



ST. GREGORY CONNECTION

Keeping you connected with school, church, and community

Volume 1, Issue 1

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March 2011

Upcoming Events:

- **Putt 4 Fun, Friday, March 4th** — During the school's Open House, fun for all ages!
- **Fish Fry, every Friday during Lent**, including Good Friday, **starting March 11!** Volunteers needed — call Andy Harmer @ 724-473-2290
- **Pancake Breakfast** — third Sunday of every month during the school year! Remaining dates are **March 20** and **April 17!**
- **A Night In Vegas, Friday, May 6** — Our school's biggest fundraiser of the year! Everyone from the school, church and surrounding community is welcome for a night of fun. This year we will have slot machines as well as table games, Chinese, Silent, and Live Auctions! Something for everyone! Look for more details soon.

Welcome to Our First Edition of St. Gregory Connection!

This year, one of the goals of the PTG board is to improve the way we share news and information across the entire St. Gregory family. There are lots of great things happening throughout our school and parish community, and we want to give everyone the vehicle to tell each other what they're up to!

Our hope is that by sharing as much information as we can about all these activities and efforts, we'll all feel even more connected to one another. And the more we know, the more we can help support one another, too.

But to make this newsletter really fulfill its mission, we need your help!

We invite every group and organization to submit stories and information each month that you'd like to share.

We also hope to keep you up-to-date on what's happening at school, with reports from the teachers and students about what they're learning in the classroom, special projects, and other news.

The PTG will also keep you informed of our



fundraising efforts, plans for upcoming events, and opportunities to be a part of the St. Gregory fabric.

To submit your news, information, or story, email:

Lori Maloney

lrimaloney@zoominternet.net

or, Maria Harmer

harmers5@zoominternet.net

Thank you!

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100th Anniversary Keepsake Ornaments and Commemorative Wooden Cutouts still on sale

We have two great ways to mark our school's 100th year with keepsake items you'll be proud to display in your home! The PTG commissioned specially designed bronze ornaments from Wendell Au-

gust Forge. These beautiful ornaments which show off the new school building are just \$20.00 each. There's still time to get yours — simply contact the school office at: 724-452-9731 or complete the order form

found on the St. Gregory website.

We also have decorative wooden cutouts of the new school building that have been hand-crafted by local artist David Kennedy.

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Introducing the Parent Advisory Board At St. Gregory

Last Spring, the idea of an Advisory Board was presented to Mrs. Nock, Fr. Bob, and the school families. Its purpose would be to supplement the PTG board, which has a mission primarily focused on fundraising, by giving parents the opportunity to offer assistance and suggestions that would benefit the school in other ways.

In its first few meetings, Board members brainstormed on the strengths and opportunities for growth of St. Gregory School.

Three areas which could benefit the school most at this time were chosen with the guidance of Mrs. Nock, Mrs. Harris, and Father Bob. Committees were formed to pursue the first three goals of the Advisory Board and they have met independently since their formation.

The three committees

are the Enrichment Committee, the Advancement Committee, and the IT Committee.

The Enrichment Committee is led by Kit Testa and has focused on finding ways to enrich the school experience of students at St. Gregory. One exciting example of this committee's results is the formation of a Forensics Team for 7th and 8th grade students. This team has already competed in several forensics (public speaking) meets, and has done very well.

The Advancement Committee has branched into two areas – the Endowment Committee, led by Scott Calligan and the EITC Program, led by Jennifer Tomer. Both of these are focused on the long term financial goals of St. Gregory School.

Thanks to a very generous donation from a former

parishioner, we are currently in the process of restructuring our entire network system. The IT committee will meet once these plans are more finalized.

In the meantime, improvements are already being made to the look and function of the Parish and School website, thanks to the efforts of Lori Maloney and Father Bob.

Many ideas are in the works and as new goals develop and these committees go forward, there will be a need for more parents to get involved and share their talents.

If you are interested in helping on any of the identified committees in any way, please contact Kari Adams at bkwkac@gmail.com or the school office.

— *Kari Adams*



Lottery Calendar Winners!

Our PTG Lottery calendar is a big hit this year. Here is the list of winners from January. Thanks to everyone who helped support this fund raiser!

Mark & Lynn Homison (176)
Alex & Sandy Ropelewski (959)
Sally Dambaugh (863)
Barb Kaufmann (521)
Olive Kramer (557)
Judy Mullen (656)
Robert Goetz (460)

Tom & Cindy Ayres (169)
Mike Kirk (077)
Mr. & Mrs. Tito Francona (047)
Joe Brunner (893)
Jean Ketterer (484)
Joe Zilaitis (236)
Debbie Edwards (501)

A Warm Welcome to Our New Pastor, Father William Dorner!

We are very happy that the Bishop has made his decision and we have been assigned a new Pastor.

Father William Dorner is coming to us after being a Parochial Vicar at St. Paul's Cathedral. His home parish is St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Glenshaw.

He attended Providence Heights Alpha School in Allison Park and graduated from Shaler Area High School.

He attended Clarion University and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He also obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of Pittsburgh.

He was accepted into the priestly formation program and began studies at St. Paul Seminary and Duquesne University in the

fall of 2001. He completed the pre-theology program and graduated with a Master of Arts in Philosophy for Theological Studies in May 2003.

He entered St. Vincent Seminary in the fall of 2003 and was ordained to the priesthood in 2007.

We will welcome him to St. Gregory on March 7th. We're all excited to meet him and get to know him as he begins his new ministry here at St. Gregory and St. Matthias.

St. Gregory Lawn Fete: A Tradition That Brings Vital Funds to our Parish and School

Mark your calendars, the 2011 St. Gregory Lawn Fete will be held on **Thursday, July 21st, Friday, July 22nd** and **Saturday, July 23rd**. The annual parish festival provides fun for all ages.

Carnival games, small rides, Chinese auction, bingo, and raffles are just some of the activities planned. Dinners will be served nightly and a full re-

freshment stand will be available during festival hours.



The Lawn Fete is a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends and to meet new people.

Volunteers are needed to make this parish event a success. Please watch the bulletin, Family Folder and Newsletter for more information.

— Val Bucek

Two St. Gregory School basketball teams make it to the playoffs

It was another great season of exciting basketball at St. Gregory across all the grades and team levels. Special congratulations to our Varsity Girls and Junior Varsity Girls teams for making it to the Diocesan playoffs!

The Varsity girls faced Our Lady of Grace in their first playoff game at home on Friday, February 25th. It was a hard fought game, with a very close score throughout — but unfortunately, the visitors prevailed. The JV Girls faced St. Mary at home on Tuesday, March 1. Although they also did not advance beyond this first game, both of these teams have a lot to be proud of with all they accomplished this season!

Many thanks to all the coaches who devoted a great deal of their time and efforts to guide our players throughout the season, and all the volunteers who helped make each game a pleasant experience for all.

Here's an easy way to make your tax dollars work harder for our school!

One of the initiatives that the new Advisory Board is focusing on this year is increasing the amount of contributions made to St. Gregory's through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) Program.



Quite simply, this innovative program allows businesses to allocate a portion of their state taxes to an organization and the business receives a tax credit to offset the allocation.

This is NOT a charitable donation, as the business incurs no expense in almost all cases.

We need your help!

We need help from all St. Gregory families and parishioners to make this initiative a success. Below are some ways that each of you can help:

- **Do you own a business?** Please consider participat-

News and Notes from Around the Parish

St. Anne Guild

Our next meeting is April 5th, 2011 7:30 p.m. in the Blue Room. Discussion will be for the Palm Sunday weekend bake sale, and the upcoming Mother/Daughter Banquet held on May 3rd, 2011 in the Event Center. All adult women of St. Gregory and St. Mathias Parishes are welcome to join our women's group. Dues are just \$5.00. Come join us at our next meeting to learn more!



at

Spaghetti Dinner at St. Matthias

Enjoy a delicious meal Saturday, March 12th from 4:30p.m.-7:30 p.m. Adults \$7.00, Children 11 & under \$3.50, under 5: Free.

ing in this program.

- **Assist with identifying parishioners that own a business** and may be willing to participate. Please pass any information along to Jennifer Tomer who will coordinate contacting the business
- **Help identify local businesses that are "friends of St. Gregory"** and may be interested in participating.

Please contact Jennifer Tomer for more information at jbtomer@gmail.com or 724-787-1404.

Ask your state legislators to support SB 1

SB1, The Opportunity Scholarship and expansion of the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Act, was passed on March 1 by the PA Senate Education Committee by a vote of 8-2.

Our state legislators need to hear why Catholics support SB 1! The next step for SB1 is passage through the PA Senate Appropriations Committee.

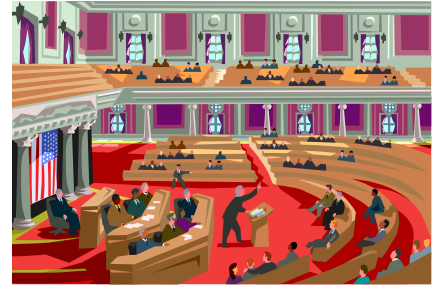
We need YOUR help to make this happen. Opponents of school choice are loudly protesting, so we need our grass-roots networks to get engaged in the debate.

Please visit, call, fax, write or e-mail your state legislators to ask them to support this bill:

Go to the link below to log in and send your message to your state senator:

www.ReachAheadPA.org

PLEASE TAKE A MINUTE TO DO THIS – IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US!



Youth Group News

High School Faith Encounter

All High School Youth are welcome to join us for our Faith Encounter on Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 7:00 pm in the Art Room of the School Bldg. Youth search out your Faith in a fun way — in a connection and fellowship together with your peers!!

Also, we will be helping at the Vicariate which is a dinner meeting being held at St. Gregory the evening of March 7th that includes Bishop Zubik and priests in this Vicariate. We will be serving and busing for the event.

8th Grade Service Projects

Calling all 8th graders to come and work on Service Projects for our Church/School and the Community.

The next Service Project is the same date & time as the High School Faith Encounter — March 2nd — we will be building storage benches in the school gym changing rooms!

Everyone should meet in the Concession Area outside the gym — please enter through the lower lot and back of school building.

Any questions about Youth Group or our Wednesday Night Hang-outs, please email Mark & Charlotte Zilavy at chink@zoominternet.net

Other fun events happening in the upcoming months for Youth Group:

- April we will be Spelunking at Laurel Caverns
- June heading for our annual trip to Cedar Point
- June 19th through the 24th Youth join the Appalachia Group on the Mission Trip planned at St. Joseph the Worker in Preston County, West Virginia

— Charlotte Zilavy

Shamrock Shuffle 2011 — Saturday, March 19

If you're looking for the perfect race to have you ready for your Spring Marathon or triathlon, look no further than the Shamrock Shuffle.

The Shamrock Shuffle was designed with Pittsburgh Marathoners in mind. The 10-mile course is a challenging race that takes you through the back roads of beautiful Lancaster Township in Butler County.

With a start and finish at the magnificent Strawberry Ridge Golf Course, you have no choice but to get a good climb in during this race.

Just remember, if you can finish this 10-mile course, then the 13 miles in Pittsburgh will seem a little easier to you. For those of you training for the full marathon, you get the opportunity to run 14 miles by completing the 10-mile, 5K and 1-mile courses. With the proper warm-ups and cool downs,



you may get close to 20 miles in that day if you're looking for a really long run.

Runners will have the opportunity to win great prizes from Art Prioletti and Second Sole, our official prize sponsors. You'll enjoy great music, a great running course and a chance to spend the morning with your family and friends.

This year we won't disappoint with homemade soup and cookies from local Rotarians and volunteers, fresh fruit, and Fox's Pizza. Oh, and don't forget the green beer at the end to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style.

There are so many reasons to run this event including the 1-mile family run that promotes fitness for kids and families where all kids who cross the finish line get a medal. However,

the most important reason to run the Shamrock Shuffle is to support our local community. All the proceeds from the event are split between the Zelienople-Harmony Area Chamber of Commerce and the Zelienople Rotary Club.

Both groups help to serve our community in so many ways. They support our local non-profits, they offer scholarships to local students, local food banks and so much more. If you run this race, you really will make a difference in someone's life.

So tie up those laces and bring the family out for the 3rd Annual Shamrock Shuffle. You can register online at <http://www.active.com/running/harmony-pa/shamrock-shuffle-2011>. I can also email you an application if you need one.

I hope you all will support this race. It's certainly one of my favorites to organize and I hope to have it grow more and more each year.

— Joella Baker

St. Gregory PTG gets ready to host Fish Fry dinners every Friday during Lent



Thanks to the strong support for our Fish Fry fundraisers over the past couple of years, this year we will be doing a Fish Fry each Friday during Lent — including Good Friday — starting on March 11.

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!

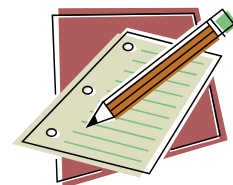
Look for your volunteer sign-up sheet that will be coming home to school families this week!

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**.

We will also need donations of baked goods each week for our dessert table, so get out those secret family recipes you'd like to share!

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, with a choice of fried fish, fried shrimp, or baked fish, 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 roll & butter, choice of hot or cold drinks, and dessert — all for just \$8 (adults), \$6 (seniors), \$5 (kids), and children age 4 and under eat free.



From the Desk of the Assistant Principal

Dear St. Gregory Community,

There are a lot of fun events taking place at St. Gregory School. With the announcement of our new Pastor, I look forward to even more excitement.

March 4th is our annual Open House and Putt 4 Fun. We hope to see many school and visiting families here to show off our great school.

Also on March 19th, the seventh and eighth graders will be holding a dance. Please don't forget March 24th is our PTG meeting — we love when parents attend! And remember, turn your clocks ahead on the 13th.

We are entering some great instructional weeks here at school and there are many wonderful learning activities planned for all students. Hopefully, with fewer delays and cancellations, the teachers can really focus on instruction and learning.

Please join us at our upcoming Fish Fry dinners and all of the other great events that are taking place. The calendar notes the big events in March. See you there.

Thank you for all of your support!

— Mrs. Harris

School Events

MARCH 2011

monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday 4 th
				Open House and Putt 4 Fun
7 th Confirmation for 8th Graders		9 th Ash Wednesday 12:05 Mass		11 th Stations at 2:20 Fish Fry
			17 th St. Patrick's Day	18 th Stations at 2:20 Fish Fry Movie night
			24 th PTG Meeting	25 th Stations at 2:20 Fish Fry
28 th No School			31 st End of 3 rd Report Period	

100th Anniversary Items

(cont'd from page 1)

These cutouts are the perfect companion to the church and old school cutouts that were created a few years ago. Just \$25.00, it is a beautiful remembrance of your children's St. Gregory school days. A sample of the piece is on display outside the school office.

To order your own, contact the school office or complete the order form found on the St. Gregory website. A limited number of the church and old school cutouts are also available for \$20 each if you'd like to make a full set!