



Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.

**November 30, 2011** Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at [cnelson@gtacs.org](mailto:cnelson@gtacs.org).

## WORDS OF WELCOME

Last weekend, we **welcomed the changes to the Roman Missal** and the beginning of a new liturgical year. On Monday, while students welcomed an extra day off, GTACS faculty and staff **welcomed the Very Rev. John Fleckenstein** who gave a hope-filled presentation about faith and education and a new era of opportunity in the Church. The presentation was preceded by Mass presided over by Fr. Fleckenstein and with Fr. Ray Cotter and Fr. Bill Lipscomb concelebrating. Tuesday evening, the Catholic ladies of northern Michigan **welcomed Advent** with music, meditations and candlelight.

## ADVENT: PREPARING AS WE WAIT

The upcoming weekend [Mass readings](#) are about waiting...and preparing.

- 40 Hours Devotion at St. Francis of Assisi Church will begin with Mass presided over by Bishop Hebda at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, December 6 and end with Mass on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thursday, December 8 at 7:00 pm. For the complete schedule, [click here](#).
- All are invited to a "bonus" Mass on Fridays during Advent at 11:45 am in the St. Clare Chapel.
- St. Francis Parish's [Come to Christmas Festival](#) is this Sunday in the St. Francis High School gymnasium.
- For a dollar, you can download [daily meditations for Advent and Christmas](#) for your iPhone.
- If you haven't already, pick up a blue book of Advent reflections at your parish. They're short, quiet meditations that are just right for this busy season of preparation.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK AND NEW YEAR'S AT DISNEY, ANYONE?

Gladhander is accepting bids on this late-breaking vacation package – Christmas and New Year's at a luxurious Florida resort condominium. Imagine how excited your family would be to take this fabulous vacation together! Sleeps 4.

### [Disney's Beach Club Resort](#)

Home Away from Home Studio Condo (sleeps 4) next to Disney's Epcot Center  
December 26, 2011 - January 2, 2012  
Valued at \$4,291 (Minimum bid \$2,500)

Features: Panoramic views of Storm Along Bay, Epcot fireworks viewing, reciprocal parking agreement with other resorts, amazing pool and other world-class amenities including full maid service on day 4 of your stay. Studio condo features one queen-size bed and a double sleeper sofa, refrigerator, microwave and more. For details, contact Wayne Mueller at [wmueller@gtacs.org](mailto:wmueller@gtacs.org) or 231 313-0381 Bids must be received by next Wednesday, December 7 at 5:00 pm local time.

## COMING SOON: THE NUTCRACKER

Several GTACS students will be performing in the Dance Center Youth Ensemble's presentation of the *Nutcracker*, Saturday December 10 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm and Sunday December 11 at 2:00 pm and 5:00 pm at the Milliken Auditorium. Tickets are \$10/children, \$12/seniors (55+), \$15/adults; Sunday at 5:00, tickets are \$10. Call 231 947-6820 Monday through Thursday to order.

## SCHOOL DIRECTORIES

Directories are in and available at each school office for \$5 each. Pick one up for home, office, and/or your car!

## **GAME NIGHT DINNER? CHECK!**

On Saturday, December 17, [Irish Christmas in America](#) is being performed at 8 pm in the Kohler Auditorium. The Life Balance Initiative team will be serving a pre-concert dinner featuring two classic Irish options: Irish beef stew (\$5) or corned beef and cabbage (\$7). The meal is being served from 5-7:30 pm by GTACS Guys and Dolls high school play participants. The junior varsity boys basketball team will also be playing Brother Rice beginning at 6 p.m. in the gym, followed by the varsity team at approximately 7:30 pm. So whether you're going to the concert or the game, be sure to plan on a great Irish meal!

## **GOT TRIP?**

New to the Not-On-Hand order form this week is **DSW Designer Shoe Warehouse** offered in a \$25 denomination with an 8% discount. DSW cards are redeemable at DSW locations & online at [DSW.com](#).

- Current bonuses:
  - **LL Bean** - 2% until 12/1
  - **Bath & Body** - 5% until 12/1
  - **Cabela's (OH & NOH)** - 2% until 12/29
  - **Express** - 2% until 12/8
  - **Outback Steakhouse** - 2% until 12/1
  - **Lands' End** - 2% until 12/8
  - **Regis** - 2% until 12/15
  - **CVS Pharmacy (NOH)** - 1% until 12/8
  - **Bass Pro Shops (NOH)** - 5% until 12/8

## **TCSF SWEATSHIRTS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

Gladiator Athletics is accepting orders for TCSF sweatshirts. [Order forms](#) are due to any school office by Wednesday, December 7 to guarantee pick-up in the Athletic Office on December 21 from 10 am-2:30 pm. These are the navy/gold sweatshirts where you can put a student name on the back and choose a sport to put on the front. Questions? Call the Athletic Office at 946-1180 or email <mailto:mmiddleton@gtacs.org>.

## **MAKE A FISH WISH COME TRUE!**

Do you find yourself wanting to serve more fish but avoiding it because you're not sure how to prepare it? Join Chef Jason Maday Monday Dec. 12 from 6:30 to 9:30 at the St. Francis kitchen to learn how to buy, clean, and cook a variety of fish. We will also explore other creatures of the sea that are easy to prepare and that are sure to become family favorites! Cost is \$40 per person per class, limit 10 per class. Contact [jmaday@gtacs.org](mailto:jmaday@gtacs.org) to make a reservation or learn more.

## **NEW "NEWS DAY" BEGINNING JANUARY 2**

Beginning in January, we'll be streamlining communication by sending out one email containing links to ALL newsletters including school news, athletic news, Gladhander news and GTACS news. The deadline for submissions to GTACS News will be moving to Thursday at noon.

#####

## **PRAYER ON THE FEAST OF ST. ANDREW**

Lord Jesus, you have called me personally by name, just as you called your first disciples, Simon, Andrew and James. Fill me with the joy of your gospel and help me to be a good and faithful witness of your kingdom to all I meet. [www.discerninghearts.com/?p=1641](http://www.discerninghearts.com/?p=1641)