



# ST. GREGORY CONNECTION

Keeping you connected with school, church, and community

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### Upcoming Events:

- **Breakfast with Santa**  
— Sunday, December 18, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m. Join us for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, breakfast meats and more! Santa will be our special guest and will be available for pictures with the children. So, don't forget your camera! This month, we're especially looking for St. Gregory School 5th grade families to help staff the breakfast. Please contact Andy Harmer to volunteer: 724-473-2290 or [harmers5@yahoo.com](mailto:harmers5@yahoo.com)



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## Family Fun Awaits at Santa Bingo!

Join us for some **holiday family fun** at our annual Santa Bingo in the Bergman Events Center this Friday, December 2.

There will be a variety of bingo games, instant bingo, prizes, food and fun for everyone. You can even enjoy dinner with your family, with a variety of items available for purchase at the concession stand, including: meatball sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, nachos, chips, cookies, pop, water, and root beer floats.

All games will be played on paper cards so bring a highlighter or bingo marker or you can purchase one at the registration table.

The cost for Bingo is **\$3.00 for 12 games (includes 1 door**

**prize ticket) and \$.50 for all 4 specials.**

Santa Bingo is being sponsored by 6th Grade this year.

We are asking for the 6th grade parents to serve as volunteers for the Bingo. Although 6th grade is sponsoring Santa Bingo, we welcome all St. Gregory parents who are interested in volunteering.

Please contact Kathy Roczko by phone 724-591-0461 or e-mail [katroc45@gmail.com](mailto:katroc45@gmail.com) to volunteer in one of the areas listed below or to volunteer to make a food donation.

We need help with Set up, Concession Stand, Admissions, Bingo, Instant Bingo, and Clean Up. With enough volunteers



everyone will still be able to enjoy time with their family.

We are also looking for donations of pizza, hot dogs, cookies & bottles of root beer. Food donations can be dropped off in the concession stand any time on Friday before 5:00 p.m.

As with all PTG-sponsored events, all proceeds benefit St. Gregory School.

— *Kathy Roczko*

# Another successful Cold Turkey Shootout

With just a month of practice under their belts, area Junior Varsity teams were ready to go, and coaches anxious to see a preview of what their players and teams could do.

And as the tradition has been for the past few years, our 6th Annual **Cold Turkey Shootout** once again kicked-off this 2011-2012 basketball season to loud cheers and great play.

20 games were played across 4 days, with 15 boys and girls teams in action. The games were well played, with some tremendous skills demonstrated throughout.

The fans showed their excitement and energy from the stands, including our "Zelie Zoo" student section which was crazy with school spirit!

Our school mascot, Fang, also made a number of appearances throughout the weekend.

Fantastic food and desserts were enjoyed by all, receiving many compliments and high acclaim from satisfied customers.

And our newest game, *Angry Turkeys*, was a big hit... including one of the smallest participants winning the big Championship jackpot.

Our teams did very well considering pre-season play. The JV5-boys had an amazing game that went into double-OT. The JV6-boys won their pool play.

A special congratulations to

our St. Gregory Lady Wolves who were the tournament champions of this year's Girls Bracket! The girls played a great game that demonstrated their heart and hard work.

None of this would be possible without the many, many volunteers who helped across the event.

A HUGE THANKS to all the families across the school and parish who donated all the wonderful food, and gave of their time to work admissions and concessions! A big thank you to Kathy Roczko, for coordinating the many volunteers. And a special thanks and recognition to Andy Harmer for all the food and concession stand coordination throughout the event.

While we look forward to the next year's CTS already (Nov. 15-18, 2012), now its time for the regular season to begin. Good luck teams -- Go WOLVES!!!

— *Mark Lachendro*



St. Gregory Girls' JV team won this year's Cold Turkey Shootout Girls Bracket

**Front Row:** Lauren Kastelic, Bailey Blough, Elise Harmer, Emily Gregor, Lauren Testa

**Back Row:** Coach Kit Testa, Coach Dianne Gregor, Gianna Stefanacci, Sydney Shirlow, Ella Biedler, Katelyn Dudash, Coach Bryan Kusich, Carly Haser, Taylor Deceder, Katie Adams and Carly Kusich

## Join us for the regular basketball season!

Everyone is invited to come out and cheer on our student athletes this basketball season! The first home games will be played on Saturday, December 3, starting with the boys JJV (3rd & 4th graders) at 9:00 a.m. This year, all St. Gregory teams — JJV through Varsity levels — play their home games on Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. Games will be held on the following dates:

December 3 & 10

January 7, 14, 21 & 28

February 4

Stop by for some great hoops and delicious concession stand food any of these Saturdays!



# Parish News and Notes

## St. Anne Guild News

St. Anne Guild has held their officer election for 2012. Our new officers are:

President — Kathy Ligday

Vice President — Martha Florie

Treasurer — Polly McConahy

Secretary — Mary Ann Brill

We wish the new officers a good and prosperous year ahead.

The outgoing officers who served a two-year term are: President Marie Ellen Knass, Vice President Mary Agnes Miller, Treasurer Cathy Shantz, and Secretary Joanne Chvala. Many thanks to these women for their service!

Upcoming events for the Guild include our Annual Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 6, in the Blue Room. Mass and installation is at 7:00 p.m. The ladies will also have a gift exchange.

Our parish bake sale is Saturday, December 10th, following all masses. All donations of baked goods can be dropped out in the school cafeteria between 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please use non-returnable pans.

With the help and support of Parish members, our fundraisers have been a big success. These events allow us to donate some of our proceeds toward school tuition and assemblies, the annual March for Life trip in January, and various needs around the church. In the past, our group has also sponsored a mission girl for 6 years running. We were also able to take on the challenge of the repairs needed to the kitchen and bathroom off the Blue Room, purchased 100 chairs for the Blue Room, and have donated to the Lawn Fete

In fact, The St. Anne Guild is the longest active group at St. Gregory. We will be celebrating 90

years of service in 2013. Many thanks go to all who have participated and supported us along the way!

## Super Bingo

Our last Super Bingo of the year will be held on Sunday, December 4. Doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the games start at 2:00 p.m. Bingo is over around 5:00 p.m. We play 20 games with prizes of \$100, 2 games for \$200, 2 games for \$250, and have a \$1,000 must-go jackpot. Tickets are just \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and are available at the church office or Mathew Jewelers in Zelie or the Streets of Cranberry. For more information, call Gert at 724-452-5798 or email [mathew3@zbzoom.net](mailto:mathew3@zbzoom.net).



## Carmen Rizzi's Project Giving Tree

Many, many thanks to everyone who came out to help us — the day was a huge success. We had 80 volunteers and raked 15 properties for our elderly parishioners in need. What a wonderful way to honor Carmen Rizzi's memory and help those in need.

## Bell Ringing for The Salvation Army — Your Help Is Needed!

We are looking for Salvation Army Bell Ringers for Dec. 15th (Thurs.) and Dec. 23rd (Fri.) at BiLo. Also Dec 21st (Wed) at Shop N Save. Can you donate an hour or two to ring the bell at any of these sites? Time slots are available between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. All money stays in Zelienople to help our neighbors in need. Call Joanne Fyda (724)538-3969 or cell (724)272-5216. Thank you!!





## School Corner

### Join Us for Our Annual Christmas Program – Friday, December 16, 2011

It's hard to believe that the advent season is upon us again! The Christmas program will be here before you know it to put us in the Christmas spirit!

This year's Christmas program theme is *Christmas Around the World*. Each classroom has chosen a country and they will learn about how Christmas is celebrated there. On December 2, each grade will spend some time celebrating Christmas as they do in that country. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be attending the different celebrations and will be writing the program based on their experiences.

On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, following Mass, the students will be using their new-found appreciation for their country's culture to bring you a delightful Christmas program that is sure to make you a "right jolly old elf".

We hope to see you there!

—Mrs. Lachendro



## Junior Girl Scout Troop 20821 Garden Update

Junior Girl Scout Troop 20821 at St. Gregory School is working diligently toward earning the prestigious Bronze Award in scouting. Part of earning this award, requires a community service project.

This troop of girls decided to plant a garden and donate their harvest to the homeless — and they had a very successful year.

The girls learned how to prepare soil, plant seeds, manage weeds, and harvest produce! Our produce was donated to Feed My



Girl Scouts prepare the soil for seeds this past spring

## Girl Scout Garden Update *(cont'd from p. 4)*

Sheep Ministries operated out of Herbe's Z Town Cafe in Zelienople.

Randy Herbe used our vegetables to feed the homeless in the Oakland area of Pittsburgh, where Feed My Sheep Ministries has a weekly food station.

The girls received feedback from Mr. Herbe about how grateful his "regular customers" were when they discovered that a Girl Scout Troop cared enough to grow food and donate it so others could eat.

This was a very rewarding service project and a priceless learning experience. Our troop would like to thank Father Bill for allowing us to use the garden beds behind the church for this project.



Delivering fresh vegetables to Mr. Herbe at Z Town

## St. Gregory Forensics Team Competes at First Tournament of the Season

The St. Gregory Forensics Team participated in their first meet of the season on Saturday, Nov. 5 at St. Alexis School.

You may ask....."What is forensics?" Well, Webster defines it as the "art or study of formal debate."

At the elementary level, our students don't "debate" each other, however, they "present" a particular literary piece to an audience and set of judges where they are critiqued on their presentation skills. This is our second year of participating in this diocesan-wide activity where over 25 Catholic

schools are currently represented.

Five St. Gregory students attended the first tournament, and all five students placed either second or third for their presentations!

This was a terrific showing for these students and our school. Congratulations to these young orators!



There are three more tournaments throughout the school year, so wish our team good luck!

The forensics team is open to any 6th through 8th grader who is interested in working on their public speaking skills and having fun in the process.

Anyone interested in learning more about this group, or joining the team, please contact Lisa Karasack or Dianne Gregor through the school office.

— Dianne Gregor

## News and Upcoming Events for the St. Gregory Youth Group

### 8th Grade Service Project: New Storage Shelves

A big thank you goes out to the 8th graders who completed the first set of storage shelves which are located downstairs by the Blue Room in the Utility Room.



We are always looking for storage areas and more room is now available because of the hard work of some helpful 8th graders, including: Lauren Stanick, Kaitlyn Marweg, Shawn Caranigo, Mike Pittavino, Joey Sloan, Mark Stephenson, Zach DeDionisio, Zac Cowell, Josh Keener, Chris Wilson, and Mary O'Connor. The Confirmation Class students are doing this project, which in turn teaches them the value of doing Community Service by helping out at church and with-in the community.



### Upcoming Events

**December 7<sup>th</sup> Faith Encounter and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Service Project.** Please join by meeting in the Concession area of the Gym.

Arrive at 6:45 p.m. so we may spend the first hour observing the Holy Day of Obligation — The Immaculate Conception. Afterwards, we'll continue with the night's events!

**December 18<sup>th</sup> after 11:30 Mass — “Happy Birthday Jesus” Party** sponsored by the Youth Group. This event is open to kids 10 and younger. We'll have a fun afternoon making ornaments and we'll have a program lead by the youth group.



**December 21st, Wednesday Night at 5:30** — We'll meet to go caroling at the local nursing homes, then head back to Church for refreshments and our normal Youth Group meeting at the Gym. All parishioners are welcome to join us!

*Best wishes to you and yours for a  
Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the St. Gregory PTG Board!*