



# Welcome, Alumni!



I'm Fr. Tom Molini, pastor of your alma mater, St. Gabriel the Archangel. In the year and a half that I've served, I've been amazed at the history of the School and Parish, and the active involvement of our school alumni – many of whom still live in the Parish.

They are some of the biggest supporters of our Building Bright Futures Campaign.

Listen to four of your fellow graduates -- Frank, Cal, Jen and Jess -- explain why these projects are critical to continuing St. Gabes' stunning excellence and leadership. And then embrace their invitation to be a part of the biggest, most exciting changes in Gabes culture in decades. With your donation, the greatness of the past will become the promise of the future.

Fr. Thomas Molini  
Pastor  
St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish and School

## Your Alumni Guides



Frank Delonjay  
St. Gabriel School Class of '64  
Current St. Gabriel Parishioner



Cal Kennedy  
St. Gabriel School Class of '76  
Current St. Gabriel Parishioner



Jen (Flatley) Ronshausen  
St. Gabriel School Class of '86  
St. Gabriel School Teacher, 1995-2023  
Current St. Gabriel Parishioner



Jessica (Lewis) Rahn  
St. Gabriel School Class of '01  
Current St. Gabriel Parishioner

# Your Pride and Joy

Since its beginning in the 1930s, there has been nothing like St. Gabriel Parish and School in forming young Catholics to be leaders and good citizens in St. Louis and the world. And here in 2025, nothing has changed: They remain shining lights in the City of St. Louis.

# South City Dreams Made Real

Last fall your alma mater, St. Gabriel, began Building Bright Futures, a \$5.5 million development campaign to add two big improvement projects at St. Gabriel, the spiritual, educational and cultural heart of Southwest St. Louis. First, St. Gabes is building an amazing and highly innovative school addition in the old convent, to keep the school at the pinnacle of Catholic education in St. Louis. Second, we're adding a much-needed Welcome Room to further build the community; the Welcome Room could host your next alumni or family reunion.

*We are moving forward with confidence in this beautiful part of the city. We are putting a stake in the ground for a bright, exciting future. — Cal*



The St. Gabriel Campaign for Innovative Learning and Fellowship

*We've always been the best of the best. — Jess*

*If you haven't been back in a while, it's an amazing atmosphere. The kids in 2025 are just as incredible as ever. — Frank*



*Kids run around in the park with no fear. It hasn't changed at all. It's absolutely amazing. We have to keep St. Gabes strong so the neighborhood will stay strong, too. — Jen*

# The Center for Innovative Learning

Modern teaching methods are changing rapidly, inspiring St. Gabriel to create the Center for Innovative Learning in the Gabriel House (the former convent). After a full gut-rehab, the Center will house highly innovative collaborative “flex spaces” that combine cross-discipline teaching and student collaboration to solve the problems of today. Top high schools and middle schools are now educating their students using the same methods.

The Center will be purpose-built for students in grades seven and eight but will provide opportunities for use by children of all grades, and for full parish use during non-school hours. The band room and chapel will be renovated, too.



*We'll be the only Catholic elementary school with a center like this. That is really impressive. Plus, no more meetings in basement storage areas. — Jess*

*The only time you went to the convent was if you misbehaved! Now the old convent's going to be transformed into the best elementary school experience in the Archdiocese! — Frank*

*When the Center is not being used as a school, individual parishioners and groups can use spaces... meeting rooms and an outdoor patio for different purposes. It will be ADA-compliant. The whole place is going to be so useful. — Cal*



*St. Gabriel is honoring its students with an experience they're not going to get at any other grade school. We're making more than a second school building. We're making a campus. — Jen*

## We Need You Now

The success of the Building Bright Futures Campaign depends upon the commitment of all those who care about St. Gabriel Parish, St. Gabriel School, and the neighborhoods in which they reside. That means School alumni, too.

## Why This Project Is Worth Your Support

This project is right for the School and for forming the future of Catholic leadership in an increasingly complex world. This project is right for the Parish to build community and be truly welcoming — as always.

And it's right for School alumni like you. You are proud of St. Gabriel. That must continue without end.

*Alumni might be shocked that St. Gabes in the city is moving forward with such confidence. But then again, hasn't it always? We are thriving; we are expanding. That should be in capital letters!  
— Jen*

# Holy Name Hall (The Welcome Room)

With a lead gift from the Holy Name Society, the Parish is building a critically needed Holy Name Welcome Room between the front door of the Church and the rectory. Aesthetically it will match the look of the Church and provide space for up to 100 parishioners and guests for fellowship after Mass, pre-wedding and pre-funeral activities, Parish meetings, and much more. A fireplace will highlight the space. The room is for full parish and school use.

This room will build community and help make St. Gabes even more welcoming to all – parishioners and visitors alike – as God intended.



*Holy Name Hall is going to change how we welcome people. It will build community by inviting parishioners, guests, alumni, neighbors – everyone – to gather in fellowship. Alums can have their reunions start there. — Cal*

*The Welcome Room will allow us to celebrate and honor parishioners at the most difficult, and the most joyous, times of their lives, like funerals, weddings and so much more. These are the pinnacle parts of life. — Jess*



*I want my funeral to be at St. Gabes. The Welcome Room will make it even more inviting so that friends can share laughter and blessed memories. — Jen*

*You won't have to stay in the church after Mass anymore. You won't have to leave the campus. You just move into the Welcome Center to talk, for donuts, sandwiches, you name it. — Frank*

*The alumni have never been asked for one dime. Our old grade school is doing something that we believe no one else is doing anywhere. Can you help us with that? — Cal*

*This is the place I'd send my kids to -- all over again! No question about it! — Jen*

*It's not just a School or a Welcome Center. We're making it a campus. Nothing short of it. — Jess*

# We Need Your Help

## How to Give

Giving to the Building Bright Futures Campaign is simple. You have three options:

- 1) Fill out the enclosed pledge card. Give as much as you can, please. Make your contribution either by check (using the postage paid envelope, enclosed), or
- 2) Donate online, safely, via Faith Direct. Use this QR code to connect to Faith Direct, or go to the Campaign website and connect from there.



**Deadline for your donation is April 1.**

Much more information on these topics is available on the Campaign website: [www.stgabrielstl.org/campaign](http://www.stgabrielstl.org/campaign)

## Additional Opportunities to Help

### Honor Your Legacy: Memorial Opportunities

A wide variety of memorial and naming opportunities are available to secure your St. Gabriel legacy and family name for decades to come, including:

- Classrooms, spaces, pavers, portraits, stained glass and more in the Center for Innovative Learning
- Your class can also sponsor a brand new area of the Center – the God’s Creation hallway murals and room portraits
- A garden, windows, trees, pavers and more are available for naming in Holy Name Hall (Welcome Room)

To explore and secure memorial opportunities, go to <https://www.stgabrielstl.org/Capital-Campaign/Memorial-Naming-Opportunities>.

### A Class Challenge Memorial



#### *The Fr. James Knapp, SJ Class of 1965 Challenge*

Fr. James Knapp SJ, -- a class of 1965 graduate and beloved educator and

theologian at St. Louis University High School – passed away in December 2024. His classmates have begun a memorial fund in his name, to be dedicated to the Building Bright Futures Campaign and are challenging all other SGA classes to match their gift! Leadership gifts have been secured.

**Your class can have a memorial, too. Name it after your class, a favorite teacher, priest or nun, or a classmate no longer with us.**

All classes matching the 1965 class pledge of \$10,000 will be memorialized with a plaque on the donor wall.

### Share This!

Many St. Gabriel School grads may not be familiar with the Building Bright Futures Campaign. Please let them know; we need all grads to support this bold and progressive project.

You can share this information by:

- Requesting that St. Gabriel send this brochure to them
- Sending them the website link directly
- Calling or texting them, and letting them know directly

## Continue the Excellence. Extend the Pride

The need is clear. The plans are smart and thrilling. St. Gabriel pride is overflowing. Now is the time to get involved in Building Bright Futures: The Campaign for Innovative Learning and Fellowship.

If you haven’t been to St. Gabes recently, you owe it to yourself to stop by. Let us welcome you home.

Complete the enclosed pledge card, or give in other ways. **Help us Build Bright Futures.**

### For More Information

St. Gabriel has posted much more information about the Building Bright Futures Campaign on its website. Find it at [stgabrielstl.org/campaign](http://stgabrielstl.org/campaign).

Questions? Write to: [campaign@stgabrielstl.org](mailto:campaign@stgabrielstl.org)

St. Gabriel the Archangel  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



The St. Gabriel Campaign for Innovative Learning and Fellowship