

## The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon (again) Newsletter Celebrating 111 years of educational excellence in Covington 342 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world November 28 - December 04, 2022



Welcome back! I pray your Thanksgiving Holidays were filled with peace, joy, rest, and renewal! And Welcome to the seventh week (can you believe it?) of the second quarter! Time marches on!

### **MARANATHA!**



We begin this week celebrating the season of Advent – which is the beginning of the new Catholic Church year -- a time of waiting. Advent commemorates the centuries of our awaiting the Messiah. Catholic families put out Advent wreaths, the priest wears purple vestments, and Jessie trees spring up – all to remind us of the season of waiting for the "fullness of time."

I like Advent. I know I'm in the minority here, but I find it a very human season. I know, too, that our students don't like Advent because they don't like the concept of waiting. They routinely grumble about waiting in the cafeteria line, about how far away a particular event is that they are looking forward to, etc. Somehow, in our instant gratification society that emphasizes getting what you want as quickly as possible, patience is no longer promoted as a virtue. In a world where we upgrade to faster computers, buy faster Internet access, text and tweet instead of talk, deliver overnight, buy faster cars, patronize establishments that offer

"lunch in ten minutes or it's free" and emphasize that time is money, our students no longer know how to wait. And yet think about how much time we do spend waiting: in store lines, in traffic jams, for the check that's in the mail, for a happy time to occur or a difficult time to end.

Think about your son and how much time you have spent and continue to spend waiting for him: to be born, to learn to talk, to take his first step, to develop his talents, in the car pool line, to come home from a date, to see the importance of grades, to learn to appreciate family and life, to mature.

Advent teaches us to turn times of waiting into times of grace. At my next assembly, I will remind the students of one of the oldest prayers in the Church. It consists of just one word: *Maranatha*, which is Aramaic for "Come, Lord." If we can fill our time of waiting with God's presence, then the whole concept of patience will take on a new and more fulfilling meaning. What a wonderful way to fill periods of waiting! Use it as a greeting, too. Your spirits will be renewed and your time of waiting will be filled with blessing.

### Maranatha! Come, Lord!

### Mon, Nov 28 (G A B C)

- **This Day in History:** In 1520, after sailing the dangerous straits below South America that now bear his name, Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan enters the Pacific Ocean with three ships, becoming the first European explorer to reach the Pacific from the Atlantic. He had left Europe over one year earlier.
- **TDIH:** In 1582, William Shakespeare marries Anne Hathaway. Trivia Question: how many children did they have? Answer at end of newsletter.
- Cyber Monday: If you shop on-line today, consider using AmazonSmile & help SPS! See below for info.
- French Toast Day: Enjoy this iconic breakfast item.
- Soccer: JV & V at St. AmantLacrosse: Fall Ball Tryouts
- **Drama:** And Then There Were None preview Barrett's directorial debut! Best wishes, Marian Players!

### Tue, Nov 29 (D E F G) -- Luminaria-Making Wolf Packs

- **TDIH:** In 1947, the United Nations, despite strong Arab opposition, votes for the partition of Palestine, thus creating the independent nation of Israel.
- **TDIH:** In 2001, George Harrison, guitarist for the Beatles, dies at age 58. And our guitars gently weep.
- Chia Pet Day: In case you actually have one of these, be nice to it today!
- Square Dance Day: Here's a chance to get out and "Dosey Do" with your partner. I am sure our students would love to square dance with their moms or sisters!
- #iGiveCatholic Day: We pray for the success of this for SPS and all Catholic institutions.
- Soccer: 8<sup>th</sup> at Newman; Varsity v. St. Thomas More (6)
- Drama: And Then There Were None opens to general public. Get your tickets early!

### Wed, Nov 30 (A B C D – Feast of St. Andrew)

- TDIH: In 1835, Samuel Clemens, later known as Mark Twin, is born in Florida, Missouri. Read Twain today!
- **TDIH:** In 2004, after winning 74 straight games and more than \$2.5 million a record for U.S. game shows a *Jeopardy!* contestant loses. Who is it? Answer at end of newsletter!
- **TDIH:** In 2021, we held a stirring assembly in honor of our 2021 Blue Ribbon. It was a magical day.



- **Absurdity Day:** I think this day could apply to any day in 2020 or 2021!
- **Beauty Day:** Take time to observe the beauty that surrounds us daily, especially in St. Tammany and on our campus. As Confucius said: "Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it."
- Basketball: 9th & JV v. Lakeshore (5); Var in Jesuit Tournament
- Wrestling: JV/Var v. Catholic
- Suicide Awareness Parent Presentation (6): We pray for the success of this important program.

### Thu, Dec 01 (E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1956, in Montgomery, AL, Rosa Parks is jailed for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man, a violation of the city's segregation laws. The successful Montgomery Bus Boycott, organized by a young Baptist minister named Martin Luther King, Jr., followed Park's historic act of civil disobedience. Rose Parks is known as "the mother of the civil rights movement.
- **TDIH:** In 1913, On December 1, 1913, Henry Ford installs the first moving assembly line for the mass production of an entire automobile.
- Basketball: Varsity in Jesuit Invitational through Sat
- Luminaries 6 pm. Come join this annual Christmas display on our campus! Come stroll through campus and admire the "festival of lights" on our campus. A prayer service will begin at 7, followed by refreshments and entertainment in the BAC. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they knew about it from their schools in New Mexico. Thanks, Student Council, for keeping this important tradition going!



### Fri, Dec 2 (B C D E)

- TDIH: In 1823, in his annual address to Congress, President James Monroe proclaims a new U.S. foreign policy that becomes known as the "Monroe Doctrine." Primarily the work of Secretary of State John Quincey Adams, the Monroe Doctrine forbade European interference in American hemisphere but also asserted U.S. neutrality in regard to future European conflicts.
- **TDIH:** In 1804, in Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, Pope Pius VI handed Napoleon Bonaparte a crown that the 35-year old placed on his own head. He became first French emperor in 1000 years.
- **Drama:** "And Then There Were None" (7)
- Soccer: 8th v. MJH (5); Var in COPA tourney in Lafayette
- Wrestling: JV at Grace King Tournament; Varsity in Border Wars in S. Florida; both through Sat

### Sat, Dec 3

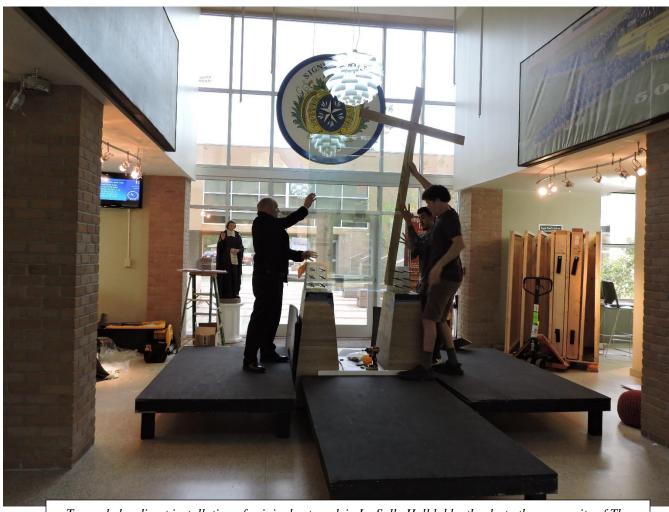
- **TDIH:** In 1947, Marlon Brando's famous "STELLA!" first booms on Broadway, electrifying the audience during the debut of Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Since Vic's AP English class is studying this play, they recently did their "Stella Yelling Contest" a latthe yearly one in French Quarter.
- TDIH: In 1967, a 53-year-old named Lewis Washansky received the first human heart transplant.
- **TDIH:** Neon lighting was first demonstrated today 1910. It was invented by a Frenchman named Georges Claude, and he debuted it at a Paris auto show which also happened to be the world's first auto

show. Neon is an inert gas and when contained it in a glass tube and stimulated it with electricity, it glows red. The neon tubes became popular as novelties, and within three years, there was a big glowing sign advertising Cinzano vermouth lighting up the sky over Paris. Neon signage was adopted with increasing frequency from 1920 onward, and by 1940 nearly every city in the United States sported a dazzling array.

- **People with Disability Day** promotes support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. As Lasallians, we build an inclusive community that respects all. We celebrate this day.
- **Basketball:** 8<sup>th</sup> at Rummel;
- Lacrosse: Team Pics and Memorial Game (4)
- **Drama:** "And Then There Were None" (7)

### Sun, Dec $4 - 2^{nd}$ Sunday of Advent

- TDIH: In 1991, after 64 years of operation, the U.S. airline Pan Am ceases service.
- Cookie Day: Enjoy! DYK the English word "cookie" comes from Dutch "koekje," which means little cake? Dutch bakers tested oven temps on small amounts of batter so they would not waste the entire cake mix if the temp wasn't right & discovered that these tiny pieces of cooked batter were actually quite tasty!



Trevor helps direct installation of original art work in La Salle Hall lobby thanks to the generosity of The David Briggs Family.



### Rise Up, O Men of God

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

**ACADEMIC SUCCESS:** We are half-way through the second quarter! If your son is struggling, insist that the go seek help. See info about free tutoring below. Help your son develop attitudes/habits for success.

**ADMISSIONS FOR 2023 - 24: THANK YOU!** I was VERY pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to YOU – for promoting SPS Lasallian Catholic education to so many of your friends and neighbors. We routinely heard about the positive recommendations given prospective families by our current or former families. I am grateful beyond measure. **The next step in the process is Application Day testing on Jan 07. Please stress with people that this is a placement test, not an admissions test**. We base admissions on the total elementary school record.

At this point, Catholic high schools may not recruit any current students in Catholic elementary schools – as those students have already made their choice of high school. The only families I can still speak to are those in public and private schools. If you know of a family interested, I will be happy to meet and tour with them. Priority in admissions is given to students who take the placement test on Jan 07. Again, THANK YOU.

**ANNUAL FUND APPEAL:** Recently, we launched our Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school. You should have received in the mail a brochure explaining the drive and a response card. I'm humbled by the number of you who anticipated the drive and already sent in your donations. The success of this drive is critical to Saint Paul's. Please keep us in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit. **And, yes, gifts of stock are welcome and you can make your AF gift through the I Give Catholic Campaign on Tuesday.** 

**ATTENDANCE:** Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Our annual blood Drive will be December 7. Permission slips will be needed for 16 and 17-year-old students. Students must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not be in an active sports season. Each pint saves lives. And parents who wish to give are invited to stop by and donate. The set up will be in the gym lobby. **Give the gift of life this season!** 



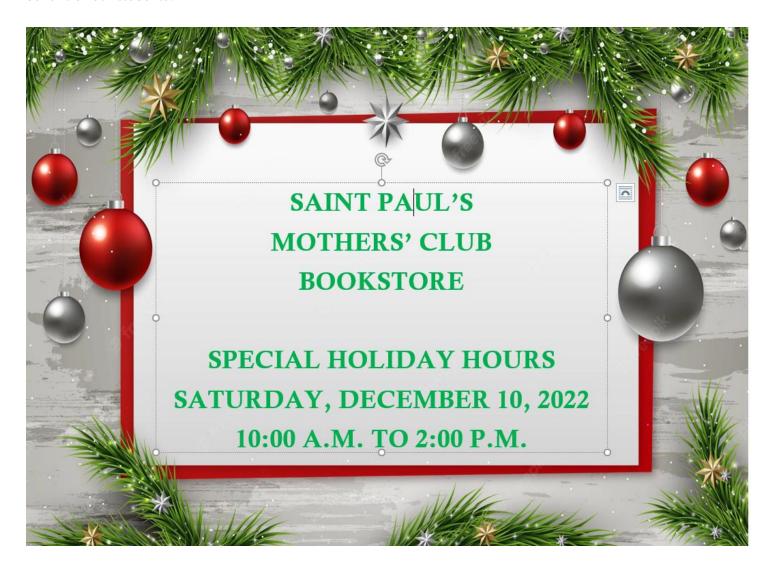
ST. PAUL'S BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, Dec. 7 8am – 2pm New Gym

sign up here!

**BOOK STORE**: The Mothers' Club Bookstore will be open 7:30 am to 8:15 am & 11:00 am to 12:30 pm each school day. **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore when possible.** 

**BOOKSTORE CHRISTMAS SALE:** The Bookstore will be open on Saturday, December 14 from 9 – noon for your Christmas shopping. Come do your Christmas Shopping and take advantage of some great bargains! Winter has finally arrived, and we have some great new sweatshirts and scarves! 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!



CARE & VIGILANCE: As we approach holidays, remember de La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras for the next three weeks. 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



**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION:** Box Tops for Education continues to be an easy way to earn money for Saint Paul's. The traditional clip box tops have been replaced with an easy-to-use app. All you have to do is buy Box Tops participating products (like Cheerios!) and scan your grocery receipt. Box Tops are worth \$.10 each and twice a year, our school receives a check Download Box Tops for Education app here:

https://btfe.smart.link/c2jjdifkw?referral\_code=R26O6QQ0
Use this referral code R26O6QQ0 when you sign up and you'll get

20 Bonus Box Tops when you scan your first receipt now through

05/31/2023, while supplies last! If you have any questions email Shannon d'Hemecourt at s.dhemecourt@stpauls.com



Students load thousands of canned goods into trucks for delivery to Northshore Food Bank, courtesy of SPS Families – a Lasallian core principle.

### **CALENDAR FOR REMAINDER OF 2022-23**

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

Fri, Feb 17 Faculty Retreat Day

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 (not spring break)
Mon, Apr 17 Classes resume from Easter Holidays

Wed-Fri, Apr 26 – 28 Senior Final Exams

Sat, May 13 Senior Graduation (4 pm)

Thurs – Tues, May 18-23 Final Exams

Wed, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day

Thurs, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

In case closings, make-up days will be taken from holidays. Do not schedule vacations during school.

### **CALENDAR FOR 23 -24 – NEXT YEAR!** We have completed our calendar for next year.

Fri - Mon, Aug 4 & 7 Teacher Meetings Tues, Aug 8 Teacher Prep Day

Wed, Aug 9 School Opens with full day of instruction (one day before public schools)

Thu, Aug 24 Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day

Fri, Aug 25 Senior Ring Holiday Mon, Sep 04 Labor Day Holiday Fri, Oct 06 Fall Break Holiday

Fri, Oct 13 End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal Sat, Oct 28 Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)

Mon, Nov 06 Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students) (tentative)

Mon-Fri, Nov 20 - 24 Thanksgiving Holidays

Fri - Wed, Dec 15-20 Semester Exams; Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams Wed, Jan 03 Classes resume & Second Semester begins (one day after public schools)

Mon, Jan 15 Martin Luther King Holiday

Fri, Feb 09 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 12 -16 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays

Fri, Mar 8 End of Third Quarter Fri – Fri, Mar 29 – Apr 05 Easter Holidays Mon-Thu, Apr 29 – May 02 Senior Final Exams

Thu, May 16 Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)

Sat, May 18 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Fri – Wed, May 17 - 22 Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Thu, May 23 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day

Fri, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

**CASH BACK PROGRAMS:** Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- AmazonSmile: This website lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice which we hope will be Saint Paul's School! Click here to shop on Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895
- Office Depot: Our number is 70041640 but saying Saint Paul's will do. With all we buy at OD, this helps.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents which adds up quickly. Thanks Math Department!.

COLD WEATHER OUTERWEAR: 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. I will handle this confidentially and appropriately. Remember that we allow ONLY SPS cool weather clothing.

COSTA RICA LASALLIAN SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAM: From SPS faculty member Dr. Shawn Mullet: Trevor Watkins and I have been trying to recruit students from Spanish III, IV, and V for our exchange program with Colegio Lasalle in San Jose, Costa Rica. In our effort to expand student horizons and further fulfill our mission, Saint Paul's has partnered with a fellow Lasallian school in San Jose, Costa Rica. From January 14-28 Saint Paul's will be hosting students from Colegio Lasalle and in July SPS students will spend two weeks in Costa Rica immersed in its culture and beautiful natural landscape. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact Dr. Shawn Mullet at <a href="mailto:s.mullet@stpauls.com">s.mullet@stpauls.com</a>.

DRESS CODE: Students must comply with the dress code. "Note: We have clean, pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student; no one will know. Thanks to those who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.

**DRIVER'S LICENSE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE:** Your son needs proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit **and another one** when he gets his permanent license. The forms are in the counseling department or the administration building.

**DRUG TESTING:** Please speak with your son – especially as we prepare for Christmas holiday. We have resumed drug testing. We use a Random Plus approach: some students will be chosen randomly and some for "cause" (e.g. drop in grades, behavioral problems, etc.) If a student tests positive, he is allowed 100 days before a re-test is given. A second positive results may well jeopardize his enrollment at SPS. We pray that our program serves as a deterrent and is not viewed as punitive. We remain convinced that drug usage is detrimental to adolescent development. BTW, legit medication (for ADD, etc.) is screened by the test. Your son will not be embarrassed in any way if he is selected to be testing. **Results are confidential to counselor and administrators.** And, yes, you may refer your son to us for testing. We pray....

**EXAMS:** Semester exam schedules begin on Dec 12. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams that will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam. Encourage your son, therefore, 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 complete exam schedule is printed at the end of this newsletter and is posted on Plus Portals.

**HOLIDAYS:** The school offices will close during Christmas holidays. Anticipate needs, especially the pesky driver's license form, transcripts, etc. I will be around, if needed, most of the holidays so feel free to call on me but I don't always know how to help.

**ID CARDS:** Students must wear their ID cards on their lanyard DAILY. **Please check your son before he leaves the house to make sure he is wearing the ID**. If he forgets, he must purchase a temporary ID from Sgt. Pressley. If he loses his ID, he must purchase a replacement for \$10.



Saint Paul's School will once again be participating in #iGiveCatholic on Nov 29. Our generous partners have raised \$73,000 over the past 4 years in this campaign, enabling us to connect the philanthropic passions of our faithful community with our Lasallian mission of educating the young men entrusted to our care. Advanced giving Please partner with us.

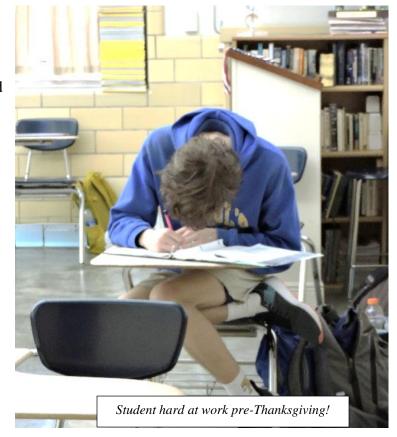
**INFORMATION:** Need More Info? For academic issues, contact teachers, counselors, Principal Joe Dickens, or Assistant Principal Lee Pierre. For discipline, attendance, or dress code questions, call Mr. Ken Sears, Dean of Students. Finances? Call Mrs. Jo Sutherlin or me. Athletics? Contact the coaches or AD Sam Francis. Naturally, call me if I can help. **My office phone is 985/892-3200, x 1901 & my** 

email is broray@stpauls.com!

LA SALLE HALL LOBBY ART WORK: The stunning, original artwork is almost complete – and worth viewing. We are grateful – again – to SPS benefactor David Briggs for adding this inspirational work to our campus.

### **LAST TWO WEEKS:**

- **Basketball:** Lots of activity too much to list, but we did well!
- Cross Country: The 2022 season ended on Nov 14 at the state meet. As a team, the Wolves finished 12<sup>th</sup> in state – a respectable showing. Congrats to Coaches Al, Kevin, and the CC Wolves!
- Food Drive: Once again, our concern for the poor rose to the occasion, and our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive was a grand success. Thanks to campus ministry, student council, and all who helped.



• **Football:** The 2022 season ended with a win over F'bleau, a thrilling first round playoff win over Holy Cross, but a loss to Northwood of S'port. Congrats, Wolves, for a notable season!

- **Library:** Five years ago, this week, we began dismantling our Benilde library. I hope the thousands of books we removed are getting more use than they did gathering dust in Benilde. And while I am most pleased with the Benilde transformation, the dinosaur in me has nostalgia for meandering through the "stacks", discovering heretofore undiscovered treasures of interest. An era has ended. I must adjust.
- HR Breakfasts: Our Physical Plant crew did a masterful job in setting up seating in the BAC, and the Development Team did a masterful job in arranging food service, thanks in part to SPS parent Rick Gonzales, proprietor of Chick-fil-A on Hwy 190. My vocabulary words this quarter were: Beatinest (Surpassing all others; most remarkable; the best); *Perfidious* (Faithless; treacherous; deceitful; untrustworthy); *Paladin* (a determined advocate or defender of a noble cause; heroic champion; and *Puzzlewit* (A persistently dull, boring pest). I encouraged the boys to be beatinest paladins at all times and to never be perfidious puzzlewits. I had fun.
- Marching Wolves: What a great season for our MWs, too! Thank, Andrew, Band Boosters, and MWs!
- **Robo-Wolves:** Wow. What a tournament on 11/19! Lots of excitement, tech talk, & robots! Congrats to Julie and the Robo-Wolves for a first-class event!
- Rotary Club Feed the Needy Luncheon: A full house in the BAC came together to help the poor.
- Soccer: Much activity; too many wins to list! All teams look good!
- **Soph Service Day:** Our sophs did great at numerous locations a great way to start T'giving holidays. Thanks to Jeff, Kevin, all soph teachers and parents who helped chaperone and transport.
- **Swimming:** Aqua Wolves placed 4th at state meet! I hear Handel playing!
- Wrestling: Ditto basketball and soccer comments! LOTS of activity and lots of great performances.

**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. Please stress with your sons to need to keep track of his belongings. Putting his name on items helps, too. Lost & Found cabinet is located outside Attendance Office.

**LUMINARIAS:** Join us this Thursday, Dec 1, for our annual Christmas display on our campus, beginning at 6 pm! Thanks to Student Council, Mothers' Club, Campus Ministry, Physical Plant, Liturgical Band, Marching Wolves, Jazz Band and all who help with this incredible "festival of lights" on our campus. The Christian Brothers were among the first to bring this holiday treat to the Covington area since they were knowledgeable about it from their schools in New Mexico. Candles are lit at 6, caroling occurs in Founders Circle at 6:30, a brief chapel service is at 7, and refreshments and Jazz Band are in the BAC. Come join us for all or part of the festivities or just come walk or ride through the campus. It's quite a sight!

**NATURAL GAS PIPELINES:** Pursuant to LAC 43:XIII.2716 et seq., each pipeline owner / operator is required to develop and implement a written continuing public awareness program. National Corrosion Service, Inc. in New Orleans has developed our public awareness program and inspects our natural gas pipelines regularly. As required by law, the full policy is printed at end of newsletter. We are in full compliance.

**THE PAPER WOLF:** We have an award-winning digital newspaper. Subscribe and have your sons to do, too. And send the staff feedback.



They love hearing from you. Congrats to TPW for the flurry of articles being written and published. The quality of writing is excellent. Here's the link: <a href="http://thepaperwolf.com">http://thepaperwolf.com</a>

**PROJECT CHRISTMAS** (**FORMERLY ADOPT-A-FAMILY**): We have again partnered with St. Tammany Project Christmas to serve those in need in our community during the Christmas season. We have "adopted" 40 children spread across 15 families. To purchase gifts for these children, we will be collecting monetary donations through religion classes from Monday, November 28th, through Friday, December 9th. Monetary donations also go toward purchasing a Christmas meal for these families and supporting other local agencies in their Christmas initiatives. Monetary donations can be sent via cash or check (made to Saint Paul's school). Thank you for your generosity.

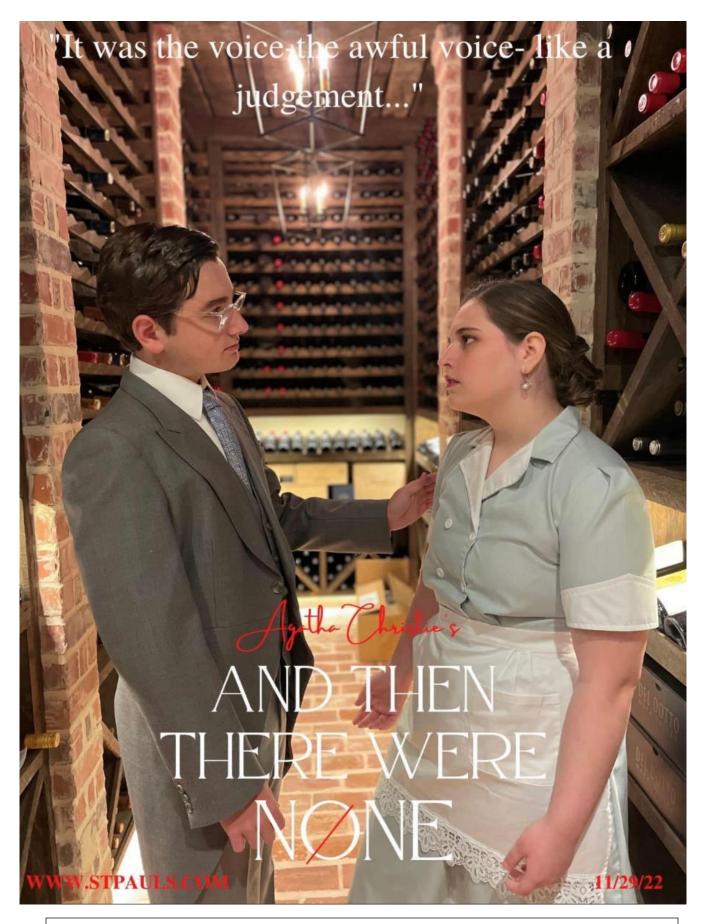
While we encourage our students to be generous with this cause (and others, e.g. Mission collections), I again want to reassure parents that we DO NOT want to cause an economic hardship for our families. Please speak with your son about charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow's Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give a lot – or even give at all. Let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too. Let's face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul's. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I've launched our Annual Fund Drive, and if you can give, that's great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul's. In turn, we pray for financial health for all

**REPORT CARDS AND SEMESTER GRADES:** Remember that the first quarter accounts for 40% of the semester grade, with the second quarter accounting for 40% and the semester exam accounting for 20%. Remember that the only grade that really counts is the SEMESTER grade – that's the one that goes on transcripts and is used to calculate grade point average.

### **RE-REGISTRATION OF CURRENT STUDENTS FOR 2023-24:** For those of you who plan:

- Current 8<sup>th</sup> graders will register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8<sup>th</sup> graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new 9<sup>th</sup> graders we can accept.
- Current  $9^{th} 11^{th}$  grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12<sup>th</sup> graders well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for next year, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- Also, if your son does not plan to return for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about January admissions.

**RIP:** Mrs. Joan Rathe died over the holidays. She was the mother of eight children, four of whom are SPS alums: Richard, David, Stuart, & Brian and several SPS grandsons and an SPS alum son-in-law. She regularly attended Sunday mass in our chapel and had a deep love for SPS – so much so that she requested her funeral be in our chapel, which it was last Friday. The family has requested that memorial donations be made to SPS in her memory. We are grateful. *Eternal rest grant unto Joan, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen!* 



The Marian Players' fall production opens to general public on Tuesday in the newly renovated Alumni Memorial Theater! Get your tickets on our website – they will go fast!

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT:** all volunteers with St. Paul's must complete safe environment training.

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** School safety remains paramount for all of us. Promote safety with your son. The media has reported as least four arrests of students in St. Tammany b/c of inappropriate threats. Sheriff Randy Smith: Take every appropriate opportunity to do the same with your sons. Safety is our priority – and it is EVERYONE'S JOB. Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear. Encourage your sons to report, too. **All visitors to campus must sign in and receive a Visitor's Pass. You may not just wander the campus. Thanks for understanding this procedure.** Our prayers rise to heaven for a safe school year and the elimination of violence of all kinds in our schools – and in all of society.

**SENIOR PARENTS:** March through the Arch pictures are in -- at no charge, courtesy of Expressions Photography. I avoid giving them directly to the seniors as in the past, many never made it home and were discovered at bottom of book bags or back of cars. You may pick up the pic yourself in the Admin Building during business hours or give your son a note authorizing him to obtain the pic. BTW, they are GREAT.

SILENT SUSTAINED READING: Daily, we do SSR (Silent Sustained Reading) during the first 15 minutes of Block 2. During this time, everyone reads silently for 15 minutes. This is not a time for homework, tutoring, studying or doing assigned reading, but is designed to make reading a school-wide priority by reading for pleasure. We hope to develop a population of self-motivated readers. The program was created over 30 years ago at the University of Vermont and has resulted in increased vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, writing quality, improved test scores, increased knowledge on many topics, and increased reading out of school. Students must bring their own reading material but we will have classrooms stocked with magazines, novels, short stories, etc. Help your son prepare for this initiative and have him come prepared every day thereafter. He should bring a PRINTED READING MATERIAL – not electronic material Consider initiating a family SSR time, too! I'll keep you posted as to how things go.

**SLOW YOUR ROLL.** This week is the three-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 your sons. And please set a good example yourself, as in the words of Saint La Salle: "Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."

**SOCIAL HOSTING:** 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." Here is a link to a brochure on this issue of social hosting. It is worth the read. Here's the link: <a href="http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246">http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246</a>

**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 our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us at

Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana

Twitter @SPSWolfpack

**SOCCER:** Our JV & Varsity Soccer Wolves are not only showing their prowess on the field, but also in the realm of IT; here's a QR code to scan or click for rosters, schedules and results. Congrats, SPS Soccer!



**SOCIAL MEDIA II**: Speak with your sons about responsible social media use. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. SPS reserves the right to impose consequences for social media misuse.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** Recently, we received a strongly worded letter from LHSAA Executive Director Eddie Bonine concerning poor sportsmanship incidents in pre-football season events. Saint Paul's will be adamant in insisting on proper behavior from players, coaches, students, & fans. We will not be penalized by the LHSAA.

### **SSA's DOVE MARKET:**







**STUDENT EMAIL:** Students MUST use their SPS-issued email when communicating with teachers.

**STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL:** Ben's Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. Mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who are waiting for a late ride or a practice. Faculty will supervise the space.

SUNDAY ACTIVITIES: I remind you of the policy of Archbishop Gregory Aymond that Catholic schools are not to schedule any activity on a Sunday. Recently, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Dr. RaeNell Houston sent out the following clarification on participation of Catholic school students in events hosted or sponsored by an outside agency: Schools may participate in activities on Sundays that are hosted or sponsored by an outside entity only if certain conditions are met. The participation of students on Sunday may only be voluntary. Never is an event to be mandatory on Sunday. The voluntary status of each event must be formally communicated to students and their families. Under no circumstance may punitive action take place, including any type of sarcasm, shame, or disgrace, as a result of the decision of the family for a student not to participate in a Sunday event. Anytime our school groups participate in a Sunday activity, it is up the moderator of the group to see that the Sunday obligation of Mass is fulfilled. Naturally, we will comply with this policy of Archbishop Aymond and the Office of Catholic Schools.

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: 988: On July 16, 2022, Louisiana joined the rest of the nation in launching 988, the new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance during a mental health crisis. When you call (multiple languages), text (English only) or chat 988, you will be connected to trained, compassionate crisis counselors who will listen to your concerns, provide support, and connect you with local resources. The chat feature is available through the Lifeline's <a href="website">website</a> (<a href="www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/">www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/</a>). People can use 988 if they are having thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGAM FOR PARENTS:** Our counseling department has arranged for a special parental program on suicide on Wednesday, November 30, at 6 pm in the Music Hall. We hope parents will attend this program on this difficult subject.





### SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL PRESENTS



### A PRESENTATION FOR PARENTS

WITH TEEN LIFE COUNTS SPEAKER
ROBYN WILLIAMS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2022

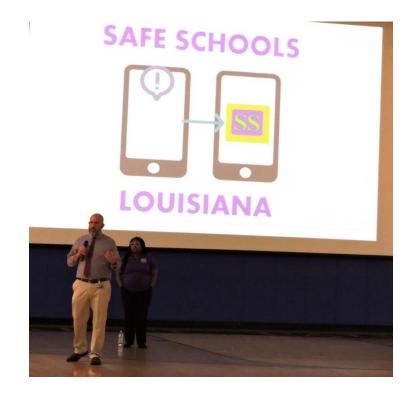
### IN CRISIS?

National Suicide and Crisis Hotline: 988 (24/7) VIA LINK Cope Line: DIAL 211 (Call anytime 24/7) Crisis Teen Text Line: 504-777-EASE (3273) (Text anytime 24/7) National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-TALK (8255) 6:00 PM

Briggs Assembly Center **STAIRWELLS IN REAR OF MAIN SCHOOL BUILDING:** A recent inspection discovered some needed maintenance areas in these two stairwells – now over 20 years old. We took the holiday opportunity to have welding repairs, painting, and sectional replacements done – to the tune of \$40,000 unbudgeted costs.

Safety is paramount at Saint Paul's School, and as such, Ms. Tkiani Pullins of the Louisiana Safe Schools program spoke to the student body about the importance of "breaking the silence" by using the Safe Schools Louisiana Anonymous Reporting App. The app is a free resource designed with the goal of keeping students, or someone they know, safe from threats, harmful behaviors, or dangerous situations by providing them the ability to communicate their concerns anonymously.

Joe Dickens introduces speaker from Crime Stoppers who focused on the LA Safe Schools App – which your son should have downloaded to his phone. Speak to him about the Assembly and how to use the app.



**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.

**THEATER REPAIRS/IMPROVEMENTS:** Enough work has been completed to allow the play to open this week! There is still more to be done (roof, drainage, under stage strengthening, etc. but the show must go on!

**TUTORING:** The National Honor Society provides free tutoring at lunch. Signage is all over campus as to location. Encourage your son to take advantage of this service as soon as he needs it. First Quarter report cards are only a few weeks away! Get help now if needed!



# National Honor Society tutoring begins on Tuesday, Aug 16

Algebra I and II - Geometry Science - Math XL - Test Prep Homework Help











**TUTORING** 

Mon - Tue - Wed - Thurs Lunch Period

LaSalle Hall L202

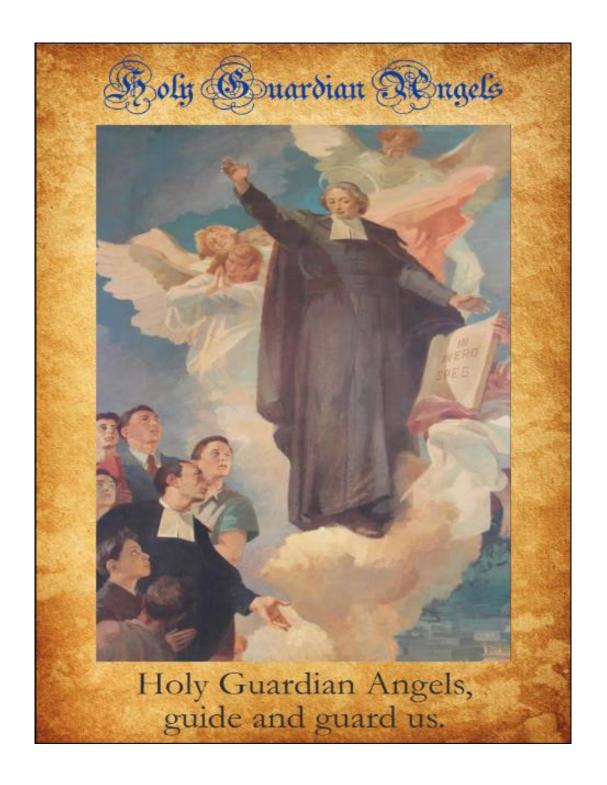


VALUE OF WAITING: During this period of Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to "wait" is a chief characteristic for success in health, work, and life as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford University. Beginning with the famous "marshmallow experiment" published in 1972 (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 repeatedly, 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: <a href="http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification">http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification</a>

**VAPING:** Yes, it remains a problem. Parents are the key to prevention. The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, are ignoring the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. We are ramping up enforcement on our ban of this latest insidious treat to health. 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.

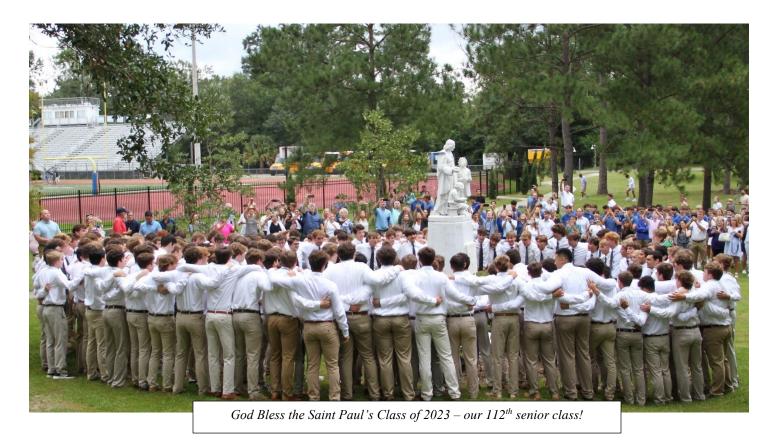
### **WEEKLY HUMOR:** Some puns:

- Dad, are we pyromaniacs? Yes, we arson.
- She was only a moonshiner's daughter, but I miss her still.
- What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.
- Why do bees stay in hives during winter? Swarm.
- Just so everyone is clear, I'm going to put my glasses on.
- A commander walks into a bar and orders everyone around.
- I lost my job as a stage designer. I left without making a scene.
- Never buy flowers from a monk. Only you can prevent florist friars.
- How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer.
- I once worked at a cheap pizza shop to get by. I kneaded the dough.
- My friends and I have named our band 'Duvet'. It's a cover band.
- I lost my girlfriend's audiobook, and now I'll never hear the end of it.\
- What is brown and runs across the dessert? A CARAMEL.
- What are flying carrots especially afraid of? HeliCHOPters.
- What did the child ketchup say to dad ketchup? Wait for me, I need to ketchup!"
- Why does the nurse take a red crayon with her to the hospital? To draw blood.



MARCH THROUGH THE ARCH PICURES FOR SENIORS ARE IN: Expressions Photography did an outstanding job in producing this year's March through the Arch pictures for seniors. The pictures are in the Administration Building and may be picked up during business hours. If you want your son to pick up the pic, please send a note authorizing him to do so. Unfortunately, we must do this as in the past, some seniors got the pics and left them in their book bags or back car seats and the pics never made it home.

Thanks to Expressions for making this year's pics so memorable.



### November

- 28 GABC
- 29 DEFG Pack Time Luminarias
- 30 ABCD Sudden Impact/ Ramon C block

### **December**

- 1 EFGA Luminaries Tonight\*/Snack day
- 2 − BCDE
- 5 FGAB
- 6 CDEF President's Assembly
- 7 GABC
- 8 DEF \* late start for remediation & make-up work/mass (dress uniform day)
- 9 GABC
- 12 DEFG
- 13-16 First Semester Exams
- 16 Faculty Luncheon

### **January**

- 3 ABCD Classes Resume
- 4 EFGA President's Assembly (Wed.)
- 5 BCDE
- 6 FGAB
- 9 CDEF
- 10 GABC Pack Time Sudden Impact/Falk. G Block

- 11 DEFG
- 12 ABCD late start\*
- 13 EFGA
- 16 MLK Holiday
- 17 BCDE President's Assembly
- 18 FGAB 8<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 19 CDEF 9<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 20 GABC 10<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 23 DEFG
- 24 ABCD Pack Time
- 25 EFGA Mass Feast of St. Paul (dress uniform day)/Snack Day
- 26 BCDE 11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast Sudden Impact/Falk. B Block
- 27 FGAB 12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 30 CDEF
- 31 GABC President's Assembly

### **February**

- 1 DEFG
- 2 ABCD
- 3 EFGA
- 6 BCDE Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-7 in BAC
- 7 FGAB Pack Time
- 8 CDEF Pre-ACT 10
- 9 GABC Pre-ACT 9
- 10 DEFG Pre-ACT 8
- 13 ABCD
- 14 EFGA President's Assembly (dress uniform day)/Snack day
- 15 BCDE Junior Retreat
- 16 FGAB Junior Retreat
- 17 Faculty retreat (no classes)
- 27 CDEF
- 28 GABC Pack Time

### March

- 1 DEFG
- 2 ABCD
- 3 EFGA
- 6 BCDE
- 7 FGAB Junior in-school ACT
- 8 CDEF President's Assembly
- 9 GABC Core Pack Breakfast/Late start
- 10 DEFG End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter



- 13 ABCD
- 14 EFG SSA Challenge/1 PM Activities in Stadium\*
- 15 ABCD
- 16 EFGA late start\*/5 Core Meal
- 17 BCDE Mass (dress uniform day)/Snack day
- 20-24 Senior Retreats\*
- 20 FGAB
- 21 CDEF
- 22 GABC
- 23 DEFG 8<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 24 ABCD 9<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 27 EFGA
- 28 BCDE President's Assembly
- 29 FGAB 10<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 30 CDEF 11<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast
- 31- GABC 12<sup>th</sup> HR Breakfast

### **April**

- 1 Junior-Senior Prom
- 3 DEFG
- 4 ABCD Pack Time\*
- 5 EFGA Passion Play for Juniors
- 6 BCDE Mandatum (dress uniform day)
- 7 14 Easter Holidays
- 17-21 Leadership Week
- 17 FGAB
- 18 CDEF Leadership Breakfast/Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Snack Day
- 19 GABC Leadership Guest Speaker
- 20 DEFG
- 21 ABCD Year in Review Assembly
- 24 EFGA Last Pack Time for Seniors; Class Level Elections
- 25 BCDE President's Assembly (last for seniors)
- 26 FGAB Senior Exams
- 27 CDEF Senior Exams
- 28 GABC Senior Exams

### **May**

- 1 DEFG Mass (dress uniform day)
- 2 ABCD Pack Time (last one)
- 3 EFGA
- 4 BCDE late start\*
- 5 FGAB
- 8 CDEF 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exams
- 9 GABC Last President's Assembly / 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exams

- 10 DEFG 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Exams/Senior Grad Night
- 11 ABCD Athletic Awards/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion
- 12 EFGA Academic Awards dress uniform day
- 13 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation
- 15 BCDE
- 16 FGAB
- 17 CDEFG\*
- 18-23 Final Exams
- 23 Last Day of School 11:30 Dismissal/ Faculty Luncheon

### First Semester Exam Schedule 2022

### Monday, December 12 – DEFG

Regular Schedule w/ SSR (84 min.)

CHIMES 8:00

BLOCK 1 8:05- 9:34 BLOCK 2/SSR 9:41-11:20 LUNCH 11:20-12:00 BLOCK 3 12:05-1:29 BLOCK 4 1:36- 3:00

### **Tuesday, December 13 – A Review/A Exam (BC)**

CHIMES 8:00

PERIOD A REVIEW 8:10 -8:55

Break 8:55-9:05

PERIOD A EXAM 9:10 -10:40

PERIOD C REVIEW 12:15 - 1:00

PERIOD B REVIEW 10:50 – 11:30

LUNCH 11:30 – 12:10

DISMISSAL 1:00

### Wednesday, December 14 – 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 15 – 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 16 - FG

CHIMES 8:00

PERIOD F EXAM 8:10 – 9:40 PERIOD G EXAM 9:50 – 11:20

DISMISSAL 11:20

Whew! Enough! Hope I haven't taxed your patience too much this week – but you got a break last week! I can't believe we are starting the sixteenth week of the school year – the seventh week of the second quarter!

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to any more and LOL since the show went off the air and WWNO stopped broadcasting reruns of the show): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time (in the Christmas season, no less!) reading my ramblings!

Pray that things go well as we begin December! We have already reached the seventh week of the second quarter! Time marches relentlessly on, and the only thing we can do about it is decide how we use each second of each minute of each day of each week of each month of each.... OK, you get the idea.

May the final weeks of 2022 (can you believe it?) be ones of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2022-23 edition of Saint Paul's – our 112<sup>th</sup> year of existence!

### Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for the Grace of Patience in Advent as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

"Young people are not bad because they have bad hearts. They are bad because of bad example. As teachers, you have no greater responsibility than to give your students good example."

--Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers, c.1705 Meditations for Sundays

### Let's end with Prayer for Life

Let us pray, Father and maker of all, you adorn all creation with splendor and beauty and fashion human lives in your image and likeness. Awaken in every heart reverence for the work of your hands and renew among your people a readiness to nurture and sustain your precious gift of life. Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Answer to Nov 28 trivia: Will and Anne had three children: Susanna, Judith, and Hamnet.

Answer to Nov 30 trivia question: Who is Ken Jennings? RIP Alex Trebek!

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



.... 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, living the Gospel, and being guided and guarded by the angels! Let's give it our best this week and Advent with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon school.



Paula the Campus Peahen missed the boys during the holiday and looks forward to welcoming them back on Monday – along with any snacks they drop on the ground. Happy Advent!

SPS's 15 National Merit Scholar





### PUBLIC AWARENESS NOTICE

Pursuant to LAC 43:XIII.2716 et seq., each pipeline owner / operator is required to develop and implement a written continuing public awareness program. National Corrosion Service, Inc. in New Orleans has developed our public awareness program and inspects our natural gas pipelines regularly.

St. Paul's School owns and operates master meter natural gas distribution system on the school properties. The gas system consists of underground networks of pipelines. The purpose of the gas system is to provide a reliable and safe economical source of energy for heating purposes to the buildings adjacent to the underground gas pipelines. The pipeline system has the capacity to reliably deliver natural gas to the customers.

The hazards of natural gas are it is odorless, colorless, tasteless, lighter than air and can ignite and/or explode with tremendous force when mixed with the right amount of air.

Prevention measures taken include:

!	adding odorant to the gas to give it that distinctive smell, similar to rotten eggs, to warn us of its
	presence,

- testing the odorant level each calendar quarter,
- ! performing annual gas leakage surveys, and
- ! conducting periodic pipeline patrols.

The following are signs that may indicate a gas leak:

A hissing or roaring sound (caused by escaping gas),

A patch of dead or discolored vegetation in an otherwise green setting along a pipeline route,

Blowing dirt, grass or leaves near a pipeline,

Continuous bubbling in wet, flooded areas,

A "gas smell", similar to rotten eggs

Anyone who may smell this odor or notice any unusual conditions on or near gas mains, vents, service lines, meter sets, or especially inside of a building should call the St. Paul's School Maintenance office immediately. If you smell a strong gas odor inside a building, notify everyone in the building to leave. Do not operate any switches or use the phone. Go a safe distance away upwind of the gas smell and call the maintenance office. With any gas leak protect life first then property, then notify the St. Paul's School Maintenance office.

State and federal laws require excavators to notify LA One-Call two (2) full working days before digging. If any excavation is planned, you must notify LA One-Call which will notify the school to locate the gas lines.

To obtain additional information, report gas leaks, or report other gas related information contact the St. Paul's School Maintenance Office at 985-892-3200. The LA One-Call Center phone number is 811.