



ST. GREGORY CONNECTION

Keeping you connected with school, church, and community

Volume 2, Issue 1

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February 2012

Upcoming Events:

- **Spaghetti Dinner Fund-raiser** — hosted by Dominic Pasquale and family to raise money for his People-to-People trip. **Saturday, February 4th, 4p.m. to 7 p.m. at English Lutheran Church.** (See additional information in newsletter.)
- **Pancake Breakfast** — **Sunday, February 19, from 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.** Join us for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, eggs, breakfast meats and more! This month, we're especially **looking for St. Gregory School 3rd grade families to help staff the breakfast.** Please contact Andy Harmer to volunteer: 724-473-2290 or harmers5@yahoo.com
- **SAVE THE DATE: Friday, April 20, 2012** for *Twilight on the Riviera*, the PTG's annual auction & casino night fundraiser! Enjoy a wonderful evening with friends and go home with fantastic auction items! Look for more details coming soon!

Inside this issue:

Support Our Lenten Fish Fry Fundraisers

Parish News & Notes

School Corner: A heartfelt thank you from Mrs. Wolf

St. Gregory Students Place at Second Forensics Meet

Youth Group News

Putt 4 Fun is Fun for ALL!

Join us for some mid-winter family fun at the PTG's annual **Putt 4 Fun** held on **Friday, February 10** at the Bergman Events Center from **6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.**

Putt 4 Fun will once again coincide with the St. Gregory School Open House night.

For those who aren't familiar with Putt 4 Fun, you may be surprised to learn that our gym is transformed into a 9-hole miniature golf course, complete with obstacles!

The cost for Putt 4 Fun is just **\$3.00 for 9 holes** or **\$5.00 for 18 holes. The family rate is \$5.00 for 9 holes** and **\$10.00 for 18 holes.**

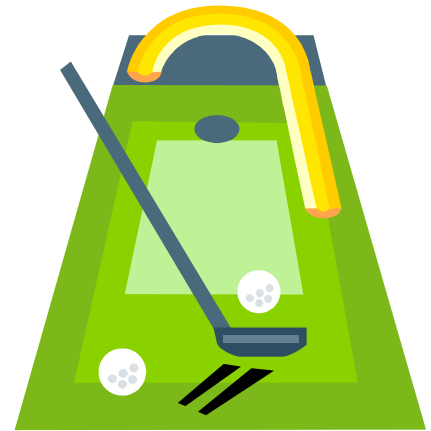
There's even a chance to win money at the 10th hole. Just \$1.00 to try your luck, and if

you get a hole in one, you win cash for your perfect shot!

This is a great opportunity to enjoy time with your family, as well as see the classrooms and what your children have been working on. It's also a wonderful way for us to show off our school to prospective families.

The concession stand will be open, with a variety of items available for purchase, including: meatball sandwiches, hot dogs, pizza, nachos, chips, cookies, pop, water, and root beer floats.

Putt 4 Fun is being sponsored by 8th Grade this year, so we're asking for the 8th grade parents and students to serve as volunteers for the evening. Of course, we welcome help from all parents who are willing to lend a hand.



Please contact Randy Kaelin at ranchr@zoominternet.net to volunteer or make a food donation.

We need help with Set up on Thursday at 4:00 p.m., Concession Stand help during the event, Admissions, Clean Up, and tear down on Friday evening following the event (at 9:00 p.m.). With enough volunteers everyone will also be able to enjoy time with their family.

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

Hope to see you there!

Help us make our Lenten Fish Fry Dinners a Success!

The PTG will once again be sponsoring a Fish Fry each Friday during Lent, starting on Friday, February 24 through Friday, March 30.

These events offer our school, parish, and community a great meal and an opportunity for fellowship — but we can't do it without your help! A total of about 50 volunteers are needed to make each week run smoothly — but that's 50 volunteers spread out across different shifts and performing different tasks from 2 p.m. through 8 p.m. And if everyone can do just a little to help — we can make this year our best year yet!

Look for your volunteer sign-up sheet that was in your family folders or the St. Gregory

Bulletin.

In addition to needing volunteers who are willing to help every week in specific areas, we are asking the families from each grade to be responsible for one week of the Fish Fry — filling in the remaining volunteers that are needed for their assigned week (see sign-up sheet for more details).

We also welcome any parishioners who are interested in lending a hand, as well as any high school or youth group members, particularly those who need to fulfill service hours.

Please contact **Andy Harmer** at **724-473-2290** or **harmers5@zoominternet.net**.



Another way you can help is to talk up the Fish Fry with your neighbors and friends in the area, and invite them to St. Gregory for a delicious meal. There'll be a choice of fried fish, fried shrimp, baked fish, or fish sandwich, plus a choice of two side items including: baked potato, French fries, mac-n-cheese, and vegetable. Pizza is also available for the kids!

Meals also include coleslaw, roll & butter, choice of hot or cold drinks (for eat-in diners), and dessert — all for just \$9 (adults), \$7 (seniors), \$6 (kids ages 4-10), and children age 3 and under eat free.

Golden Apple Award Program Honors Teachers

Since 1992, through the generosity and kindness of the Donahue Family Foundation, the Diocese of Pittsburgh has honored 185 teachers in Catholic elementary and secondary schools with the distinguished Golden Apple Award. Eight (8) elementary and two (2) secondary teachers are selected for the award each year. Teachers are recognized for their excellence in teaching, community service, and commitment to the church.

After a careful selection process in which each teacher is evaluated on professionalism, service to Church and community, leadership qualities and essay, the awardees are announced. A special dinner is held on the first Tuesday after Memorial Day where each Golden Apple winner is given a cash award of \$5,000, a Golden Apple, a gold lapel pin, a photo with the bishop and a video of the evening.

This teacher award program is one of the finest of its kind in the country.

If you are interested in nominating a teacher from St. Gregory School, please contact the office for additional information.



Parish News and Notes

Ash Wednesday

Please note that Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on February 22.

Ashes will be distributed during the 12:00 noon and 7:00 p.m. masses here at St. Gregory.



Super Bingo

Super Bingo is Sunday, Feb. 5, 2012. All the remaining dates for the 2012 bingo year can be found on the St. Gregory website at www.stgregzelie.org.

In February we will have two magic numbers at \$1,000 each and the third starting at \$132. Every month we have big money cash prizes including a \$1,000 jackpot! Somebody has to win, why not YOU??

If you have never been to one of our bingos why not make a resolution to come out and give us a try in 2012. We also have door prizes, a 50/50



December's Super Bingo had lots of players — why not join them for a chance to win big money on Sunday, February 5th? If you don't want to play — consider volunteering.

raffle, a raffle for a basket filled with \$50 worth of PA lottery tickets and an exciting horse race game.

The ladies in the kitchen always have a nice selection of good food available too!

Tickets are only \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door and they are available at the church office, after Masses on bingo weekend, and at Mathew Jewelers in Zelig or The Streets of Cranberry.

We could always use extra help on bingo Sundays, so if you don't want to play, maybe you could help us out by working for a couple hours.

Help is always appreciated, too, for set-up after 5:00 p.m. mass on the evening before bingo. For more information please call Gert at 724-452-5798 or email mathew3@zbzoom.net.

2012 Lawn Fete Dates Set

The 2012 Saint Gregory Lawn Fete will be held on Thursday July 19th, Friday July 20th and Saturday July 21st. The annual Parish festival will feature nightly dinners, games, rides, entertainment and attractions.



The Lawn Fete Committee will begin meeting in early spring. New members are always welcome.

Watch the bulletin for meeting announcements.

Festival updates will appear in *The Saint Gregory Connection*, in the church bulletin, and via the school email. Lawn Fete Raffle tickets and Volunteer/Donation forms will be sent home in the family folder before the end of the school year.

The Lawn Fete is seeking a volunteer electrician or a person who has experience in wiring to become a key member of the set up committee. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.



School Corner

A Heartfelt Thank You from Mrs. Wolf

As most of you know, my husband was diagnosed with colon cancer last May. In late June, he had his entire colon removed and spent most of the summer recovering from that extensive surgery. He began chemo treatments in early August and received 12 treatments over the past six months. I am so happy to say that he received his last treatment on January 9!

The last eight months have been the most difficult months of my life. There is no way I could have been able to make it through without the overwhelming support of Father Bill, Mrs. Nock, Mrs. Harris, and the entire staff at St. Gregory's. I'm not sure that I could be teaching anywhere else and get the same kind of understanding and patience that I have received here. It meant so much that I was able to be with Alan for all of his treatments – that required my administrators allowing me to take sick days for those treatment days, and it also required my colleagues to cover for me on those days. There are not enough words for me to express my gratitude to all of those wonderful people.

I also need to thank my students and their parents for their patience, kindness, prayers, and understanding during this time. I have been overwhelmed and humbled by the outpouring of love and prayers that I have received from all of you. It has been your kind words, thoughts, and prayers that have helped to carry my family through such a difficult time.

I also believe it was the prayers of so many, especially my St. Gregory family (staff, students, families), that helped to bring us good news shortly after Christmas – the news that neither of my children carry the same gene that Alan has which caused his cancer. The power of prayer is absolutely amazing, and we are so touched to have been the recipients of so many heartfelt and caring prayers. Although Alan's chemo treatments are over, he will continue to be followed very closely by many doctors. I ask for your continued patience and understanding as we continue follow-up care with some scans, scopes, and doctor visits. I also ask for your continued prayers as we proceed into this next phase with extreme caution and hesitation.

—Mrs. Ellie Wolf

Community News — Friends of the Park

Friends of the Park is planning an adults-only **Mardi Gras** party for **Saturday, February 18, from 7 p.m. to 11 a.m.** at the new **Center of Harmony, 2nd floor old Opera House.**

The Center of Harmony (located at the old Otto and Gert's) includes The Wunderbar Coffee Shop, the old Opera House, Darn Yarn Needles & Threads, Pearlette — a jewelry store, an acupuncturist, and more!

COST: \$25 per ticket

INCLUDES: DJ, Beer, Wine, Pop, Water, Mardi Gras Food....Dirty Rice with andouille sausage,

Creole Fried Chicken, Creole Potatoes, Veggie Tray and a **KING CAKE!!**

WHY: 1. To see friends & neighbors that we have not seen since Christmas or our Monster Mash Bash 2. To break up those mid-winter "blahs"!! 3. To have a FUN, local evening out! 4. To support this beautifully renovated Opera House in Harmony!

HOW TO GET TICKETS...Mary Hess, Tracy Devlin, Jen Phillips, Heather Simmons, Mike Omstead, Lisa Zimmerman, Jenn Kaufman, Janet McKinney, Jill Parr and Alecia Flood



News and Upcoming Events for the St. Gregory Youth Group

Youth Group February Faith Encounter & Service Project

Wednesday, February 1st — In our Faith Encounter, we will be continuing our talks on surrendering ourselves to God. What does that really mean?

It's also an 8th Grade Service Project evening.

Please join us from 7:00 to 9:00 pm — we meet in the Concession area of the Gym .

Appalachia Group Hoagie sale to benefit our Mission Trip to WV

February 11th and 12th — Hoagies will be sold after all masses and cost only \$5.00 each.



Upcoming Youth Group Event

High School Retreat March 2nd (evening), 3rd (all day), and 4th (home by 2:00 pm)

All high school-age youth are invited to join the Youth Group, which includes St. Gregory and St. Matthias churches combined for our annual High School Retreat.

This retreat will be hosted by our Youth Ministry Team and also Fr. Bill. It will be happening at St. Joseph the Worker Youth Center in Preston County WV. For details on this amazing weekend, please contact Charlotte Zilavy at chink@zoominternet.net or 412-260-5384!

The cost for this retreat is very minimal — we are just looking forward to having a rewarding weekend for interested teens. So, please plan ahead and block your weekend for this special retreat.

— *Charlotte Zilavy*

St. Gregory Forensics Team Competes at Second Tournament of the Season

The St. Gregory Forensics Team participated in their second competition of the season on Saturday, January 14, at St. Ursula School.

This is our second year of participating in the diocesan league in which 25-plus catholic schools compete. Seven St. Gregory students attended this event, and did a great job — congratulations to the entire team!

There are 5 genres from which a child can present: Drama, Poetry, Declamation, Impromptu, or a Multiple Readers Team.

Each child (or team) has the opportunity to present their piece twice, in two different

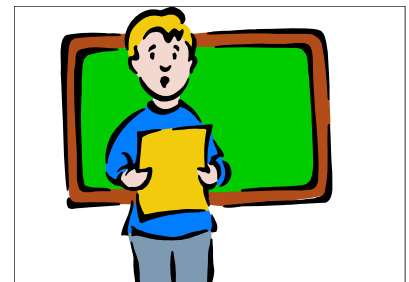
rounds of competition.

Robbie Gregor presented a "drama" piece and placed 2nd in both rounds.

Ricky Mineo presented a "poetry" piece and placed 3rd in both rounds.

Patrick Byers, Mickey Maloney, and Will Adams presented on a "multiple readers team" and placed 3rd in the first round and 2nd in the second round.

Our young orators are doing a fantastic job, especially considering our novice ranking the league.



There is another tournament scheduled in February, so wish us good luck!

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

It is a terrific life skill to hone. Anyone interested in learning more about this club, please contact Lisa Karasack or Dianne Gregor through the school office.

— *Dianne Gregor*

St. Gregory and St. Mathias Parishioners March for Life

The March for Life in Washington, DC this past January 23, 2012 was a huge success. As always, our goal is to show the country and our government that abortion cannot be tolerated in the United States.

This year, our bus was filled — and half of the bus was youth and teenagers from both parishes, along with some of their parents.

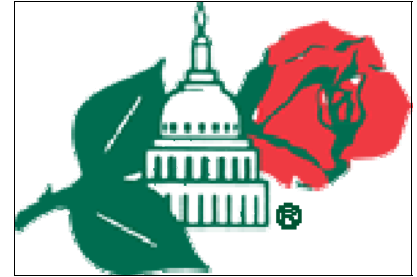
There were also several adults who have been taking this trip year after year. These faithful souls continuously pray for an end to the sin of abortion in our country and around the world.

A group of around ten teenagers who are 9th and 10th graders have been going along on this trip since 6th grade.

There were also seniors from the parish and some 7th graders who came along to march for the first time.

They were all amazingly polite and prayerful even though we immediately experienced taunts from pro-choice advocates, who were protesting just next to us on the street at the very beginning of the march.

All of St. Gregory Parish would have been very proud of them!



Please pray for our country especially now — as we continue to fight against the health care laws that will require our health care providers to do what is morally wrong.

**GOD HEARS OUR PRAYERS
AND SEES OUR EFFORTS!**

With the support of our youth today, we have hope that future generations will correct what is currently wrong.

— *Charlotte Zilavy*

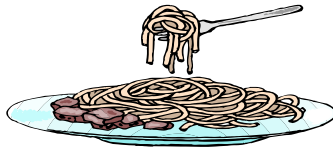


St. Gregory and St. Mathias parishioners pose on the steps of the National Cathedral following the March for Life in Washington, DC on January 23, 2012.



Hello, my name is Dominic Pasquale and I am a 6th grader @ St. Gregory school. For two weeks this summer, I will be exploring the Wonders of the Canadian West as a People to People Student Ambassador. In order to raise a portion of my tuition, I will be hosting a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday, February 4th 4-7pm

English Lutheran Church

200 East Grandview Ave., Zelenople

\$7 adult & \$2 children 10 & under

Take-out available for additional \$1.00

Raffle baskets and craft items also for sale

Questions? contact us @ mpasquale5@zoominternet.net or 724-822-8806.

Special thanks to my family and friends for helping make this event possible!