



DEPAUL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to the Spartan Sentinel, our bi-weekly electronic newsletter for all things DePaul Catholic.

Principal's Corner Mr. Russell Petrocelli

Dear Spartan Community:

This week we lit the 3rd candle of the Advent wreath...the pink candle..."Gaudete Sunday" which means "Rejoice"!

The third candle on the Advent wreath is called the "Shepherd's Candle" and it is a symbol of the Joy that filled the world with the birth of Jesus and that joy that was first revealed to the shepherds at night in the fields where they kept watch.

As a school community, we will gather on Wednesday, December 23, 2020 for the Senior Mass of Light. Unfortunately, we can only have the senior class and one family member join us in the gym, but they will process into the gym surrounded by light. It is my hope that they will carry this light with them at all times, and to wherever they go, so that they can be light in the lives of people who may be in darkness.

As the calendar year comes to a close, we take the time to reflect on all that we have to be grateful for and all that the DePaul community does to serve those in need. Our good deeds reach far to serve many people and the students take the lead in so many of these initiatives. Whether it is through Christian Service, Interact or Student Council, the DePaul community continues to serve those in need.

When our students are home during the Christmas break, please continue to practice all of the safety measures that we have implemented within the school community – wear a face covering, social distancing, wash your hands, and use sanitizer. The vaccine is a welcomed early Christmas gift but we must be vigilant until the vaccine results are more widespread. From the DePaul Catholic family to your family, may the light of our Lord's birth brighten your Christmas season and all of your days. Merry Christmas to you, your family, and friends.

St. Vincent DePaul – Pray for Us!

Moving Forward...

Mr. John Merritt '71

Vice Principal, Student Life

It was December in 1963 and the country was still mourning the death of President Kennedy one month before. I am sure, if you are my age, you know exactly where you were and what you were doing on that sad day, November 22nd, when the President was shot and died. I was sitting in a 5th grade classroom at St. Peter's School in Parsippany, NJ. Sister Ann Thomas was our teacher.

Christmas was coming and, of course, that meant that school would be closed for about 10 days. So when school dismissed for Christmas break on December 23rd, my friends left excited and happy. My younger brother and I also left, but something was different. We

knew we were not going to return to St Peter's after the New Year. The Merritts were moving to Wayne, N.J. to a new house.

The next day we moved to Wayne and settled into a house with more space, but little furniture, on a road that was not finished. We missed our friends already, but my brothers and I could tell that my parents were excited. Theirs was the typical American story. Get married, settle in an apartment, have a baby (me), save for a house.

On our first night in Wayne, it was snowing like crazy and we were sitting on the sofa in the living room. It was the only place to sit. My mother was overwhelmed with the move and my father was still at work. He had announced that he would have to work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the rest of his life to pay the mortgage. We actually believed him. The mortgage, he told us years later, was \$220.00 a month.

As we were sitting there, my mother remembered she had not gotten my father anything for Christmas and she got upset. So the 4 of us put our coats and boots on and walked to the Valley Shopping Center, and bought my father a bottle of his favorite liquor. It was an actual blizzard, and my job was to make sure we did not lose my younger brother, Bill, in a snow drift.

We got home (frozen) and sat down on the couch again. Suddenly the door flew open and in walked the abominable snowman. My father had abandoned his car down the road in a snow bank and walked the rest of the way. He was not very happy, so my mother gave him his Christmas present, which, thankfully, calmed him down.

Being that it was Christmas Eve, at 9:00pm he told us to go to bed. So to bed we went sleeping on the mattresses on the floor ... later we would get beds! I could hear my father and mother talking downstairs about something, but soon I fell asleep.

Waking up, my brothers and I were surprised to see that Christmas had arrived in Wayne. There was a tree and presents and the Yule Log was on the portable black and white TV. The famous Yule Log movie where the cat walks across the screen unsolicited. My old man was asleep in a chair and my mother was in the kitchen cooking something.

What I remember most was thinking, how did they do this? Where did the tree come from? How did they decorate it and when did they find the time and money to buy some gifts?

Then it dawned on me: ***When you care about others, nothing is too hard or impossible. You do what needs to be done because you care.***

I will never forget our first Christmas in Wayne and, of course, my father complaining about the monthly mortgage payment for the next 30 years.

All was good.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Max Zisa, Freshman Class President, interviewed a few people around the building asking "What does Christmas mean to you?" He was also able to capture some beautiful Christmas wishes for our DP community. Merry Christmas from all of us here at DePaul Catholic. May the Savior's birth bring peace into your hearts and homes this Christmas. Bright wishes for the new year, as well!

[View Video Here](#)

School Counseling Office

Mrs. Anne Gregory
gregorya@dpchs.org

This week we are proud to announce Jonathan Erickson's acceptance into Stevens Institute of Technology.



Jonathan says “Stevens was my first choice, because of the incredible education and job opportunities that come with being a duck. For years I knew that I wanted to major in finance, and eventually have a career working for a large investment firm. The university is located moments away from some of the biggest financial companies in the world, and regularly hosts networking events for students to form connections with their potential employers. To say I am excited for the next four years is an understatement!”

Spartan Nation



Congratulations to our student-athletes who committed to play their sport at the next level during last week's Signing Day Ceremony.

Clockwise from top:

Laila Aponte - Softball - Post University
Xavier Brown - Baseball - Wagner
Camryn Wolf - Soccer - Marshall
De'Mere White - Football - Robert Morris
Zachary Relovsky - Lacrosse - UMASS Amherst

Welcome, Future Spartans!

Mrs. Brynn Merritt Campbell
Director of Marketing & Enrollment Management

INTRODUCING Connect with a Spartan

Our Shadow Program has gone virtual!

For the safety of everyone, we are not able to host visitors, so we're bringing our Ambassadors to you. (and they are so excited to meet you!)

Visit the website below to
Connect With A Current Spartan.

dpchsstudents.org



[Connect With A Spartan Here](#)

Class of 2025 Admissions Process

Attend a Virtual Open House

Did you miss our Virtual Open Houses?

Check out our latest one here: <https://conta.cc/2JbdSYt>

Fill Out Your Online Application before December 4, 2020.

www.depaulcatholic.org

Cost: \$25.00

Connect With A Spartan

We may not be able to host in-person Shadow Days at this time, but that doesn't mean you cannot connect with a current Spartan. Click the link below to Meet our Ambassadors.

<https://dpchsstudents.org/#/>

Send Your Transcripts, Test Scores, & Teacher Recommendation ASAP!

Email is best: admissions@dpchs.org

Transcripts from 6th, 7th, and 1st Marking Period of 8th

Test Scores = any State testing completed in Middle School

Teacher Recommendation = Middle School Academic Teacher

While we are still accepting applications for the Class of 2025, items submitted after December 23rd may not be reviewed in the first round of admissions decisions.

We are in the process of interviewing our next group of Prep students.

The place to begin

https://depaulcatholic.schooladminonline.com/users/sign_in

Be sure to indicate that you are interested in 8th Grade Prep.

Alumni & Advancement News

Joe Lennon, Director of Advancement

Coleen Fitzgerald Brophy '79, Director of Special Events & Alumni Relations

MOE'S SOUTHWEST GRILL

Build your own meal kits!

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Pick up at Moe's

500 State Rt. 23, Pompton Plains, NJ 97444

Click on the link below to order for DePaul Catholic There are two pick up times 4:30-5:30 pm and 6:45-7:45 pm.

<https://form.jotform.com/203503320439142>



Annual Fund For The Future



The definition of Spartan means a person of great courage and self-discipline. At DePaul Catholic High School, we promote focused, driven, self-disciplined students. With your support, you will aid in carrying on this legacy by helping DePaul continue to grow as a community and school.

For over sixty years, DePaul Catholic has provided thousands of students with faith-based, quality education in a safe and caring environment. We need your help as we continue this vital work, building God's Kingdom one child at a time. Your contribution to our Annual Fund will support our many programs, including merit scholarships to recognize academic excellence, tuition assistance for challenged families, enhancements to our Campus Ministry and Performing Arts offerings, and upgrades to our facilities.

For these sixty three years, as we like to say, DePaul Catholic has been "the place to be." Please help us continue to be that "place to be," for this generation of Spartans and for generations of Spartans to come.

To donate, please use this link: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/spartanfund>

The Interact Club

Members of the DePaul Catholic Interact Club hold up the gift cards donated by the DePaul Community. These gift cards are being sent to 25 families to help make their Christmases a little merrier. The Adopt-a-Family project is done in partnership with Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Paterson. The Interact Club would like to thank everyone who contributed to their project. We wish you a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.



Theology News

Theology classes were blessed to participate in Reconciliation services with Father Madrid. Each service included a beautiful reflection and examination of conscience before students were able to have individual confessions with Father. It was a wonderful way to prepare for the coming of Jesus!

Below is a student sample from a Snow Day Assignment given by Mrs. Bullman.

This is a picture of me dancing in the snow by my house. Snow is an important part of the balance we maintain on Earth. Snow regulates the earth's surface temperature, and once the snow melts, it can runoff into streams or other bodies of water that provide water to many regions around the world. God created the Earth to maintain a natural balance and made it so impeccably that things in nature work together to achieve the beauty we see today. Everything God created is perfect, including the beautiful snow we are experiencing today. It is important that humans, as stewards of God's Creation, take care of these natural elements and preserve nature so that not only we can thrive, but also so God's other creatures can survive as well. If we continue to pollute the earth, we are contributing to global warming and are hurting God's Creations, which we need to fix so that we can live in harmony with nature, and this beautiful snow should remind us all of this.



Donations To Catholic Charities

DePaul Catholic Students load the van from Catholic Charities with donations of hats, scarves, mittens, and boots. This collection was conducted by students from Ms. Sevean's freshman Theology classes.

The two envelopes contain gift card donations. This collection was conducted by the Interact Club. The DePaul Catholic community generously contributed enough gift cards so that every member of 25 families received their own \$25 gift card. There were even extra cards donated to provide for 3 more families.



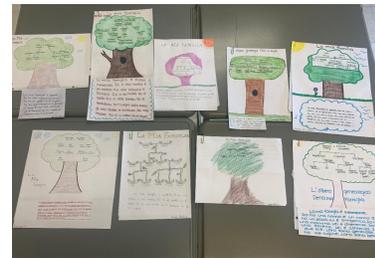
Thank you to everyone who participated in these two Christmas projects. They certainly show our Spartan Spirit. May you have a happy, healthy Christmas.

What's Going On In Italian Class?

This week Italian 1 students worked on a class project, titled "La mia famiglia / L'albero genealogico della mia famiglia" - "My family / My family tree."

This project had three parts: a drawing of the family tree, writing portion and verbal presentation. Students were asked to include new terminology related to the family members in order to succeed in this project. Meanwhile, drawing "the family tree," students practiced the vocabulary and prepared to present verbally in Italian.

Students had the opportunity to be creative and practice the language. Students were amazed with the final result and enjoyed the process of this project. Bravissimi!



Medical Science Club

Senior Kate Lencsak explains her experiences as an EMT for her hometown of Mahwah. She discussed with the Medical Science Club members both in person and on-line, how she studied to be an EMT. She also offered some helpful advice on how to prepare oneself for actual situations that can occur. It was an enjoyable as well as educational time.

DePaul Catholic Parents' Association WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Our next PA Executive Board meeting is **Tuesday, January 12th at 7pm** in the DP Information Commons Room! All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

New Year? Yes, Please!

2020 has been a challenge to all of us, but it has also shown how resilient we are. We have learned to use technology we never knew about before (Who had heard of ZOOM before 2020). Our children were able to take classes and talk to their teachers without leaving home (Maybe not even changing out of their pajama bottoms). We have learned to be together while being safely apart (Let's visit Grandma and talk to her through the door). We have seen amazing advances in medicine that no one imagined could be done (a safe vaccine being researched, tested, approved and administered in months when it usually takes years). 2020 has been challenging, difficult, strenuous and frightening, but it has also been eye opening, enlightening and ground breaking. Always look for the silver

lining. It may be hard to see but it's always there. Here are just a few quotes to hold onto as we navigate the last stretch before we can all be together again in 2021. We are sending you the warmest of wishes for faith, hope and peace during this Christmas season.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. – Isaiah 40:31

I think we dream so we don't have to be apart for so long. If we're in each other's dreams, we can be together all the time. – Winnie the Pooh

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. – Desmond Tutu

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass...It's about learning to dance in the rain. – Vivian Greene

Once you choose hope, anything's possible. – Christopher Reeve

From The CALENDAR RAFFLE COMMITTEE

There is still time to get your calendar raffles forms in. We will have a basket in the front lobby where you can pick up extra forms or drop off in the Money Box. Drawings begin 12/25! With the holidays approaching, sell to family or buy some yourself as stocking stuffers. Please help our DePaul Family by selling your 10 raffles.

If you have any questions or need more, contact:

Cindy Winkler - cinwinkler@optonline.net

Rosa Calle-Ponte - caller61@gmail.com



Have you checked your list twice? Please support DePaul as you are doing your holiday shopping at no extra cost with smile.amazon.com (Select: Depaul High School Wayne)

Choose DePaul Catholic High School Inc as your charitable organization and let the shopping begin!



Sign up for A+ School Rewards
DePaul Catholic School
ID# - 08465
<https://stopandshop.com/school-rewards>

Stop&Shop®



Making some room during the holidays?

Just drop your items that are ready to move on into the bin at the back of the parking lot. It's an easy way to help DePaul, help those in need, and make some much needed room!



From The TRICKY TRAY COMMITTEE

Mother Earth's Garden Party Tricky Tray

Our first meeting will be coming soon. Keep an eye out for more information!

Save The Date....Tuesday, April 20, 2021!

Below is a list of the Tricky Tray Committees.

Ad Journal, Basket Making, Decorating, Dinner Tickets, Female

Models, Male Models, 50/50 (Night Of), Prize Runner, Prize Tickets, Prize Wheels, Publicity, Set Up, Solicitation, Super 50/50 Raffle, Wine Pull

If you are interested in joining any committees, please contact:

Donna DiPiano - 973-766-3662 donnam59@optonline.net

Debbie Lozito - 201-214-6848 dlodoc@aol.com

Maryann Marren - 973-580-3401 school12marren@yahoo.com

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Advisor- Sr. Jeanne Agans **President-** Allison Beshada **Secretary-** Mina Farrell, Leslie Minuitti

Treasurer- Kim Wilderson **Tricky Tray-** Donna DiPiano, Maryann Marren, Debbie Lozito

Hospitality- Deb Murray, Julie Sullivan **Ambassadors-** Andie Pegel

Calendar Raffle- Cindy Winkler

Snack Stand- Bob Niemiec, Allison Beshada **Public Relations-** Brenda Salamon

Stop & Shop- Rosalind Tomeio

DePaul Catholic High School | 973.694.3702 | www.depaulcatholic.org

STAY CONNECTED

