

December 1, 2021

Merry Christmas St. Gregory School Families!

'Tis the Season! What a wonderful time to reflect on our faith and spend quality time with our families. We are all so excited to celebrate this special month of the Immaculate Conception and our Savior's birthday. I can tell already that the students are filled with the Christmas spirit (the lunchroom has a lot of energy)! Each day in December the kids will reflect and pray using the Advent wreath and Jesse tree; this keeps the true meaning of Christmas at the forefront. It is my hope that we can all feel His Presence during this busy season. The Elf on the Shelf may even make an appearance in a few weeks! 😊

It will be a busy month filled with wonderful events. This Sunday, December 5th is the Christmas Super Bingo. Since it is such a large event, please consider volunteering. Santa's Workshop begins on the 6th. The kids always enjoy shopping for their loved ones. December 12th is our special Santa Pancake Breakfast. Santa will make a special appearance, so you definitely don't want to miss it! A big thank you to our own Mrs. Drew for taking it on this year. Finally, the school Christmas Program will be on the 16th. Due to our limited space and the limited number of tickets available for the evening show, we invite family members who cannot be here in the evening to come and enjoy the Christmas performance during a special 1:00 pm dress rehearsal. There will be no tickets necessary for the afternoon performance, but you will be required to submit your tickets for the 7 pm evening performance. We will send out a survey so you can reserve up to 4 tickets. Extra tickets will be allotted to our larger families as they become available.

Please jot down these important dates in January. Our Open House will be the evening of the 14th with school registration for parishioners (St. Gregory, St. Ferdinand, and Holy Redeemer) beginning on January 18th. Open registration for the public begins on the 24th. We will also begin St. Gregory School preschool registration at this time. Please be on the lookout for additional information. I am hoping for our largest enrollment ever; we need to work together to keep our enrollment strong so please spread the word. Remember, too, to turn in your re-registration forms as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.

I am happy to announce that beginning in the new year, we will be offering band for students in grades 4 through 8. Tony Mazzei previously taught at Holy Redeemer for 18 years and St. Vitus for 20 years. He is currently in his 3rd year at Our Lady of Fatima, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Monica. I am thrilled to welcome him and provide this opportunity for our students. More information will be coming home in January.

Since it's the season of cold weather and snow, we may have more delays and/or cancellations. We will use OptionC to inform you of any changes to the school day. We follow Seneca Valley School District's decisions on delays and cancellations, so please make sure you double check these information sites if there is inclement weather.

I often reflect on the reasons we send our children to Catholic school. I find the answer to be so obvious: our faith! Not only are we an embodiment of prayer, but we have incredible academics, a Christ-like atmosphere, and a loving environment. And let's be honest – it takes a village! Your children are so loved here. I know as a mother of a child in the building, there is no greater comfort than knowing that I am

sending him to a place full of love where he is given the opportunity to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, and academically. Additionally, as the former 8th grade teacher, I am a firm believer that students should remain in Catholic school through their middle school years. This is such a critical time of formation, and I can see the benefits when students remain with us until the end. However, no matter how long your family stays at St. Gregs, I want you to know that I am honored to be a part of your journey.

On behalf of the teachers and staff at St. Gregory School, I'd like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

In Christ,



Mrs. Rice