



SAINT PAUL THE APOSTLE

CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Thank you to all of the parents who took the time to express their gratitude for the steps we have taken here at St. Paul's to ensure the safety of our students. The tragic events of last week have served as a reminder that we must always be vigilant and progressive when it comes to protecting our community. Our prayers for peace and healing will be with the community of Saugus High School in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Here at St. Paul's, we are also looking ahead to the rest of our school year. One of goals has always been to establish a safe, positive, and nurturing learning environment for all of our students. When we return to school after the Christmas holidays, we will be introducing the **CATHOLIC GEM** recognition series to our students. The concept of GEM (**G**oing the **E**xtra **M**ile) was briefly mentioned by me at Back-to-School Night, and a few parents have asked me what it means, how it works, and when we will begin implementing it.

First and foremost, the faculty and staff of St. Paul the Apostle School strongly believe that the moral development of our students is vitally important in developing healthy values. It is our goal to encourage positive qualities so that SPA students will develop good character, make appropriate choices, grow in their Catholic faith, and be effective leaders. Since the beginning of this year, I have publicly acknowledged the Christian behavior of several of our students during our weekly prayer assembly. I share with the community the names of the students, and briefly describe the virtue or Christian act of kindness that someone observed them doing. The message I share with our students is that "No matter what you do—whether it be good or bad, big or small—someone is always watching. Let them see you doing something good."

It is with this in mind that we have embraced the implementation of the GEM series, where there will be a schoolwide focus on a specific Christian quality each month. The teachers will introduce the quality in their classrooms, incorporate the particular trait into the curriculum wherever it's applicable, and take note throughout the month of exceptional efforts on the part of each student in their classroom. Teachers will be able to use the qualities as a focus for classroom discussions, as a prompt for academic activities, and as models for good behavior. At the end of each month, the students in every homeroom will be asked who they think has best modeled the Christian quality behavior for that particular month. We all know it's easy for students to do the right thing when the teacher, coach, or principal is watching, but our students also know who consistently models Christian behavior when the adults are not immediately present. Those are the students that we want to recognize and thank for helping to make SPA a caring, faith-filled community.

After some deliberation, the faculty chose the following qualities as those worthy of recognition: *respect, compassion, responsibility, cooperation, patience, kindness, acceptance, helpful, fairness, and politeness*. We obviously won't have time to get through the entire list this year, but we intend to keep it going next year as well. In order for the **CATHOLIC GEM** to be successful, parents and faculty will need to work together to reinforce these Christian values at school and at home. Thank you for all that you do, and for your consistent cooperation and support of our efforts.

Peace and blessings,

Crystal A. Pinkofsky
Principal

18	NOV 2019, MON	● 18:30 – 19:30	2nd Grade Sacrament Mtg - JCPC
20	NOV 2019, WED	● 16:30 – 18:00 ● 18:30 – 20:30	School Board Meeting - JACC 7th Grade Prayer Service/Dinner - CH/JCPC
22	NOV 2019, FRI	● 19:00 – 21:00	Jr. High Dance - JCPC
27	NOV 2019, WED	● All day ● 11:15 – 12:15	12:30 dismissal for Thanksgiving (No After School Care) School Mass - Thanksgiving - 6th Grade
28	NOV 2019, THU	● All day	NO School - Thanksgiving
29	NOV 2019, FRI	● All day ● All day	NO School Trimester 1 Ends
1	DEC 2019, SUN	● All day	Advent Wreath Making - JCPC
2	DEC 2019, MON	● 08:00 – 10:00	PWC Meeting - JACC

SPA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



We are happy to announce that the students of St. Paul the Apostle School will be presenting "**THE MISSION!**" on **Monday, December 16, at 7:00 p.m.** in the church. **This acting/musical production will be held instead of the Christmas Concert that has taken place in previous years.** The students who auditioned for the play are now hard at work rehearsing their lines in preparation for this SPA community event.

Please note that ALL students in grades DK through 8 will be participating in this Christmas program as each grade performs their selected songs throughout the play. All of the seating in church will be made available to the "audience" -- parents, grandparents, relatives, friends and any SPA parishioners who might want to attend. Our students will remain "backstage" until it is time for their class to perform.

On the night of the pageant, it is important that students are in their classrooms no later than 6:30 p.m. We will be asking students to wear their "best" attire for the Christmas program. This means NO athletic wear, shorts, jeans, t-shirts, extremely short skirts/dresses, or sandals/flip flops of any kind. Students who arrive inappropriately attired will, regrettably, not be allowed to participate in the program. Please contact the school office or your child's teacher if you have any questions. We look forward to you enjoying the show!!



ADVENT WREATH/SPA CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Did you know that EVERY SPA parent is a member of Parents Working for Children (PWC)? Nowhere is this title more evident than during festival weekend, where every parent works hard to assure a successful festival for the benefit of our students. When we say PWC, we mean YOU, the parents and guardians of SPA! After all the hard work at the start of the school year from everyone in PWC, we look forward to kicking off the holiday season in gratitude and celebration with Advent wreath building on Sunday, December 1, in the JCPC. We also look forward to celebrating our wonderful community with all SPA parents, alumni parents, teachers, and parish staff at the SPA Christmas Party on Thursday, December 5, also in the JCPC. By now you should have received a link to the invitation in your weekly newsletters or via an email. Please join us to celebrate the start of the Christmas season! Your presence will make these fun events even more enjoyable!



GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS!

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!!! The girls' varsity 8th grade volleyball team defeated Archer School at the end of last week to take the **PBL championships!!** It was a total team effort, and their unwavering support and encouragement for one another has been apparent throughout the season. And if that championship wasn't enough, the varsity team also defeated American Martyrs to claim

the **CYO championship!** Our girls won 1st Place out of 56 teams in the CYO! It was a hard-fought match between two great teams. The Christian sportsmanship they displayed was equally as impressive as their athletic abilities. Congratulations, Saints! We are so very proud of you!



FINGERPRINTING OPPORTUNITY at SPA

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles Fingerprinting Department will be at St. Paul's on Thursday, November 21, from 12:00 - 6:45 p.m. Parents who would like to volunteer to chaperone field trips, help in the classrooms, coach a sports team, etc. **MUST** be Virtus trained and fingerprinted. This is a perfect opportunity for you to check this off of your "to do" list. If you would like to request an appointment time, please contact Cheryl Crump in the school office at 310-474-1588.



NEW/IMPROVED SPA WEBSITE!

After months and months of planning and prepping, our new SPA website launch is imminent! The School, Parish and PWC sites will all be receiving a massive overhaul **starting December 1st!** To access the new location please go to <https://school.sp-apostle.org/pwc> and login to your account. ALL pertinent school related information will now be accessible there. Please reach out to helpdesk@sp-apostle.org for any issues with your account, and report any bugs or issues when you find them so that we can create the best user experience for current and future families, parishioners and staff for the next decade.

TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDERS



In an effort to help traffic flow quickly and smoothly during morning drop-off or afternoon pick-up, please note the following reminders that require your attention: **There is no jaywalking in front of the school; please use the crosswalks.** There is no parking on Selby Ave. during morning drop-off. Please allow yourself time to park if you are walking your child to class. **As always, there is NEVER any PARKING in the RED ZONES.** They are for emergency vehicles only. **PARKING is NOT ALLOWED in front of any driveways (please respect our neighbors), or in the Mormon Church lot as that is reserved for FACULTY/STAFF ONLY.** As always, we appreciate your complete compliance regarding these traffic policies.



PARISH NEWS - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE MASS

You are cordially invited to gather with the SPA Parish community for a special Mass being celebrated in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. This Feast Day Mass will be held on Thursday, December 12, at 7:00 p.m. Mariachis will be part of this celebration, and everyone is encouraged to bring flowers as part of your devotion to Mary. Entertainment, fellowship and traditional tamales will be waiting for you in the JCPC after Mass. We hope to see you there!

IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Join Us for SPA's 13th Annual Evening Mass
Thursday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in English!



December, 1531

"And a great sign appeared in the sky: A Woman clothed with the sun, with the moon at her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars."

- Revelation 12:1

St. Paul the Apostle
Catholic Church
10750 Ohio Ave. Westwood
CA 90024

Celebrate the Apparitions
of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego!

◆ Join us for Mass at 7:00 p.m.,
Thursday, December 12th Mass will
be held in English with mariachis
on Our Lady's feast day. At this joyous
celebration, we encourage you to bring your
own flowers as a devotion to Our Lady.
Afterwards entertainment, fellowship and
traditional tamales will await at the JCPC
Hall.

◆ Lend us Your Support!
Please help our Mass be a success by
volunteering and attending our
celebration. A volunteer meeting will be held
Sunday, November 17 from
3:30 pm. - 4:45 pm. Our event is
sustained solely by your support!
Contact Rosa Castillo at (310) 295-
7463 or r.castillo101@yahoo.com

PWC NEWS CORNER!

Here is the latest and greatest news from our awesome PWC members:

- Thanksgiving Food Drive – Please participate in our outreach to St. Joseph's Center (SJC) for Thanksgiving meal bags for homeless and financially challenged families. The meal items requested can be found on the PWC website. Filled bags need to be returned to your child's homeroom by this Friday, November 15th. St. Paul's generously contributed 200+ bags in previous years, and SJC is praying that we exceed that number this year for the growing number of families they serve. Thank you for your kind

generosity.

- SPA Parent Christmas Party – Let's eat, drink and be merry! It's the most wonderful time of the year for friends and good cheer. You are invited to ring in the Christmas season together with ***Dinner, Drinks and Dancing*** on Thursday, December 5, from 7:00 until 10:00 p.m. Please join us to celebrate our wonderful community and prepare for the joy of Christmas. ***Tickets are \$40 per person or find some friends for the Double Date Discount of 4 tickets for \$150.*** Please purchase tickets & RSVP at [Purchase Tickets & RSVP](#) by **December 1st**. The dinner buffet will be provided by Thyme Cafe.
- Girl Scouts "One Warm Coat" Drive – Girl Scout Troop 8295 and its SPA members in Kindergarten through 2nd grade are participating in a "one warm coat" drive this month. Please donate gently used coats (children and adults) at the bins located at the front of school this week. All donated coats will be given to [The Good Shepherd Shelter](#).



SPA'S SOCIAL MEDIA

Please join St. Paul's this year as we ramp up our social media game on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube! We will be posting regular updates along with the parish to share the news about everything that's happening around campus and in the community. Check it out and share your "likes" to show your support! You can subscribe here!

[Facebook](#)
[Instagram](#)
[YouTube](#)