



**SAINT PAUL**  
**THE APOSTLE**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Guardians:

***“O Emmanuel, Jesus Christ  
Desire of every nation, Savior of all people,  
Come and dwell among us.”***

Welcome back from the Thanksgiving holiday! I hope that you were able to (safely) spend some time with family and friends, enjoy a bit of rest and relaxation, and take a few moments to stop and reflect upon all of the important things in life we often take for granted, but for which we are truly grateful. And now, we begin our spiritual journey towards the season of Christmas.

Yesterday marked the beginning of the Advent, a season that is defined by a spirit of expectation, anticipation, preparation, and longing. It is that hope, however faint at times, which brings to us the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth, and justice, and righteousness. During Advent we often sing the familiar hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.” Emmanuel is the Hebrew word for “God is with us.” We have all known Emmanuel moments...each of us has our own Emmanuel story. It may be something as simple as a friendship restored. It might be someone returning to the family or to the church after a period of alienation. It might have been a moment of escaping unharmed after a close call while driving on the freeway. It might be a prayer answered—a scholarship, that perfect job opportunity, or a change of heart. But the best Emmanuel stories aren’t told; instead, they are felt. This can happen when people come together and enjoy each other’s company and celebrate the experience of “God is with us.”

As we journey through this special time of spiritual preparation, it is my hope that we will remain focused on the rich traditions that touch our hearts and stir our imaginations—the Christmas trees, the manger scenes, the numerous lights that shine in the darkness joyfully proclaiming the birth of Jesus, and the beautiful and meaningful carols that call us to come and adore Him. There is much to be learned from all of this. In a world where our nature and our environment are often threatened, let us make our Christmas tree and manger scene reminders of the beauty and sacredness of nature. How closely at His coming did Jesus bind Himself to the animals of the field and the stars in the sky! In remembering the poor shepherds and the circumstances of Jesus' birth, so marked by poverty, let us make them reminders of the forgotten poor and homeless in our communities. And finally, let Jesus, Mary and Joseph be reminders to us about the undeniable importance of family.

This past year has undoubtedly been filled with far too many days of COVID challenges, uncertainty, fear, personal losses, and despair. But with the birth of Jesus came the promise that we are not alone, that God has not forsaken us. The angels didn't tell us not to be afraid because there is nothing to fear. They told us not be afraid because there is Good News that can bring light to the darkness, hope to those who despair, life where there is death, and love that overpowers any fear we might have. Indeed, be not afraid, for God is born among us again.

Peace and Blessings,

Crystal Pinkofsky  
Principal

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SPA 2021 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

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## Christmas Pageant

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After several conversations with the administration and music teachers, a decision has been made to host our SPA School's Christmas Pageant **virtually** this year. In light of the COVID safety challenges that would limit everything we would normally do in church—including the casting of an adorable infant as the Baby Jesus—our DK through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will be telling the Nativity story in narration and song while their performances are being videotaped. Even though we had hoped to be able to offer our

SPA community a live performance, we know that you will enjoy this virtual production with your family and friends.

The students have already begun rehearsing the carols, and the students who will be narrating the Nativity will begin practicing their assigned readings this week. The entire program will be taped on Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. Please note that ALL students are encouraged to wear appropriate “Christmas attire” to school that day for the taping. The final production will be shared with our SPA community on Thursday, December 16, via the St. Paul the Apostle Media YouTube link. Once the time is finalized, it will be shared with everyone. Thank you for your understanding and support regarding this decision. It is our sincere hope that next year our Christmas production will be LIVE and back inside the church.

## SPA NIGHT OF LIGHTS

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Everyone is invited to join us for a special Advent evening of music and celebration on December 4, following the 5:00 Saturday evening Mass. This event will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Families are invited to sign-up to walk-through the collection of beautiful family creches and creatively decorated Christmas trees. The walk will begin in the church, and will proceed along a lit pathway to the Parish Center where you will be able to enjoy the Hot Chocolate & Coffee Bar, the Wine & Eggnog Bar, some delicious cookies and other treats. Please note that masks will be required inside the church and Parish Center.

**SPA Community Crèche Display:** You are invited to bring your personal home crèche (nativity scene) to display inside the church. Each set will be numbered and labeled with your name. If you have a special set that you would like to have on display please click on this link, [Creche Sign Up](#).

**Night of Lights Event Tickets and Sign-Ups:** Sign-up for a timed entry slot (one slot per household). Time slots are available every 30 minutes from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Each household may come *anytime* during the 30-minute slot, but please limit your time in the church and inside the Parish Center to the allocated 30 minutes as a courtesy to others. Everyone is invited to stay after the tour and enjoy refreshments outside the Parish Center. Please click on the button below to sign-up for your timed entry.

### [Event Tickets](#)

The suggested donation for tickets is \$10/person or \$25/household. Click on the links below to purchase your tickets and sign up for a time.

## 2021 SHARE THE SEASON (Adopt-A-Family) CHRISTMAS DRIVE

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St. Paul the Apostle School has supported St. Joseph Center's holiday outreach efforts for many years by providing Christmas gifts for families in need. In light of the pandemic, this year we will be sponsoring each family's Christmas gifts with gift cards only (no stocking stuffers). You can sponsor one or more families, or get together with your friends to do so! Please feel free to include a holiday message for the receiving families.

If you have any questions please contact PWC Outreach co-chairs, Ann Goodgame and Jessica Gunderson ([agoodgame@sbcglobal.net](mailto:agoodgame@sbcglobal.net), [jessicagunderson18@gmail.com](mailto:jessicagunderson18@gmail.com)). The following guidelines should prove to be helpful:

### **SPONSOR A FAMILY OR A COUPLE WITH GIFT CARDS!**

Commit to sponsor a family or a couple listed on the Adopt-a-Family Sign-Up Page.

#### **[Adopt-a-Family Sign-Up link](#)**

Families vary in size from one to seven members. Couples comprise two adults.

Within 24 hours, you will receive an email with your assigned family's or couple's wish list and Wish list ID#.

If you sponsor a family, purchase the requested \$25 grocery gift card for each family member, and purchase the requested \$25 retail gift card for each child.

If you sponsor a couple, purchase the requested \$25 retail gift card for each adult.

If you sponsor an individual, purchase the requested \$25 retail gift card for the individual.

Write the value on each gift card with a Sharpie marker, print a copy of the wish list, and place all gift cards and the wish list in an envelope clearly labeled with the Wish list ID#.

Bring the envelope with the gift cards and wish list to the church or school offices by Monday, December 6th.

Expected contribution: approximately \$50 for a couple or a "family" of one child, \$75 for a family of 2, \$125 for a family of 3, \$175 for a family of 4, \$225 for a family of 5, \$275

for a family of 6, and \$325 for a family of 7.

Thank you so much for helping to brighten the Christmas holidays for all of these families!

## SPA ADVENT FAITH GROUPS

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Everyone is cordially invited to experience the season of Advent in a meaningful way. Small Advent faith groups are being formed now. The groups will meet once per week, for four weeks leading up to Christmas. The meetings will be held through Zoom and/or in person. If you are interested please contact Tami Georgeff at 310-903-3451 or at [Tamigeo1224@gmail.com](mailto:Tamigeo1224@gmail.com).

## 2022 YEARBOOK ORDERS

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It's time to order your 2021-2022 St. Paul the Apostle School yearbook! Don't miss out! It is a wonderful way to remember the school year! You can just click [HERE](#) to order.

\$35- if ordered between November 16th – December 17th

\$45- if ordered between December 18th – January 18th

\$55- if paid for in June during yearbook distribution, but there is no guarantee there will be any yearbooks left.

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## SPA VACCINATION CLINIC SITE

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St. Paul the Apostle Church will be hosting a COVID-19 vaccination site in the Parish Center on Wednesday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. First, second and booster doses will be available and are free to everyone. Medical insurance is not required. For eligibility guidelines visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](http://VaccinateLACounty.com). A consent form is required for all minors ages 5 through 17. Minors who are 5 through 15 –years old **MUST** be accompanied

by their parent, legal guardian, or responsible adult. If the child is accompanied by a responsible adult, the consent form must name the responsible person and be



signed by the parent or legal guardian. You can sign up today using the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054DAAAF2AA6F85-ladepartment>

## SPA COVID TESTING

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Our next round of COVID testing for all faculty, staff, and students will be held this **Wednesday, December 1st**, beginning at 8:15 a.m. The **ONLY** document your children will need to have for testing is a dated and signed copy of the **COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form**.

**Please note that students in grades 4 – 8 may receive the NOSTRIL swab or NASAL swab. If this is the type of COVID test you want for your child, just check either one of those boxes on the form, otherwise, he/she will receive the MOUTH swab.**

When completing the Patient Request Form, please remember to **include your email address** so that the results of the lab test can be sent directly to you, as well as Nurse Anderson. **We strongly suggest that you TYPE the requested information onto the form so that everything—including your email address—is legible.** Keep in mind that we are not using a “rapid” test, so we should expect to receive the results in approximately 24 hours. If you have not received the results by then, please contact the lab or Nurse Anderson. Any measures that we can take to help keep our community safe is well worth the effort. Thank you for your cooperation regarding this very important matter!

[COVID-19 Patient Test Request Form Link](#)

(This document is now Form Fillable)