

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT!

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

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Blessing of the Bambinelli



December 13th is the Third Sunday of Advent, also called Gaudete Sunday. On this day in Rome, the Pope invites all of the children to bring statues of the baby Jesus (*the Bambinelli*) from their nativity scenes to St. Peter's Square to be blessed. The children then take the blessed statues home to be placed in the scenes on Christmas Day.

Father Ireland and Father Holland extend an invitation to all the children of the parish to bring their baby Jesus statues to Mass on that weekend. During the Mass, Father will ask the children to come forward with their statues for the *Blessing of the Bambinelli*. The statues may then be placed in the family nativity scenes at home on Christmas.

It is our hope that this will help the children to appreciate the true meaning of Christmas the greatest gift of all, the gift of Our Blessed Lord Himself.

**Tuesday, December 8th is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, and always a Holy Day of Obligation in the United States. Mass times will be on the Holy Day at 6:45 and 8:45AM and 12:10 and 7PM.

ADVENT 2009

THEMES: *Wait with Hope... Watch with Peace... Wonder with Joy*

Therefore you do not lack any spiritual **gift** as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Cor 1:7)

Gifts...everyone loves them and they are so special.

Gifts ask for nothing in return. They are free expressions of love.

They are made out of love.

They express a kind of love that gives everything.

When we offer gifts we say to the other person: "See, this gift is part of me."

Advent is a time of wonderment at the gift of God. It is a time when Jesus teaches us daily lessons to help us become more and more a gift to others.

St. Gregory the Great School is celebrating the season of Advent in a very special way this year. Hopefully this Advent will be a very special time of preparation for Christmas for our families, students and staff. Please feel free to join us in our weekly liturgies on Friday mornings, especially during the season of Advent.

MUSICAL NOTES: You are cordially invited to attend "*Christmas Holiday Favorites*" presented by Grades 2 and 4 on Thursday, December 10th at 9:00AM and 7:00PM in the PFC Gym. Get into the holiday spirit and the "*real reason*" for the season with the singing and dancing of our school children.

Mrs. Marilyn Freas

REMINDERS ON DRESS CODE:

- Socks – need to cover the ankle
- Shoes – need to be black or dark brown with no ornamentation
- Skirts - are to be no more than 2 inches above the knee
- Boys hair - is to be neat and trim, off the collar and above the ears

Please note the information below regarding Schoolbelles. Also, remember our Uniform Exchange program. Please call Mrs. Margaret Karboski with any questions at (216) 321-4596.

Schoolbelles, our uniform provider, is holding their Annual Winter Sale now through January 3, 2010. Save 25% on ALL items, including jumpers, skirts, knits, blouses, dress shirts, pants, shorts, accessories. Save 50% on shoes.

DECEMBER 7, 2009

“HOME OF THE JAGUARS”



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- Friday, December 18th is early dismissal at 1:30PM
- Tuesday, January 12, 2010 will be an early dismissal at 1:30PM. All teachers will participate in an extended professional development session that day. The focus will be on authentic assessment and the use of performance rubrics. Dr. Mark Storz of John Carroll University and Dr. Linda Quinn of Cleveland State University will join us to present current best practice recommendations and help guide our revision of assessment methods with a special focus on writing.

ATTENTION ALL 4th – 8th GRADERS PARTICIPATING IN SKI CLUB

The absolute deadline for the registration forms and money to be submitted is FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th. Thank you!!! Please email Mrs. Hanus with any questions or concerns. chanus@stgregoryonline.org.

BEAN BAG BASH... to benefit the St. Greg's Athletic Club and Drama Club

Mark your calendars! The first ever BEAN BAG BASH will be held on Saturday, February 6, 2010. The evening will feature bean bag tournaments, prizes, food and drink. Details, including tournament registration information and court sponsorships are posted on the school website and will be sent home later in paper packs.

TWINKLE SHOP: Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's Twinkle Shop a success: Mary Bartel, Maureen Becker, Lisa Buhrow, Mary Bujoll, Molly Clifford, Laura Cline, Sheri DelBalso, Erica DiNovo, Ann Egan, Jen Ewing, Rhea Evans, Tracy Fallon, Linda Fleming, Teresa Hill, Deanne Hurley, Karen Jim, Megan Kander, Margaret Karboski, Ellie Kohl, Jenny Lambert, Julie Love, Esther McCartney, Jill Medovich, Eileen Mersek, Yvonne Novario, Denise Pease, Mary Ribinkas, Pamela Simpson, Carol Sisson, Denise Smrdel, Laura Stergar, Deb Teriaca, Patty Urbon, Renee Waight, and Lisa Wilk. Thank you very much!!

The March for Life in Washington DC on January 21 and 22, 2010

The St. Gregory the Great Respect Life Committee is sponsoring a bus trip to Washington DC. Please join us and take part in the March for Life to witness on the behalf of the unborn and lobby our representatives in Congress. There is limited space; please contact Mrs. Rita Krebs at (216) 291-0842 to reserve a spot. The deadline for reservations is Wednesday, December 16th. The bus has filled up quickly in the past, please call early! There is no cost for the bus. The bus will leave the St. Gregory parking lot at 6:30AM on Thursday, January 21st and return late on Friday, January 22nd. Students must be chaperoned. Room rates for our overnight stay on Thursday are as follows: Single \$180.00, 2-person double \$90.00 each, 3-person \$60.00 each, and 4-person \$45.00. Please call Mrs. Krebs at the number above for lodging fees, as arrangements can be made to host up to four people in a room. Thank you!

Lost and Found:

A very nice ring was found on the school playground. Please call the school office if it's yours.