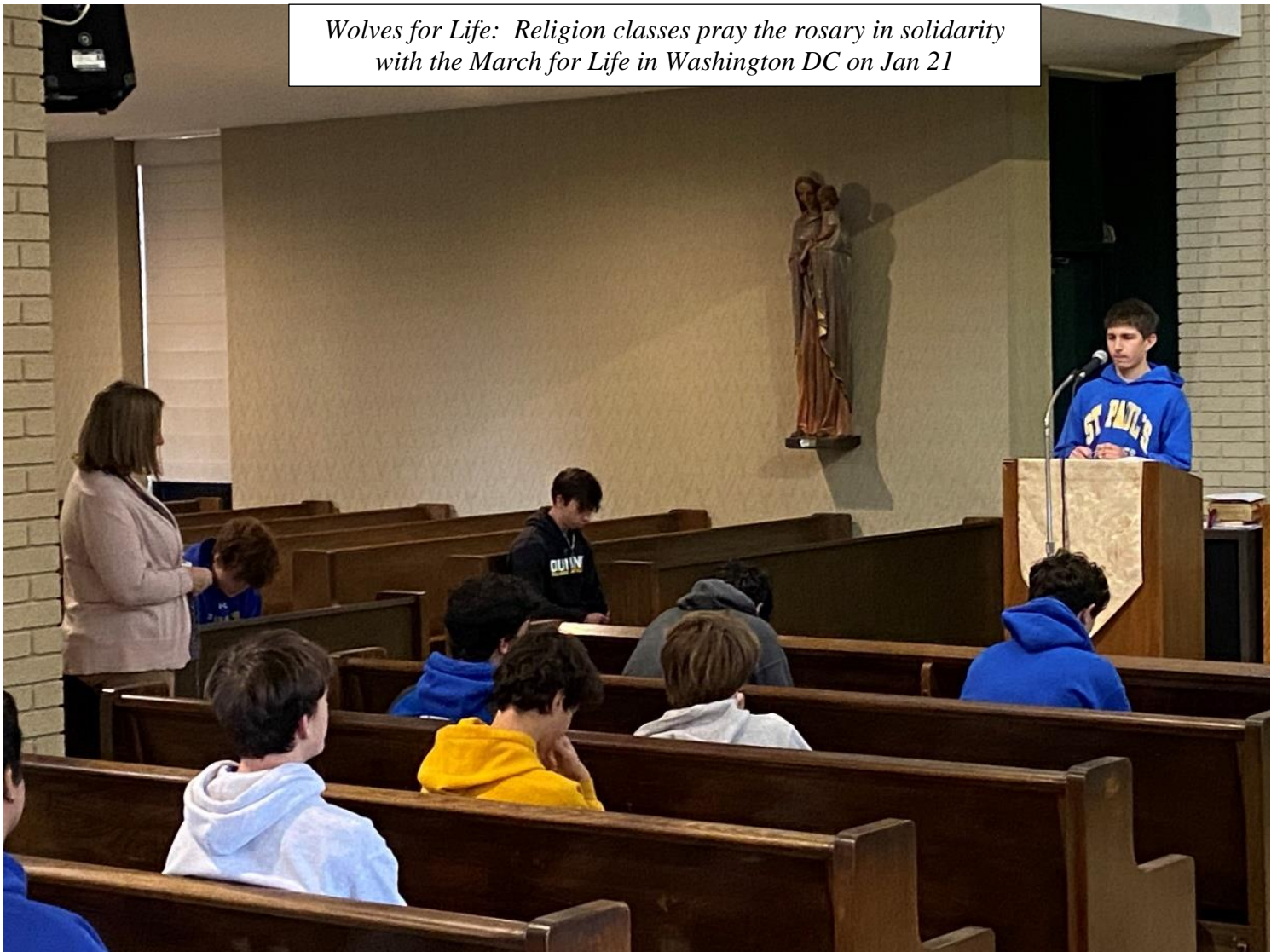
TEEN LIFE COUNTS: Our suicide prevention program wraps us this week for sophomores. has begun on the sophomore level. Please pray that students heed the message. Concerning suicide prevention, our counselors have asked me to inform you about the following:

- NAMI St. Tammany would like to let you know we are hosting a free community event on Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention. This FREE community event offers the opportunity to increase awareness of available resources, provides an educational opportunity, and opens up the conversation about mental health and suicide prevention among our youth. NAMI St. Tammany presents a film screening of "My Ascension" on Thursday, January 27 at 5:30pm at Mandeville High School's Auditorium, located at 1 Skipper Drive, Mandeville, LA 70471. A panel discussion will immediately follow the screening. This community event is free and open to the public. No registration is required. Please see the attached flyer.
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- **About the film:** A suicide attempt left 16-year-old varsity cheerleader, Emma Benoit, paralyzed, but propelled her on a mission to use her painful experience to help others find hope, and shine more light on the fact that 20 young people die every day by suicide in the in the United States. My Ascension is a feature length documentary that chronicles Emma's inspiring journey and quest to walk again, as she works to bring Hope Squad, a school-based suicide prevention program, to Louisiana. The film also highlights the stories of two remarkable young people who tragically did not survive their attempts, and we learn first-hand from their families, friends, school officials and experts about the devastating effects of suicide and what can be done to prevent it.
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- Click here to learn more about the film: [My Ascension](#). Following the 90-minute film, the panel discussion will include Emma Benoit and film maker, Greg Dicharry, along with youth, family, and behavioral health representatives from our community.
-
- If you or someone you know needs help - call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 or text the Crisis Text Line - HELLO to 741741

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.

Wolves for Life: Religion classes pray the rosary in solidarity with the March for Life in Washington DC on Jan 21



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: Chocolate jokes in honor of chocolate cake day on Thu:

- *What kind of candy is never on time? ChocoLATE.*
- *What do you call Chewbacca when he has chocolate stuck in his hair? Chocolate Chip Wookiee.*
- *An employee craves a Pay Day before the weekend.*
- *Why did the donut visit the dentist? He needed a chocolate filling.*
- *I heard a joke about chocolate bars, and it wasn't that funny. So I just snickered.*
- *What is a French cat's favorite dessert?*
Chocolate mousse.
- *Which chocolate is in the Baseball Hall of Fame? Babe Ruth*
- *What do you call stolen cocoa?*
Hot chocolate.
- *What do you call a lamb covered in chocolate? A candy baaa.*
- *Dip a kitten in chocolate? A Kitty Kat bar.*
- *An astronaut's favorite candy? A Mars bar.*
- *What is a monkey's favorite cookie? Chocolate chimp.*
- *What's the best part of Valentine's Day? The day after when chocolate goes on sale.*

Second Semester

January

24 – DEFGA

25 – BCDE -- Mass – Feast of St. Paul (regular uniforms)

26 – FGABC

27 – DEFGA

28 – BDCEF

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 pm

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 – 8th HR Breakfast
- 17 – CDEF – 11th HR Breakfast
- 18 – GABC – Life Skills Day for Seniors
- 21 – DEFG – 10th HR Breakfast
- 22 – ABCD - President’s Assembly
- 23 – EFGA – Juniors on Retreat; 9th HR Breakfast
- 24 – BCDE – Juniors on Retreat; 12th HR Breakfast
- 25 – Faculty Retreat – no classes for students

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!*

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 2022!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

We’ve Reached the End of January and I am Still the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul’s School



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.... 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 School.