



ST. GABRIEL

THE ARCHANGEL ♦ CATHOLIC CHURCH

ST. GABRIEL CLASSICAL ACADEMY CELEBRATES WONDERFUL FIRST YEAR IN NEW BUILDING

That's a wrap! The 2024-2025 school year at St. Gabriel Classical Academy has officially come to an end. As this was our first year in the new building, there were many new opportunities to offer time and talent to make it a successful year.

Principal Robin Schneider is pleased with the move into the 60,000-square-foot building, noting that the extra space has allowed a lot more flexibility for school functions.

"There is never a problem with hosting something due to the enormous campus we've been blessed with," Mrs. Schneider says. "We also have the ability to share our space and receive donations to help pay for the operating expenses."

Moving comes with its challenges, but Mrs. Schneider says the hard work pulled everyone together.

"There was so much to do," she says. "Many people sacrificed their time, which brought together the community. We weren't even sure when we could move in until just a week before school



started, so we had to trust that we would be in the building on time."

In addition to the dedication of the teachers and families who helped with the move, Mrs. Schneider is grateful for the continued support of the parish. Between parishioner prayers and volunteer hours,

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ST. GABRIEL CLASSICAL ACADEMY CELEBRATES

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the parish's support has played an integral role in a healthy school culture.

"First and foremost, we have some prayer warriors that are always praying for us and they let us know it," Mrs. Schneider says. "Second, Marc Lanning has helped the school tremendously — he loves the children and wants to do whatever he can to help support them and us. The Knights of Columbus have also been a huge blessing to us and have brought some of their annual events to us, like the Christmas poster and Free Throw contests, as well as the flag and flagpole in front of the building.

"We are grateful to the parish and are looking for even more ways to collaborate and bring the parish and school more closely knit together," she adds.

This lifestyle of stewardship spills over into the school and is an important component of the school ethos. One fun way of instilling a generous spirit is through the "buddy" program, through which younger students are paired with older students for certain school events and all-school Masses. Mrs. Schneider enjoys watching these relationships between school buddies flourish.

"I love to see the older students taking an

interest in helping the younger students," she says. "I am certain they are reflecting on their own childhood and want very much to help form our youngest. There are so many virtues that are naturally ingrained in doing this, including patience, fortitude, and respect."

This spirit of service is one of the many reasons families choose a Catholic education for their children. Mrs. Schneider shares one heartwarming story of a faith-based connection, which came to light at one family formation night.

"Two families realized that the mother of one family had been the babysitter for the other family's daughter," she says. "They hadn't seen or talked to one another for a long time, but both wound up choosing St. Gabriel Classical Academy for their children. It is truly a small Catholic world."

There was one particular academic highlight this year that fostered excitement — one eighth-grade student and St. Gabriel parishioner competed at the local National Civics Bee, beating out 20 other students from Colorado Springs. She went on to compete at the state level on May 30.

It has truly been a full year of activity, and the staff is looking forward to a restful summer break. While their plans may be diverse, with some working at summer camps and some working on professional development, all can agree that a period of rejuvenation is important to serving the school at their best.

"We have to take good care of ourselves, so that we can be healthy to take care of others," Mrs. Schneider says.

To all the students, staff, and families of our school —have a wonderful summer!

"We are grateful to the parish and are looking for even more ways to collaborate and bring the parish and school more closely knit together."

— Robin Schneider, Principal



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

LIVING OUR FAITH *and* STEWARDSHIP ALL SUMMER LONG

Dear Parishioners,

As the warm days of summer arrive, many of us look forward to a change of pace — time with family, vacations, and a much-needed break from the busy routines of the school year. Our parish calendar may also slow down a bit, with fewer meetings, events, or faith formation sessions. But while the rhythm of life may shift, one thing remains constant: our call to live as disciples of Christ and good stewards of all He has given us.

Stewardship is not just a seasonal practice — it is a way of life. And summer offers us a wonderful opportunity to live that way of life in new and meaningful ways.

If you're traveling, make it a point to attend Mass wherever you are. The Eucharist unites us as one Church, no matter where we gather. Taking time to worship while on vacation also gives witness to our children and others that our faith doesn't take the summer off.

Likewise, look for ways to stay connected with our parish community. Maybe your ministry isn't meeting regularly during the summer, but there are still countless ways to share your time, talent, and treasure. Volunteer with your family for a local service opportunity. Take a few moments each day for prayer or Scripture reading. Continue your regular offertory giving, even while you're away, through online giving or mailing in your weekly envelope.



Let's also remember that summer can be a perfect time to renew and deepen our personal faith. With a slower pace, perhaps we can finally read that spiritual book we've been meaning to pick up or take more time in prayer and reflection.

This edition of our newsletter includes stories of parishioners just like you who are living out their stewardship commitments, even during the summer months, including a look back at the St. Gabriel Classical Academy school

year — the first one in our beautiful new school building. We also bring you a story that delves into Eucharistic Adoration at our parish. Finally, we feature our Daughters of Mary Ministry at the parish.

Together, let's embrace this season with joy and intention — continuing to grow in faith and living out our commitment to stewardship as grateful disciples of the Lord.

Wishing you a safe, restful, and faith-filled summer,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rev. Kirk J. Slattery".

Fr. Kirk J. Slattery
Pastor





EUCCHARISTIC SPENDING TIME IN HIS PRESENCE

The late Pope Benedict XVI once said, “In the world there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host... It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering.”

For Linda Popolano, our volunteer coordinator here at St. Gabriel’s, adoration truly has been a source of comfort and light. She has consistently attended Eucharistic Adoration for about seven years.

“Before we had our beautiful adoration chapel, we used to have adoration in the nave of the church on Wednesdays,” Linda says. “I would get off of work and go at 5 p.m. They would have the last hour of adoration for the day and also pray the Rosary and evening prayer. I would go as often as I could. Once we had our adoration chapel, I would go on Fridays after

work. After a busy work week, it was so calming and soothing to end my week talking to Jesus.”

Presently, adoration begins in the chapel immediately following morning Mass on weekdays at 8:30 a.m. and continues until 9 p.m.

“Our chapel is such a beautiful and calming space to go spend time with Jesus,” Linda says. “There are 18 chairs and the colors and space are so peaceful.”

As Catholics, we believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. While it is true that we can pray anywhere, one is truly in His Presence when sitting and praying in front of the Eucharist. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops takes part in spreading the three years of the Eucharistic Revival — an effort to reinforce the belief in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist — spending time with our Lord in adoration is an excellent way to grow in faith and love of Jesus.

There are many ways to spend your time in Adoration,” Linda says. “You can pray the Rosary, read Scripture, or reflect on other spiritual reading. We have Stations of the Cross in the chapel, too. There are several versions of the Stations of the Cross you can pray, and not just during Lent. There is, for instance, a mental health version of the Stations of the Cross that you can request a copy of from our parish Grief Support ministry. There are also prayer books in the chapel for people to use, if they wish, with additional ideas. Writing your own prayers in a journal is another activity I’ve done during my Adoration time.”

Ask anyone who has been regularly attending Eucharistic Adoration and they will be able to tell you what a blessing it has been in their life. Many would even say that consistently going to adoration is life-changing. The time spent quieting our hearts and minds in the True Presence of



“Regularly attending adoration has taught me that prayer isn’t just telling God what you need or what others need — it is also sitting and listening.” — Linda Popolano

ADORATION: PRAYER, LISTENING FOR HIS VOICE

Our Lord is an opportunity to listen to His voice in our lives.

“Regularly attending adoration has taught me that prayer isn’t just telling God what you need or what others need — it is also sitting and listening,” Linda says. “Initially, it was hard, and even a bit uncomfortable. An hour felt very long. However, I have found that the more often you go, the quicker that hour goes and sometimes it doesn’t even feel like enough time!”

It can be easy to say we will attend when we can — but unless we make it a priority, our time gets filled up. Before we know it, we haven’t spent any time with the Lord.

“If you don’t commit to it and actually put yourself on the schedule, it can be hard to prioritize,” Linda says. “We say, ‘I am going to go when I can,’ but then life happens and gets in the way.”

We have a helpful system for requesting substitute adorers if a committed adorer is unable to attend. It is also possible for parishioners to sign up just as substitutes. An email or text message is sent requesting a sub and you can accept. You can also find sub requests on the parish website.

“There are purple scarves in the chapel that read ‘committed adorer’ so that other attendees know that someone is staying in the chapel instead of dropping in for a few minutes,” Linda says. “Since Jesus cannot be left alone

while exposed in the monstrance, this is a helpful system that we have used for many years.”

“The goal of our parish is to have two committed adorers for every hour of Adoration, first to fill the current hours that the chapel is open and, eventually, to have perpetual Eucharistic Adoration 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you’ve ever participated in overnight or early morning Adoration on Holy Thursday night or Good Friday morning, you’ve felt the specialness of that experience. We look forward to a time when everyone at St. Gabriel can come spend time with Jesus at whatever day and time they most need to.”



Sign up for an adoration hour on the parish website — click on “About” and go to the page on adoration. You can sign up or join as a substitute. You can register via the parish office at 719-528-8407.

Rediscover Your Faith: *The Power of a Spiritual Retreat*

In the midst of our busy lives, finding time to step back and reconnect with our faith can be a challenge. Yet, Jesus Himself often retreated to pray and be with the Father. A spiritual retreat offers us the same opportunity — a chance to pause, reflect, and renew our commitment to Christ.

This summer, we invite you to experience one or all three of the powerful retreats being held in the Diocese of Colorado Springs. Each retreat will provide practical insights into living as faithful stewards of God's many blessings.



The Four Pillars of Stewardship

Led by: Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB,
Diocese of Belleville, Ill.

**St. Mark Catholic Church,
Highlands Ranch
June 28, 2025
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Stewardship is built upon four essential pillars: Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, and Service. This retreat will help you explore how these principles shape our response to God's call and transform our lives as disciples. As Fr. Godfrey Mullen explains, "Stewardship Retreats offer practical wisdom in helping people move forward, taking the next step towards Christ."



Stewardship and the Saints

Led by: Very Rev. Brian O'Brien,
Diocese of Tulsa, Okla.

**St. Mary's Cathedral,
Colorado Springs
August 2, 2025
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

The saints provide us with timeless examples of how to live as faithful stewards. This retreat will dive into the lives of holy men and women who embodied stewardship through their love of God and service to others. Fr. Brian O'Brien reminds us, "Retreats offer the opportunity to step back, get centered, and find Christ again. He will tell us what's most important, but we have to take the time to listen."



Embracing Jesus Through Stewardship

Led by: Very Rev. Gary Kastl,
Diocese of Tulsa, Okla.

**St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic
Church, Colorado Springs
August 16, 2025
8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Jesus is the ultimate model of stewardship, offering His life completely for the love of God and others. This retreat will help attendees reflect on their interior life and place Christ at the center. Fr. Gary Kastl shares, "When Christ is truly the animator of our life, the way we live forever changes. We live as stewards, not owners of all that we have and are."

Take the First Step Toward Renewal

These retreats are a gift — an invitation to deepen your faith and rediscover your role as a steward of God's grace. Whether you're seeking spiritual renewal, practical guidance, or simply a quiet space to listen to the Lord, attending a spiritual retreat will provide the encouragement and tools you need. Make time for what truly matters. Join us at one or more of these retreats and say, "Here I am, Lord, your servant is listening."

Scan the QR code or visit www.CatholicSteward.com/CO2025 for more details and to register. For questions about any of the retreats, please contact Michelle at 706-877-5052 or michellemigone@catholicsteward.com.



MEET THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY

Selfless Service in Support of Our Parish Community

Before Good Friday, when Jesus was crucified, he served those around Him — He washed their feet. Jesus, in His perfect example, chose service on the night before His death. This model of service is something the Daughters of Mary have reverently continued. When someone from our parish is suffering, or in need, they fill the gap.

Judy Gamble and Danita Hundley have co-chaired the Daughters of Mary for about 15 years. One of their big projects is feeding people who need meals. The group is blessed with more than 150 members who are just an email away when someone needs a meal.

“Whether it’s a woman who had a new baby or an elderly widower who had surgery, we step in to help,” Judy says. “These volunteers are so selfless. We’ve helped families where the father is deployed — there are many situations where we have helped people.”

The group also provides a free funeral reception to families who have lost a loved one from the parish. Judy and Danita use SignUpGenius to organize volunteers. Judy feels this ministry is a calling, and it means a lot to her to be able to help.

“It’s being able to help people in their time of need,” she says. “It’s like with funerals — it takes a huge load off the



“It’s being able to help people in their time of need. It’s like with funerals — it takes a huge load off the family. They don’t have to worry about the food, and this comes at no cost.” — Judy Gamble

family. They don’t have to worry about the food, and this comes at no cost.”

The Daughters of Mary previously took on other projects, such as Baptism Certificates and a silent auction at Briarfest. Now, their work is more in the background.

“The beauty of this ministry is that we don’t have meetings,” Judy says. “It’s flexible. People can help as it works for them. It’s a help-as-you-can ministry.”

Judy is so appreciative of the many volunteers who make this ministry happen. There are times

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when there are back-to-back funerals and meals for someone in need. If members can't help, they are often praying for the funeral to go as planned.

"They are amazing when things pile up — they are there," she says. "It's beautiful to watch and see the friendship that grows. The members are just selfless."

This group gives a sense of pitching in and helping one another. There's camaraderie among the members, and Judy loves to see that.

When they provide meals, the recipient usually just asks for a week of meals. But Daughters of Mary will often bring meals for at least two weeks and sometimes even for a month.

"These women don't know how to make small portions," Judy says. "So, there's always leftovers for the person. They have plenty of food to get

them through."

Judy sees providing meals as one of her gifts, as well as a gift for many of the members. She recently started volunteering at the Mater Filius home. She saw a need for help and felt God was calling her.

"I told God, 'I am ready — where do You want me?'" Judy says. "The opportunity to volunteer at Mater Filius presented itself. I am always looking for a way to give back to the Lord. He has blessed me immensely."

*To recommend a family or person for meals, call the parish office 719-528-8407.
To get involved, contact Judy Gamble at
jgamble6568@hotmail.com.*

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 1 p.m. (Spanish)

Daily Mass: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. | **Adoration:** Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Confession: Sunday: 12 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. (Spanish) | Wednesday: until 9:30 a.m. (after daily Mass),
and 7 p.m. – 8 p.m. (Spanish) | Saturday: 2 p.m. – 3 p.m.