

# THE EMERALD



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND DE PAUL AND BEYOND...



Pictures from Christmas Spirit Week and the Christmas Assembly!

## Midterms on the Horizon...

Halfway done, halfway to go! You heard it Spartans! We're halfway through the school year. What marks the midway point? Midterms. Midterms start on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>:

8:05 AM – All Math

10:05 AM – All Theology

Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>:

8:05 AM – All English

10:05 AM – Science (year-long courses)

Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>:

8:05 – Social Studies, Economics, Conflicts

10:05 AM – World Languages, Music Fundamentals, Conflicts

Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:

8:05 AM – AP Stats, Intro Stats, Fin Lit, Genetics, Hn Genetics, Make-ups

10:05 AM – Make-ups

## Spartans Get into the Christmas Spirit!

### SPIRIT WEEK & ASSEMBLY

The 2024-2025 Student Council officers worked with Ms. Caughey to organize a Christmas Spirit Week! This took place from Monday, December 16th to Thursday, December 19th. Themes consisted of Christmas Colors, Holiday Character Onesies, Plaid-Flannel Pajamas, and Ugly Sweaters. On Monday, everyone dressed up in their favorite red and green attire! On Tuesday, from Santa Claus to the Grinch, the hallways were littered with everyone's favorite Holiday onesies. On Wednesday, everyone was warm and cozy with their Holiday flannels. To cap off the Spirit Week, on Thursday, the Spartans showed up in their ugly Christmas sweaters!



To get even more into the Christmas Spirit, there was a special treat on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Santa came to visit at our Christmas assembly, spreading all the holiday joy! The Music Ministry group performed Christmas carols, too. Pictures with Santa were taken, and he even had gifts for some naughty and nice seniors.

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## CLUBS

### The Art Show + Holiday Concert

If you were looking for a night filled with Holiday cheer, wonderful art displays, & performances, then the DePaul Winter Art Show and Holiday Concert was the perfect place for you! The Winter Art Show, put together by the Arts Department on December 10th, was a fun and festive event and gave DePaul a taste of holiday cheer before Christmas. There were tons of amazing student artworks on display. Three students in particular—Jasmin Quispe, Yudum Seker, and Eryn Rubenacker—had their own dedicated displays, showcasing some of the incredible artwork they’ve been working on this semester.

The second aspect of the Art Show were Christmas-themed performances, including live music, a radio show hosted by Ms. Sevean, dance performances, and Christmas poems and recitations. Everyone involved did an amazing job bringing this project together, from the talented artists to the performers, and it was a great way to kick off the holiday season at DePaul.



### Spartan Spotlight: Fr. Frank

Father Frank is one of our chaplains here at De Paul! We are so lucky to have him! His favorite thing about De Paul is the community. He feels it is the perfect size: big enough so that you can do great things, but small enough to still be cared for. Before he came to De Paul, he was a full-time priest at St. Anthony’s, where he still serves. Fr. Frank’s favorite part about being a priest is being able to be a part of people’s big moments in life and the sense of trust that develops through that. In his free time, Fr. Frank is an avid sports watcher and karaoke enthusiast. A fun fact about him is that he is a De Paul alumni!

### Spartan Spotlight: The Girls’ Soccer Team

Our Girls’ Soccer Team just wrapped up a record-breaking season! Not only have they been on fire for the past few years, but they



especially showed up this past season! Going 19-1, staying undefeated their whole season up until the final game, was an incredible accomplishment. Their achievements did not stop there. Their hard work gained them national recognition, as they were ranked #10 in the country. Moreover, they were declared the top team in North Jersey and were Conference, County, and State Sectional Champions! Congratulations!



### Right to Life Club:

The Right to Life Club collaborated with Ms. Zaccardi’s Peer Ministry class to host a Baby Drive. Items such as diapers, hygiene products, cleaning products, baby bottles, pacifiers, baby clothes, and gift cards were collected. On November 26th, the club welcomed guest speakers from the Passaic Neighborhood Center for Women, to which the donations were given to. The Right to Life club also fundraised for their March for Life trip to Washington, D.C. with popcorn sales! They are super appreciative to all donations and funds raised, as they look to their trip with much excitement.

### Interact Club:

Quarter 2 was a big one for DePaul Catholic’s Interact Club. The club participated in our annual gift card drive this quarter. Every year, during the Christmas season, we come together as a community to help families in need. The whole school is invited to take an active role in this drive through the Interact Club. With each ornament grabbed off of Ms. Sevean’s Christmas tree in her office, you could buy a 25-dollar gift card from the store. Once again, we were able to reach our goal and provide for all of the families on our list, on behalf of the Interact club, we give the DePaul Catholic Community a huge thank you.

As 2nd semester approaches, the club asks that you keep an eye out for future activities. In March, the Interact Club will be hosting a collection of toiletries for DePaul Catholic’s Midnight Run. The Midnight Run is a service opportunity the school provides for the homeless of New York, with clothing, food, and toiletries. For more information on the collection, email Ms. Sevean at [seveand@depaulcatholic.org](mailto:seveand@depaulcatholic.org). Another event to look forward to is DP Doggy Day. This school-wide event offers students an opportunity to show off their pups and give back to the community. Through DP Doggy Day, we raise money for local animal shelters, and partner with Holy Bones, a non-profit located in St. Mary’s Church in Pompton Lakes, NJ who work to provide a safe and secure environment where people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can gain the satisfaction and self-esteem of producing dog treats for our community.

### Forensics:

The Forensics Team has been having a very successful season. At their latest meet at



Morris Catholic, senior Vita Wadell and juniors Cassie Jourdan and Jaidyn Watson each placed in their event.



### Italian Club:

The Italian Club was busy this quarter. Before Christmas break, they watched “Home Alone” in Italian and learned to say Christmas and Holiday phrases in Italian. They also did some cooking and made Ravioli. Yum! They plan on making more foods like Tiramisu and pasta to better understand Italian culture and traditions.

### Young Lawyers Club:

The Young Lawyers Club has had a quarter of great discussions about the different types of law and what it is like to be a lawyer. So far this year, they’ve had Mr. Goldfarb’s daughter, who is a CSI, as a guest speaker. She discussed her studies in college and her job in the field. Dr. Stickles and Mr. Goldfarb have also talked about their experiences as lawyers and what cases they have covered.



Message Club on a project! They decorated rocks and placed them around the school to spread kindness and awareness. Art Club is definitely a great way that has spread positivity, and creativity, at our school. Go SpARTans!!

### Book Club:

The Spartan Book Club has been off to a great start this school year! At their first meeting, they picked their first book, “The Secret History” by Donna Tartt. After they all read the book, they met for another meeting where they had an amazing discussion about the book! They are currently in the middle of picking their next book for their meeting in



February!

### Crochet Club:

Crochet Club is new to De Paul Catholic! It is led by Leyla Perez, a current Junior, and moderated by Ms. Zaccardi. They started off learning about all different types of stitching and knotting. They are currently in the process of making scarves! How perfect for the winter season!



## Our Faith in Action – Masses, Service, Peer Ministry, & More...

### All Saints' Day Mass:

Our All Saints' Day Mass took place on Friday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. We gathered to honor all of our faithfully departed. Our celebrants were our three chaplains, Father Frank, Father Steve, and Father Joey, as well as Father Brian.

### Peer Ministry:

#### o Diocese Youth Conference:

- o On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, members of De Paul Catholic's Peer Ministry attended the Diocese of Paterson Youth Retreat! The theme of the retreat was "Transformed" to show how we are all transformed by God's love. The keynote speaker of the retreat was Valimar Jansen. It was a day of praise and worship, showing just how strong the faith of the young Church is!



#### Podcast with Bishop Sweeney:

- o Bishop Sweeney invited De Paul Catholic to be featured on his podcast "Beyond the Beacon." On December 5<sup>th</sup>, some of our peer ministers traveled with Ms. Zaccardi to speak with Bishop Sweeney about the young Church and campus ministry at De Paul Catholic. You can listen on Spotify, YouTube, or our school's website!



### Junior Retreat:

The Juniors had a special retreat at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark. It was a wonderful day of togetherness and growing in faith!

### Thanksgiving Mass:

On the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27<sup>th</sup>, the Spartans gathered for a Thanksgiving Mass.

During this Mass, the Spartans were able to reflect on all the blessings in their lives and everything that they should be thankful for.

### The Advent Season:

During Advent, Spartans had the opportunity to receive reconciliation from one of our three chaplains or Father Brian. It gave everyone the opportunity to kick off the Christmas season with a clean soul, ready to remember the birth of Jesus.

### Jubilee Mass:

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, members of the De Paul Catholic community celebrated the Jubilee Mass of Hope with Bishop Sweeney. It took place at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Paterson. What a wonderful way for the Spartans to prepare for the Jubilee Year of Hope!



### Decorating the Grotto for Advent:

A HUGE thank you to the Kissoon family for their donation and their time! They made the Grotto beautiful for the Advent Season! The decorations were lovely and very clearly the result of much time and dedication!



## Celebrating Our Seniors: Senior Mass of Light and Senior Luncheon

The last few days leading up to winter break were busy for our Seniors! On Thursday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, the Seniors had their annual Senior Luncheon at the Brownstone in Paterson. The class came together for a meal to celebrate the last few years they've spent with each other. On Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, the whole school was present for the Senior Mass of Light. All of the Seniors held a candle to symbolize the light they will bring to the world in the next chapter of their lives. Father Joey, Father Brian, and Father Frank inspired the whole community to be a light in the world, especially during the Christmas season. What a wonderful way to kick off our Winter Break!



## Spartan Study Tips: Midterms Edition

Semester 1 of the 2024-25 school is coming to an end, and with it comes our midterm exams. Here are some study tips: **GET AHEAD:** Begin studying and looking over your class notes a few weeks before the big exams. Cramming a semester's worth of information in a few nights will only lead to stress and a probable not-so-great performance. Instead, I recommend compiling your class notes and taking the important topics into proper study guides in advance to have a good resource to study off of.

**TEST YOURSELF:** Get a friend or family member to quiz you on the material. Having someone test you will help you to realize what you already know and what else you need to study a little extra. This way, you can spend your valuable time studying the most important things you struggle with.

**USE YOUR TEACHERS:** A good habit in preparation for these exams is to take advantage of opportunities provided to you by your teachers. Our teachers at DePaul want us all to succeed and help in preparation for these exams. Many teachers provide review packets that cover everything you have learned from September until now that is needed to be known for the tests. Also, attend some of the extra help opportunities your teachers offer.

**BE CONSISTENT:** Another helpful tip to follow is to remain diligent and disciplined in your studying habits. Set aside dedicated time to review each subject whenever you have time available. Consistently doing so will likely help in improving the outcome of these exams.

However, overall, remember to not overwhelm or overstress yourself. **STAY CALM:** Although these tests are important, remember to keep calm and collected. Get a good night's sleep the night before each exam, stay calm, and ask for our Lord's guidance. Remember, God is with us at all times, even during these endearing tests. "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10. God bless and St. Vincent DePaul, pray for us!



## In with the New... Fresh Faces Around DP

**Ms. Mancini:** Ms. Mancini is the guidance counselor for grades 11 and 10! Miss Mancini has always wanted to be a school counselor and she loves being one here at De Paul. She loves De Paul's well rounded and close-knit community and enjoys getting to know all of her students. Welcome Miss Mancini!

**Ms. Cruz:** Ms. Cruz is a new English teacher at De Paul! We are so excited to have her and we wish her a warm welcome to the De Paul Catholic Community! We are so happy that she decided to share her love of English with us!

**Ms. Enriquez:** She is the new Theology teacher taking over for Ms. Sevean. Ms. Enriquez is excited to share the faith with us! We're so happy to have her!

**Ms. Sevean:** She's not a new face, but a new position! Huge congratulations to Ms. Sevean for her new position as Dean of Students!

## SPORTS

### Closing Out Fall Sports...

#### Girls' Soccer Final Report

Our Girls Soccer Team finished their season 19-1. They made it all the way to the State Finals, where they put up a fight, even though it did not go their way. Together, the girls were an unstoppable force this season, gaining local, state, and national recognition!



#### Football Wins State Championship!

We would like to acknowledge our Varsity Football Team and their great season this year. They finished with a record of 11-1, and went on to defeat Pope John and become State Champions! Congratulations football on an amazing season!



#### Cross Country



Tiny but mighty! The Cross Country team is composed of only 3 Spartan athletes: Adrian, Evan, and Jackson. However, what the team lacks in numbers, they make up in talent, dedication, and hard work. The team puts their whole heart into every 3.1-mile race they run. One of their biggest races this season was at Garrett Mountain.

### Welcome Winter Sports!

It's that time of year! Winter sports are back in full swing! We welcome back girls' basketball, boys' basketball, wrestling, swim, and competition cheerleading. We wish all of our teams the best of luck and to have a safe and fun-filled season. We encourage you all to attend games and events to support your peers. If you are interested in attending, please check the school website for dates. Go Spartans!



#### Boys' Basketball

They're back! The boys' basketball team is back with an amazing record of 6-2. Working together, they have built a strong team! Their determination and hard work have brought them wins against schools such as Mahwah, Passaic, Irvington, Pompton Lakes, and West Milford. During their first game vs Mahwah, the team was able to reach an astonishing 68 points! There is no doubt that these boys have been putting in the effort! We wish them the best of luck during the rest of their season, and hope to see you at a game!

#### Girls' Basketball

Our girls are back and better than ever! With a record of 5-2, our girls have managed to beat teams such as Mahwah, Bloomfield, Paterson, Wayne Hills, and Hackensack. It is no doubt that this team works hard, as they beat Mahwah by 23 points, Bloomfield by 25, and Hackensack by 24! These girls display determination on the court all the while working together as a team! Don't worry if you've missed a game or two, we still have a decent amount of season left! Good luck in the rest of your season girls!



#### Wrestling

The wrestlers are hitting the mats once again! The team continues to work hard and strive for greatness. They secured an amazing win against St. Mary's. Our very own senior Caroline Biegel remains number 2 in the country in her weight class! We encourage you to support our team by stopping by one of their matches. Good luck wrestling!



#### Competition Cheer

It's the season for competition cheer! We would like to congratulate our girls on their first season win at their first competition! They have worked very hard together as a team. Good luck to our girls! We hope to see you at a competition.

#### Swim

The swim team is making waves! They are a co-op team with Mount Saint Dominic Academy. Together, these schools make a dynamic duo. Their record is currently 4-1 and they've had some nail biting meets versus Montclair and Columbia. Wish all of these swimmers a good luck, as they have the Essex County Championship on January 20<sup>th</sup>!



#### Winter Track

It may be cold outside, but the winter track team is bringing the heat! The Winter Track Team is 3 meets in thus far and already demonstrating great success. Giancarlo Glass was recently recognized by the county and the state for long jump and triple jump. Counties will take place on January 20<sup>th</sup> at Ocean Breeze with 6 of our wonderful Spartans competing!



### The Mental Health Corner: Inspired by Morgan's Message Club

Mental health is such an important part of our lives, which is why it is so vital that we all take care of our own and try to positively influence other people's mental health. Kindness and positivity are two powerful tools when it comes to accomplishing the task of staying mentally healthy. The Morgan's Message Club emphasized this over the last quarter through its partnership with the Art Club to create rocks with positive messages on them. These rocks were distributed throughout the entire school in an attempt to uplift our community.

As for winter sports dedication games, the Morgan's Message Club held one with the Boys' Basketball Team on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>!

The Emerald – A closer look at all the reasons why De Paul is the place to be!

Stay tuned for our next edition coming soon, with more articles about faith, academics, arts, sports, extracurriculars, and everything DPCHS!

The Emerald is brought to you by the members of the Newspaper Club:

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