

Expectations

God continues to bring together the members of St. Gabriel from different backgrounds, yet we are united in faith as followers of the one Lord, Jesus Christ. We have both strengths and weaknesses, both proud accomplishments and pasts with mistakes. We know that God makes all things work for good, and we entrust ourselves to the mercy, healing, strengthening, and empowering of the Lord.

At St. Gabriel, you can expect to be part of a worshipping community that holds the Mass as the high point of its spiritual life. Whatever our part in the liturgy, whether an ordained person presiding or a lay person ushering, Mass-serving, leading music, or praying in the pew, we are all seeking to grow in worship of God and in communion with our sisters and brothers in the Lord.

Whether child or adult, you can expect support in growing as a disciple of Jesus Christ. We believe that discipleship is characterized by the five “disciplines” identified in Acts 2:42-47. 1) Daily prayer. Prayer is our relationship with God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This relationship is the heart of the Christian life, and we nourish it daily. 2) Daily scripture reading. This is part of our dialogue with God and an important way of listening. It leads to both knowledge of God and knowing God. 3) Weekend Mass. This is our central act of worship, and it is the source and summit of the Christian life. We miss it only for serious reasons. 4) Communal life. The spiritual life within us thrives when it is nurtured by shared life with sisters and brothers in our parish. There are two dimensions to communal life: service to others and building of relationships. In the former, we make special effort to identify and use the gifts that God has given us. In the latter, we know others and are known by them, we love and are loved, we challenge and are challenged. We are intentional about establishing and developing these relationships. 5) Evangelization. Catholic Christian faith is a gift from God, and it must be shared in order to grow. We evangelize at Mass by welcoming and actively participating. We also try to share our faith with those people who are outside the parish, especially those who have stopped practicing their faith and those who have no church background. When possible, we invite others to join us in parish activities and to consider becoming parish members.