

ST. GREGORY THE GREAT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

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A message from Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI: LENT 2009

For this year's Lenten Message, I wish to focus my reflections especially on the value and meaning of fasting. Indeed, Lent recalls the forty days of our Lord's fasting in the desert, which He undertook before entering into His public ministry. We read in the Gospel: "**Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry**" (Mt 4, 1-2). Like Moses, who fasted before receiving the tablets of the Law (cf. Ex 34, 28) and Elijah's fast before meeting the Lord on Mount Horeb (cf. 1 Kings 19,8), Jesus, too, through prayer and fasting, prepared Himself for the mission that lay before Him, marked at the start by a serious battle with the tempter. The ultimate goal of fasting is to help each one of us, as the Servant of God Pope John Paul II wrote, to make the complete gift of self to God.

May every family and Christian community use well this time of Lent, therefore, in order to cast aside all that distracts the spirit and grow in whatever nourishes the soul, moving it to love of God and neighbor. I am thinking especially of a greater commitment to prayer, recourse to the Sacrament of Reconciliation and active participation in the Eucharist, especially the Holy Sunday Mass. With this interior disposition, let us enter the penitential spirit of Lent. May the Blessed Virgin Mary accompany and support us in the effort to free our heart from slavery to sin, making it evermore a "living tabernacle of God." With these wishes, while assuring every believer and ecclesial community of my prayer for a fruitful Lenten journey.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: On February 25th we will observe the opening of the Lenten season with the 8:45AM Liturgy on Ash Wednesday. Students received ashes with the reminder "**Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return.**"

Our theme for Lent will tie in our theme for Advent of "Journeying" and the theme for Catholic Schools Week "Celebrating Service". The theme through the school will be "**Our Lent Journey**"

Destination or goal ~ Easter (heaven)

Route ~ service

Length of our trip ~ 40 days

Route or plan ~ service day-by-day

Side-trips/Stop-overs ~ Mass, Stations of the Cross, Reconciliation, prayer, etc.

Light packing ~ doing positive things...service, random acts of kindness, giving up something

Road signs will be posted around the school as reminders. They will read **STOP – Do Service, YIELD – to Service** and the **ROAD to Service.**

PARENTS/IMPORTANT: Thank you to all the parents who sent in their registrations (forms and fees) for next year! We still have a few families that have not responded. The registration deadline was **Friday, February 20th**. For those families who have not sent in their forms and fees by that date, a **late fee of \$35.00** will need to be sent in with the initial registration fees (K-8 \$100.00 per child/Preschool \$130.00 per child) We thank you for your cooperation in this important matter. If you are not planning to return next year, please notify the school office.

Dear Parents,

The school policy on cell phones is in the Family Handbook. "Cell phones are permitted but must be turned off and put away during school hours." In the past I have interpreted "put away" simply as being out of sight. I want to let you know that I have changed that interpretation. I informed the students today that cell phones must now be put away in their back packs, in their lockers.

If a student prefers to turn in their cell phone to the office, they may do so by giving it to Sister Ann Patrick in a bag labeled with their name. We will secure the phone until the end of the school day when the student may retrieve it in the attendance office.

Peter Wilson

‘HOME OF THE JAGUARS’ FEBRUARY 23, 2009

Miss Kathleen Forhan has announced that she is leaving St. Gregory's. Her resignation will be effective on Tuesday, March 3rd. We are grateful to Miss Forhan for her excellent teaching of English and Reading in our junior high this year. We will announce soon the plan for covering her classes for the remainder of this year.

A NOTE FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT: Applause...Applause... to students in grades 1, 3, 5, and 6 for an energetic performance of "*TV Tunes*". Many thanks to our teachers: Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Suppel, Sr. Kathleen, Mrs. Rybka, Mrs. Liebenauer, Mrs. Mullins, Mrs. Ball, and Mrs. Hanus for all their creative ideas and practices with their students. Thank you to all staff, teachers, and parents who made this show possible!

A special thank you goes out to our wonderful Music Director, Mrs. Marilyn Freas, for bringing the best out of every student as she prepared them so well for the "TV TUNES" concert that was held on Thursday, February 19th. It was a delight for all involved!

IOWA testing for our students in grades 1 – 7 begins on Monday, March 2nd through Friday, March 19th. Parents, please see that your child/children get a good night sleep and eat a good breakfast each morning. We ask that you do your best to have them at school each day. Also, try to schedule any appointments after the school day ends. Thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

SCHOOL ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS: Your School Advisory Board typically meets the third Wednesday evening of each month at 7:00PM in the school library. This year's Board has chosen to focus on two key areas, marketing and grants. Please remember that Advisory Board meetings are open to all interested parents and teachers. Any ideas (and of course subcommittee volunteers) are welcome and can be submitted to one of the SAB members or via email at advisoryboard@stgregoryonline.org. Meeting dates are posted on the school website and included on the school calendar.

St. Gregory the Great Athletic Club News: IMPORTANT REMINDER

This Wednesday, February 25th is the last day to register your child for Spring CYO Sports. Please return the CYO Sports Registration form and fees no later than February 25th. The registration form can be downloaded from the Athletics page on the school's website.

HEINEN'S DONATION PROGRAM: It's so easy to help raise money for our school! Just sign up for Heinen's ABC program. Heinen's will then donate 1% cash of your purchases to St. Greg's.

- Sign up at www.heinensrewards.com or call (216) 475-2300, ext. 2337, and they will sign you up
- Swipe your customer card when you shop at Heinen's. Get signed up for us to benefit from Heinen's donation program. Don't forget to share this with your family and friends!

Thanks for your support...**KEEPING ST. GREGORY GREAT ...TOGETHER!**

Educational Summer Camp

Case Western Reserve
Students ages 7-18 years

If interested, please request a brochure from the school office.

CAFETERIA NEWS: Lunch for Monday, March 2nd will be:

Hot dogs or mini dogs

French fries

Fruit & Milk

The full lunch calendar for March will come home with the Monday newsletter on March 2nd.

St. Paschal Baylon's Class of 2009

Proudly presents: MULAN

Friday, Feb. 27th and Saturday, Feb. 28th

Tickets - \$5.00

Deadline to order Monday, Feb. 23rd

Please call Anne Moore at (440) 461-2139 for more information.