## January 2024

Dear Parents,

As with each January, we consider the coming year and how to best prepare for what we always pray will be a time of grace, wisdom, and holiness. In our parish, one of the most significant ministries is the education of children, a long-standing effort of Catholic communities. I am happy to be a part of this work and appreciate the untold hours of preparation, instruction, attention, and care offered by our staff and faculty, and the generous support of so many to make this ministry possible, especially our parents.

Looking to the 2024-2025 Academic Year, the Finance Committee and the School Board has tried to provide a responsible budget that will foster the continued excellence of our program. Some of the considerations is the increase in salaries and insurance benefits (about 4.5%) and the same inflationary increases facing us all. As always, a full school is more efficient to operate so I again encourage you to speak to neighbors about the educational program we offer and invite them to consider our school for their children. While first preference is always given to parishioners, we have space in many of our grades for additional children.

Tuition for the 2024-2025 Academic Year is as follows:

For One Child:

\$6,950.

For Two Children:

\$10,300 (a reduction of \$3,600 for the second child)

For Three Children: \$12,400 (an additional reduction of \$4,850 for third child)

There is a \$100. Registration Fee for each child due at the time of registration which is non-refundable.

There is a Technology Fee of \$250 due for each child due before August 15, 2024.

New to this coming year, all families are expected to pay using the FACTS system in place on a voluntary basis over the past several years. The benefits to the parish and school's accounting has been demonstrable and helps in the proper accounting for all families. Information about how to use the system will be forthcoming as we move forward.

As in the past, if a family is concerned that the cost of Catholic Education is beyond their abilities, St. Gabriel stands ready to assist our parishioners with tuition. If you anticipate the need for assistance, families must first apply to the Today and Tomorrow Educational Foundation for any assistance available through the Archdiocese. (ttef-stl.org). Once that is determined, the parish will discuss the assistance available using parish resources.

The vitality and commitment of St. Gabriel's is rooted in the strong support from our families. This must be reflected not only in the academic program, but also in the strong practice of the Catholic Faith. It makes no sense to operate a school if families are not building their lives around a regular practice of prayer, worship, and faith formation. Let us continue to support each other by gathering for Mass regularly, and nurturing the strength of our trust in God's enduring mercy.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Thomas M. Molini

Pastor