

# GTACS NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF GRAND TRAVERSE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

mnsaa SCHOOLS OF DISTINCTION 08

Catholic High School  
HONOR ROLL  
2008-2009

NATIONAL  
Catholic High School  
HONOR ROLL  
2010-2011

GTACS  
GRAND TRAVERSE AREA  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



*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.*

**February 6, 2012** Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at [cnelson@gtacs.org](mailto:cnelson@gtacs.org).

Last weekend, our Bishop – along with many others in the United States – [issued a letter](#) to all parishioners regarding the recent attack on our religious freedom\*. This unusual action only served to heighten the importance of this past week's Catholic Schools Week celebration. We are keenly aware of the precious liberty represented by our Catholic schools and we realize that nothing – not the breaths we take, not the flag we honor, not the Schools we cherish – must ever be taken for granted. Thank you for your participation in Catholic Schools Week and for all you do to make our Catholic schools possible.

An excerpt from Bishop Hebda's meeting with the Holy Father in Rome: "...I was thrilled that I had the opportunity to speak with the Holy Father about Catholic education...when I spoke of the effort to clarify and preserve the Catholic identity of our schools, the Holy Father...spoke of the wonderful leadership that is being offered, and can be offered, by Catholic laity...It was as if he knew personally the many dedicated principals and teachers leading our schools."

\* January 20 US Department of Health and Human Services rule requiring employer health plans to include sterilization, contraception and abortifacients

For this weekend's **Mass readings**, [click here](#).

For February **prayer intentions** for the clergy of our Diocese, [click here](#).

For the February **lunch menu**, [click here](#).

For a complete list of upcoming **registration dates**, [click here](#).

February 8	Next PTC meeting at noon at SEAS
February 9	<i>Cherub Tales</i> , a Christian story hour for wee ones at Holy Angels Library (open to public), 10:30-11:15 am
February 10	Opening night of St. Francis High School musical, <i>Guys and Dolls</i> ; got tickets?
February 15	Open house for new/prospective students and their families
February 20	Preschool enrollment for in-system families; kindergarten enrollment begins 2/27
February 20	Open house for parents of incoming 9 <sup>th</sup> graders, 6:30-8:00 pm
February 24	Eighth grade students visit St. Francis High School for lunch, a tour and information about high school.
March 2	Family bowling night at Lucky Jacks (PTC-sponsored event)
April 30	Grant applications due for in-system families

This is the time of year that you can help the Schools significantly by inviting anyone you know who might be considering a Catholic education – at any grade level – to visit the school and take a tour. Prospects should be directed to Cindy Weber, [cweber@gtacs.org](mailto:cweber@gtacs.org). The open house (2/15) is also a great time to encourage a no-obligation visit to our Schools.

## SPIRITUAL BOUQUET BLOSSOMED

Bishop Hebda took with him to Rome on his *Ad Limini* visit an impressive spiritual bouquet comprised of the following prayers and intentions: Rosary (851), Hail Mary (5,619), Lord's Prayer (4,942), Angelus (11,378), Chaplet of Divine Mercy (463), Hours of Adoration (542), Days of Fasting (340), Works of Mercy (341), Mass and/or Holy Communion (1,349), Spiritual Reading (529) and Other Prayers/Sacrifices (2,259). Thank you to all who contributed in some way.

## CATHOLIC RADIO TO AIR STUDENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL WEEK INTERVIEWS

Baraga Broadcasting (88.3 FM) recently interviewed GTACS students regarding their Catholic school experience. The station will air the interviews at 2 pm on 2/4 and 2/5 and Monday, 2/6 at noon. Tune in and see what the kids said!

Continued on next page

– HIGHLIGHTS FROM CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK (CSW) –

### FRIDAY 1/27: THINGS WERE A'POPPIN'

More than 160 adults and children attended Family Movie Night. Kids enjoyed arts and crafts before *Mr. Popper's Penguins* began, with yummy popcorn. A special thank you to our volunteers that night: Jason and Vickie Smith, Eric and Jenni Huffman, Heidi Argue, Ann Kavanaugh, Beth Nowosacki and our schools' hard-working custodians.

Friday night, the St. Francis Choir and the cast and crew of *Guys and Dolls* represented our schools at Stars in Our Backyard – the annual Chamber dinner. There were approximately 1,200 people in attendance at this event which showcased the considerable talents of our area's young people.



Family Movie Night in the gym

### TUESDAY 1/31: STUDENT DAY- FUN AND GAMES

Kids just want to have fun, and that's exactly what Tuesday was all about. There was a snowman making competition at SEAS, and fun and games in the gym at HA and SEAS. At SF, it was movie star day. For photos, [click here](#).

### WEDNESDAY 2/1: NATION DAY - ONE NATION, UNDER GOD

Students at Holy Angels, Immaculate Conception and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton joined in a solemn flag retirement ceremony orchestrated by student and adult leaders from Boy Scouts of America Troop 31. [Click here to view photos](#) from this very moving experience. Meanwhile, at St. Francis High School, students were rapt with attention as Astronaut/Hero Jerry Linenger recounted his harrowing experience aboard the Russian space shuttle, Mir. Dr. Linenger's presentation was very inspirational as he encouraged young people to embrace the incredible opportunities they have, to be grateful for "every breath" and to overcome adversity with courage and faith. [Click here for select photos](#).

### THURSDAY 2/2: VOCATIONS DAY

In addition to praying for vocations today (which happens every day at our Schools), students wrote letters to Diocesan seminarians. On the fun side, younger students had a different teacher for the day, and high schoolers "let their hair down" by wearing crazy hair, hats and tacky sweaters. [For ideas on what NOT to wear to your next business meeting, click here](#). Also on Thursday, faculty and staff were treated to a very special Catholic Schools Week luncheon. There was fantastic food and door prizes. Thank you!

### FRIDAY 2/3: ALL SYSTEM MASS AND MORE

Our celebration culminated on Friday with the celebration of the Eucharist. Many thanks to all who made this liturgy so very special, including Mr. Craig Swatt who arranged the music, Mr. Carter and the choir and the musicians who lent their talents, the many priests and deacons, and our lector, cantor and altar servers. For photos from the Mass, [click here](#).

All week long, students earned the privilege of wearing jeans and other wacky attire by bringing in canned goods for the Father Fred Frostbite Food Drive which began on Friday, February 3. At Immaculate Conception Elementary alone, more than 2,000 items were collected! Pastor Jim from the Father Fred Foundation made the rounds to three of our schools to explain the importance of this initiative in our community. For photos from his visit to Immaculate Conception on Friday, [click here](#).



Fifth grade canned goods

### GUYS AND DOLLS

There are two different casts for *Guys and Dolls*, so you might want to come on two nights! To view the cast list for each performance, [click here](#). You can buy tickets at the box office located in the lobby of the high school gymnasium (11th street entrance). Hours are Monday-Friday from 11 am-2 pm and the phone number is 231 946-0715. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students (18 and under) and seniors (65 and older). Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 10, 11 and 12 AND Feb. 17, 18 and 19 with Friday and Saturday shows at 7 pm and Sunday matinees at 2 pm. On Thursday, there was an impromptu performance in the cafeteria. To view the video, [click here](#).

### ARE YOU SMARTER (ABOUT CATHOLICISM) THAN A 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADER?

Four sixth grade students from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Middle School have qualified to advance to the Diocesan-wide Catechism bee: Rory Richardson, Marcel Primeau, Libby Krcmarik and Aaron Simon. They'll be brushing up on terms like *Asergillum* (the instrument used for sprinkling holy water) and *Adonai* (name used in place of Yahweh), and making sure they know the six Holy Days of Obligation (Hint: Good Friday, no; New Year's Day, yes). The next round of competition is April 26 in Gaylord, with Bishop Hebda asking the questions. For Catechism bee photos, [click here](#).

*In a week like this past one, it's difficult to share ALL the great stories!* If you're a Facebook user, please LIKE the GTACS Facebook page and use it to share photos with friends and family. To visit our Facebook page, [click here](#).

### **THIS TEAM'S SUCCESS WAS IN THE CAN**

On Feb. 28, 5th graders Jack Hiatt (red shirt) and Pierson Klein and 2nd grader John Val Klein participated (along with their dads Gerry Hiatt and Patrick Klein) in the first annual Traverse City *Canstruction* competition at Grand Traverse Mall. Eight teams built structures out of canned goods that will be donated to the Father Fred Food Drive. The team used over 1200 cans to build the White Shoal Lighthouse and was sponsored by the Schmuckal Family Foundation and Jack's Kayaks. The team was awarded the Best Use of Labels prize and will be advancing to the national competition in that category! Congratulations and well-done!



### **STUDENT ART DECKS HALLS AT BUILDING 50**

Original works of art by the following students will be on display in the halls of Building 50 (lower level beginning February 4: Joey Donahue (grade 1); Samantha Berta and Gus Dutmers (grade 2); Carter Thelan (grade 3) and Grace Montroy (grade 5).

### **AFTERNOON SHUTTLE DROP-OFF LOCATION CHANGE**

The afternoon shuttle from SEAS to SF now drops students off on 10<sup>th</sup> Street instead of 11<sup>th</sup> Street. The buses will park on the south side of the street between Cass and Holy Angels drop-off/pick-up gate. **Please keep that area completely clear so that the buses can park and safely release our kids.**

– OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH –

### **MOTHERS IN CHRIST MEETING SCHEDULE**

February 6 Mary Peterson, "Good Samaritan Family Services: Serving the Lord by reaching out to those in need"  
February 13 Faith enrichment, "Theology of the Body," #6  
February 20 Linda Woods, "On the Road to Sainthood: Blessed Kateri, Lily of the Mohawks"  
February 27 Fr. James Bearss, "Modesty is our Policy"

Meetings are held in the lower level of Christ the King Church on Mondays from 9-11 a.m. Visit [mothersinchrist.org](http://mothersinchrist.org).

### **PARENT/HIGH SCHOOL TEEN RETREATS**

Fr. James Bearss is leading "The Just Man" father/son retreat February 11-12 at the Augustine Retreat Center in Conway. Fr. Matthew Wigton will lead, "The Mystical Rose" mother/daughter retreat March 24-25 also at the Augustine Center. Cost for either session is \$60 per person which includes accommodations and meals; Saturday-only is \$15. To register, contact Liz Gengle at 231 347-4133 ext. 27 or [jp2youth@gmail.com](mailto:jp2youth@gmail.com).

### **CULTURE OF LIFE CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**

Fr. Paul O'Brien will be the keynote speaker during this men's [conference](#) being organized by [Absolute Catholic](#) which begins with Mass with the Bishop. Event is March 3 from 9 am-5 pm at St. Francis High School. \$25 fee includes lunch.

– SPORTS NEWS –

### **GLADS SIGN LETTERS OF INTENT**

Wednesday was a big day for three St. Francis seniors who signed letters of intent to play college football. It's Michigan State for Riley Bullough and Hillsdale for Marc Stein and Zach Swaffer. At the signing ceremony, Coach Vaughan was quick to note that these young men qualified not only for Division 1-calibre football, but also the rigorous academics for which these schools are known. Also on Wednesday, 2011 TCSF grad, John Zakrzewski signed a letter of intent to play football at Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts after playing one year at Taft, a boarding school in Connecticut.



### **JOB POSTING: JUNIOR VARSITY SOFTBALL AND TENNIS COACHES**

GTACS is accepting applications for JV Softball & JV Tennis Coaches. Previous coaching experience preferred. Interested applicants may contact Tom Hardy, GTACS Athletic Director, 123 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street, TC 49684 or email [hardy@gtacs.org](mailto:hardy@gtacs.org). Deadline is February 10.

### **TOTAL ATHLETE CLINIC**

Superior Sports Performance Training is conducting a Total Athlete Clinic, February 25 from 1-3 p.m. in the high school gym. This clinic is for 6-12 grade athletes of all sports. Instructors are Andrew Gorecki, DPT; Eric Shutler, CPY, IYCA-LA, and Keith Bandli, MS, ATC, CSCS, IYCA-L2. Cost is \$10 per participant, and registration opens at 12:30 p.m. You may reserve a spot by contacting Erin Gorecki at 944-6541 or email [superiorsportstc@gmail.com](mailto:superiorsportstc@gmail.com).

– EASY WAYS TO SUPPORT OUR SCHOOLS–

### **YOUR GROCERY RECEIPTS HAVE AN “EXPIRATION DATE” TOO!**

Many of you save Tom’s receipts on behalf of our Schools; however, receipts are only valid if they are dated in the current quarter and they must be submitted by our volunteers by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month. We must turn in at least \$15,000 in receipts to qualify. So please...keep saving...but don’t let them “get moldy.” Turn them in promptly! Thank you.

### **LABELS FOR EDUCATION BONUS**

Clip the “labels for education” area on five cans of Campbell’s soup, attach to [this form](#), and turn it in to your School’s collection bin by 2/29 to earn 100 bonus points.

– AND MORE –

### **ADULT COOKING CLASS**

What’s for dinner tonight? Would you like to be more efficient in the kitchen? Do you know what’s in your food? Join Chef Jason Maday for a cooking class that will give you strategies and learn techniques that will help you save time and prepare healthier food for your family. Hands-on classes will be offered at the St. Francis High School Kitchen from 6:30-9:30 pm. Cost is \$40 per person per class, limit 10 per class. Reserve your spot by emailing [jmaday@gtacs.org](mailto:jmaday@gtacs.org).

February 13	Fresh pastas, grains, dried beans, and more
March 12	Comfort food (not from a can)
April 16	Charcuterie (sausage, bacon, and other smoked goodies)
May 14	Cooking without a recipe

If you are interested in a cooking class with a group of friends in the comfort of your own kitchen, contact Jason Maday at [jmaday@gtacs.org](mailto:jmaday@gtacs.org) to set up a time for a fun memorable evening. Classes can be designed as you desire.

### **CORRECTION**

A heartfelt apology goes out to **Marek Laucky** whose name was misspelled in last week’s article regarding the K of C Free Throw Championship! Congrats, Marek. 😊

#####

---

The greatest challenge to Catholic education in the United States today, and the greatest contribution that authentically Catholic education can make to American culture, is to restore to that culture the conviction that human beings can grasp the truth of things, and, in grasping that truth, can know their duties to God, to themselves and their neighbors...

– Pope John Paul II, *Veritatis Splendor*, 4