

Good afternoon families! 🕊️

I pray that you are all doing well and enjoying the warmer weather!

Thank you! to the team that has come forward to help with the Mother-Daughter Pajama Party! The sign-up genius is filling up fast and the plan for the evening is even better than last year! We're going to have a blast! 😊

Here's some of what's happening for families in our parish and around town!

Infant & Toddler Playgroup meeting Thursdays 10am to 12pm 🧒🧒👶

Playgroup is a great way to meet some other young families in a small group setting. Kim, Leo, and new baby Lorenzo hope to see you there! Join them in the meeting room under the parish offices! There is a closet full of toys! You are welcome to bring a snack or lunch!

Sunday, May 12th, Mother's Day! 🌹👩💕

- 1) Join us for Mass and a special blessing for all mothers!
- 2) Our Respect Life Committee will also be there to start their annual Baby Bottle Boomerang fundraiser for BirthRight. Take home a bottle on Mother's Day and return it on Father's Day!
- 3) Boy Scout Troop 64 will be selling flowers all weekend!

Friday, May 17th, Mother-Daughter Pajama Party, 5:30pm! 📄👩👧👶

Put on your PJs and join us for an evening of mother-daughter fun! Flyer attached, sign up here: [Family Connections Mother/Daughter Pajama Party](#)

Trinity Sunday! May 26th: Coffee & Donuts, Fellowship, & Family Activity after all

Masses! 🍩☕👩👧

Join your parish family after Mass in the Community Room under the Church offices! Family Connections will have a family Gospel activity.

Wednesday, May 29th, 10am, Mass with Bishop Malesic!

Bishop Malesic is coming to St. Gabriel to celebrate the last school Mass with us! Join us! All are welcome! - young families, homeschoolers, everyone!

Father-Son Day, Sunday, June 4th, 11am – 4pm (sons 7 - 12th grade)

Damascus Missions & Fr. Eric Garris are leading a Father-Son event at Cuyahoga Valley National Park! The day includes BBQ, hiking, adoration, games, and more! Flyer attached! Sign up here: [Events | TOB Cleveland](#)

Family Field Trip! Eucharistic Miracles Displays is a traveling, museum-like exhibit coming to several area parishes this summer! These feature scientifically scrutinized miracles of the Eucharist that were documented and organized by Blessed Carlo Acutis. More information is here: [Eucharistic Miracles Display | Catholic Diocese of Cleveland |](#)



Looking for:

1. A team of Dads who would like to help plan a Father-Son event! If you are interested in helping, please let me know! In the past, we've done evenings at the St. Gabriel pavilion and Concord Woods Park. Maybe this year we could try an intergenerational father-son Game Night (board games, Legos, cards, etc) and Taco Bar?
2. Young families that are interested in starting a monthly Family Night in the '24 – '25 school year. Format, days, and times TBD by the team.
3. People who are interested to help with a new initiative led by Brandi Mandzak called, "Families in Need". This is a ministry that will stem from Family Connections to help those who are struggling to connect to the caring people and resources in our parish. Support will depend on the situation, but your prayers will ALWAYS be welcome! This is set to begin during VBS this summer! Please let me know if you are interested in learning more! This is a very flexible way to get involved and make a big impact in someone's life!



Parish Summer Festival, June 6 – 9th

Families are encouraged to help! There are 1,200 volunteer spots to fill! Last year we raised the most revenue ever but with the smallest amount of volunteers! This causes burn-out for those who are working! We need your help! Please check the sign-up genius to see how you may be able to help! [Summer Festival - St. Gabriel Church \(st-gabriel.org\)](#) Tickets to sell for the 50/50 raffle will arrive to parishioners soon!



Catholic Family Day!, Sunday, July 21st (tentative)

Team forming now to plan an unforgettable day! We are hoping to start with an outdoor Mass at St. John Vianney and then head down the street to Walsh Park for a picnic lunch and open play! We are inviting area parishes to get involved to craft a day full of faith, fun, and fellowship!



The FEST! Sunday, August 4th, Center for Pastoral Leadership, Wickliffe

This is a CAN'T MISS event of the summer! In fact, it is always on my calendar a year in advance and a large group of my family comes up from Cincinnati to attend with us! This event is super affordable for families – almost everything is FREE and Marc's donates food for the day which is sold to attendees for a very reasonable cost to help offset the cost to bring in some of the best artists

in Christian music! 75,000 people are expected to attend but it is spread out over the beautiful campus and there will be families everywhere. All the details at: [The FEST - The FEST](#)

Promo video: [FEST 2024 Opening Band \(youtube.com\)](#)



Sunday, October 27th, Orchard Hills Park Shelter has been reserved for a Fall Family Gathering!

This is down the hill from Patterson's Farm. I will need a planning team later this year!

Did you know!?!

- The parish has recently launched a "**Prayer Button**"! If you or someone you know is in need of prayer or could benefit from connecting with our ministries, please see the new button on the "Current Events" page of the parish website. Fill out the simple form to help guide us. [Current Events/Registration - St. Gabriel Church](#) 🙏
- The US Conference of Catholic Bishops launched a site called "**Love Means More**" to help you learn more about the Church's teachings on love, learn to identify false notions regarding love, and to understand that misunderstandings can arise when people have been wounded. This website is simple to use with concise teachings and clear answers. If your children aren't already asking you about this, they will be! Be prepared! Check it out! [lovemeansmore.org](#) 💕

Have a blessed week! I hope to see you soon! Shalom!

Your sister in Christ,

Sarah Smith

Coordinator, Family Connections

Cell - call/text (513) 600 - 3134

[Family Connections - St. Gabriel Church](#)