

November 23, 2020



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 DePaul Catholic High School Community,

Thanksgiving is less than a week away and so many are struggling with the reality of where to have dinner and who should be seated at the table. I tell you, I am having the same struggle. Thanksgiving will not be the same this year....the parade will be virtual...less than 10 people at the table...but, I will be watching the March of the Wooden Soldiers on Channel 11!

We have so much to be thankful for this year. I think that we sometimes lose sight of the fact that we have weathered a tough eight months but we are hopeful for a light at the end of this tunnel. The winter could be a long one but hope will spring eternal. Take some time over the next several days to take stock of all that we are thankful for and for all of the people in our lives who have helped us through this challenging time. If you are home during the holiday, check on your neighbors, especially those who are older and maybe alone for the holiday.

As a school community, we will celebrate our Thanksgiving liturgy on Wednesday, November 25 and, in years past, we would open our doors to parents and alumni, also something that we cannot do this year, but please be assured that our entire DePaul Catholic High School community will be remembered in the intentions of the mass. We will be reopening school on Monday, November 30 as we head into the home stretch towards Christmas break. With students here in the building and home on remote instruction, our goal is always the most rigorous level of educational instruction. In a final comment, as the principal of this building, I cannot be prouder of the dedication and commitment that the teaching staff has made to continue to deliver quality instruction under the most adverse of conditions. They are true professionals who deserve the thanks of this entire community.

From our family to yours, a blessed Thanksgiving.

St. Vincent DePaul, Pray for Us!

Moving Forward...

Mr. John Merritt '71

Vice Principal, Student Life

This Thanksgiving we will have 4 adults, a dog and a baby (not born yet!) assembled at the Merritt house for dinner.

The dog, who thinks he is a human, will do his very best to entertain and eat and then sleep. This is what he does. He entertains, he eats, then he sleeps, although he may wake up, as he does like the Dallas Cowboys who usually play on Thanksgiving. The dog is sort of like that one crazy relative that every family has who shows up, entertains, eats and then falls asleep.

The rest of us, like other families, will not be seeing the relatives that we usually see and that is sad. No one is getting any younger and Thanksgiving was always a time to catch up and reminisce. However, the four of us will have some laughs and talk about COVID and the election and then move on to the main topics of Christmas, new arrivals and then back to COVID.

The big difference is that this year there will be no Turkey!

That for me is a true blessing. Turkey and I just do not get along. The thrill of getting the drumstick is long gone, and the thought of root vegetables just doesn't do it.

Mashed potatoes, nah!

Carrots, no thanks!

Cranberry Sauce, please God no.

I just can't fake that I like this food anymore. I also do not believe in the myth of leftovers and how good a turkey sandwich tastes the next day. It is still Turkey. The vegetables are still root.

So what is on the menu? Possibly chicken piccata and some other delights. Maybe some rice, some nice Italian bread and some worthy vegetable that did not grow underground. Now this food is something to look forward to and savor when served. I think the Pilgrims themselves would have enjoyed this meal.

I will miss the good times and people from past Thanksgivings. Some folks can't be with us because of the pandemic and some others are in heaven enjoying their Thanksgiving together.

I will miss the old folks who are gone who used to talk about the days of growing up during The Depression and then fighting in the War. I will miss the stories about how my 2 brothers and I could be major idiots at times as we drove my mother crazy. I will miss my aunt who always had 2 martinis and then spent the rest of the day asking what I was going to do with my life after college. I finally told her I was training to be a lighthouse keeper and she never asked again.

Yes, our house then and now is a lot like any other houses on Thanksgiving. We are lucky to have one another and grateful for all the memories from the past. The food, well that's just an added attraction and this year the menu isoh boy!

Now, if we can just get Dallas to lose on Thanksgiving that will make for a perfect day

Campus Ministry

Fr. Jhon Madrid
School Chaplain

Thanksgiving Day: A Time of Gratitude, Optimism, and Grace in the Midst of the Pandemic

As Thanksgiving Day approaches and many people may be wondering how on earth we are going to celebrate our traditions this year away from family and friends due to COVID-19 related travel restrictions or safety concerns, I want to invite you, all our DePaul family and friends, to see this Thanksgiving Day as an opportunity to think outside the box and reflect on the great meaning of gratitude, optimism and grace of this holiday.

We have heard the story again and again. It was the fall of 1621 in Plymouth, Massachusetts, when the pilgrims who had survived the first year in the New World, after a big harvest, gathered for a feast to offer thanks. One of the pilgrims wrote at the time: *"By the goodness of God, we are so far from want."* This meal left us with an enduring tradition: a gathering around the dining table with family and friends, giving thanks for surviving in an uncertain and difficult new place.

Let us think that the first pilgrims were people who lived their lives in wonder and hope, grateful for everything: the hard storms and deep snow, the frightening evenings and hopeful mornings, the time of sickness and the blessing of health, the long journey that had taken them to a new place. This meal leads us to say that they knew how to express gratitude. Some people have suggested that maybe that is what enabled them to thrive and flourish: a humble appreciation for whatever God gave them, trusting that He would

give them what they would need. It's an optimistic message, really, and gratitude, I think, carries a spirit of hope and optimism. Maybe that spirit can teach us something as we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this year in the midst of this pandemic, and endure our own hard storms and deep snows, the storms of our own lives.

I am just as sure this spirit of optimism and grace, although in a different way, will be present this year as well. The grace of gratitude. The grace of thanking God for whatever gift He gives. And in the giving, and in the receiving, and in the thanking, there is something that transcends time and place. There is love. Love for those around us, love for what we have, and love for what we have been given. And love for the God who gives it. Because no matter how violent the winds, at least on this day we all remember that God is near, walking this journey with us and helping us carry our own crosses. The cross of being sick or feeling lonely and worried about the future. The cross of losing a loved one and not being able to say good bye, and I love you, and thank you. The cross of not having a job or being depressed about what is going on in the world. Once again, no matter how unforgiving the storm, God is with us.

The pilgrims knew that. And so did the Samaritan leper in the gospel that we proclaim at Mass during Thanksgiving Day. He lived a life of deformity and shame. But he trusted, and he listened, and he was healed: changed forever, made new. He could have gone on his way. But he did not. He could not. He had to thank The One who made his miracle possible. Two thousand years later, that anonymous figure left us a legacy, and a lesson: a beautiful example of what it means to have an "attitude of gratitude." It is an attitude we all need to nurture, not just today, but every day.

To all our teachers, staff, students, families, benefactors and friends I wish for you a very meaningful Thanksgiving. May the healing power of Jesus bless us and protect us every day of our lives.

School Counseling Office

Mrs. Anne Gregory
gregorya@dpchs.org

DePaul College Corner

We like to celebrate the college acceptances of our students by showcasing a student each Sentinel. This week's student is Katelyn Heaney. She was accepted to, and will be attending, Wake Forest University.

"I chose Wake Forest because the school offers everything I want and more for my next four years. Even though I think I want to study Finance, the liberal arts curriculum gives me time to decide. I also love Wake because they have so many ways their students are involved, and I'm excited to go to sports games like basketball and football!!"

Congratulations, Kate!



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 before December 4, 2020.

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

Please note: You MUST fill out a DePaul application before registering for the Academic Scholarship Exam, picking an Academic Scholarship Interview Slot, or applying to the Honors Academy.

Sit for A Scholarship Test

Students who are interested in being considered for an Academic Scholarship or applying for an Honors Academy will need to sit for a Scholarship Test.

MAKE UP EXAM

Sunday, November 29 at 8:30am

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/academicscholarshipexam2025>

Attend An Academic Scholarship Interview

Students who are interested in being considered for an Academic Scholarship or applying for an Honors Academy will need to sign up for an interview slot.

Date: December 10, 11, 12, 15

Register here:

https://depaulcatholic.schooladminonline.com/portal/public_calendars/academic_scholarship_interviews

Apply to the Honors Academy

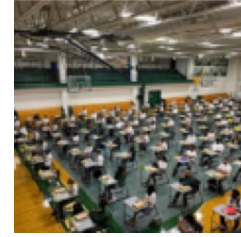
Students who are interested in applying for an Honors Academy will need to fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/c8boxPhFth4PCyvv8>

Advancement News

Joe Lennon, Director of Advancement

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

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.

Our Annual Fund will close on December 31, 2020. To donate, please use this link: <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/spartanfund>

Please Remember in your prayers the following Family Members of Our DePaul Community

Michael Charles ('Buddy') Powers, 85, of Ringwood, NJ and Jupiter FL, formerly of Inwood, NY, passed away peacefully on Friday, November 13, 2020. He was the loving husband of Nancy McGrath. He is predeceased by his wife Theresa Powers (nee Dougherty) of Bronx, NY. Proud father of Mary Beth Powers, '78 and husband Andrew Berkowitz, Jean Marie Powers, '79, Christopher Powers, '81 and wife Patricia, Michael Powers, '83 and wife Teri, Katie McNamara and husband, Michael and Tim Powers and wife, Dawn.

Ted Jachera is survived by his beloved wife, Ethel "Sugar" Jachera, blessed in a loving marriage for 60 years: his daughter Kathleen Jachera, '79 and her children Keith and Ryan Agnello; his son Robert, '82 and his wife Nancy, '82 Jachera and their children Matthew, '12 Daniel, David and Jessica; his son Thomas, '85 and his wife Lisa Jachera and their children Nicholas, '14, Gabriella, '15 and Thomas, '19; numerous nieces and nephews; and his sister-in-law Winifred Jachera. Ted was predeceased by his sister Helen Zuba and husband Stan, his brother Stanley Jachera, his brother John Jachera, and his nephew Michael Jachera.

Sean Brewer '85 He is survived by Claudia, son Henry (age 11), and daughter Aubrey (age 8); mother Corinne Brewer, and siblings George Brewer, '83 (Bridget), Andrew Brewer, '86 (Patricia), Christine Burt (William), Corinne Friske, '98 (Jason), Ana DeLosSantos.

DePaul girls soccer shuts out Morris Catholic for sectional title



Congratulations to the Girls Soccer Team!

Full article here: <https://www.northjersey.com/story/sports/high-school/girls-soccer/2020/11/22/depaul-girls-soccer-shuts-out-morris-catholic-sectional-title/6377022002/>



THE PLACE FOR
**HIGH
SCHOOL
SPORTS**

Catch The Spartans LIVE by subscribing to the NFHS Network.

Visit: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/depaul-catholic-high-school-wayne-nj>

Around the Halls

Medical Science Club

So just to prove the Medical Science Club is alive and well during this pandemic... Pharmacist and alum, Stephen Latourette '12, came to speak to the members recently.

What he spoke on was both timely and fascinating. The students were pleased with the presentation. Keeping in line with the health guidelines all were masked and safely distanced.



Theology

Honor and service have been in full swing in the Theology department. To celebrate veterans who are special to us, a fundraiser was held and money donated to Wounded Warriors. Peer ministers placed flags, with names of veterans, around the flag pole at the school entrance. Although it was a rainy Veterans Day, it was a beautiful sight to see our veterans honored for the service to our country.

The Interact Club and Theology department also participated in a food drive for Fr. English Center. Items such as canned goods, cereals, peanut butter and jelly were donated and will certainly be put to good use.

Students from the Freshman Class have combined efforts and have begun a drive to collect NEW socks, hats, mittens, masks, scarves, slippers for those in need. Donation bags are in rooms 101, 102, 105! Let us remember the needy during this holiday season.



Mrs. Haggerty's Junior Sacramental Theology classes, while studying the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, participated in Eucharistic Adoration with Father Jhon Madrid. The DePaul Catholic Chapel was a place of great peace and prayer thanks to Father Jhon. The students were moved by this Catholic practice and found it to be a beautiful time spent with Jesus.



DePaul Catholic Parents' Association WHAT'S THE SCOOP?

Our next PA Executive Board meeting is **Tuesday, December 8th at 7pm** in the DP Information Commons Room! All are welcome to attend. Hope to see you there!

THANK YOU TEACHERS

Thank you to all our teachers, who have stepped up to ensure our students are staying healthy, safe, and continuing to learn during these difficult times. Education may look different right now, but your efforts to inspire and inform are appreciated more than ever. Please know that you are making a difference every day by investing in our DePaul Students' present so that they may have amazing futures.

From The CALENDAR RAFFLE COMMITTEE

You should have received your packet of raffles in the mail. 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



I can smell the peppermint in the air which means holiday shopping is upon us? As you do your online shopping this year, please support DePaul at no extra cost with smile.amazon.com

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®



Make some room?

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

**Thank you to all of our Parent Volunteers for giving your
time and talent.**



Michele Scrofani, Chris Marren
and Gail O'Malley



Maryann Marren and Nicole Lomakin



Issie Chervencko, Gini Panzera and Ana Oechslin

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 Staff Member, Desi Maik, and another member of the
William Paterson Concert Orchestra.

STAY CONNECTED

