



## Fr. Frank O'Rourke Award *for* Excellence in Teaching

### Overview

The **Fr. Frank O'Rourke Award for Excellence in Teaching** is presented annually to an **outstanding full-time teacher** at **St. Gabriel Catholic School** in recognition of their dedication to Catholic education and exceptional impact on students. The recipient of this prestigious award will be honored at the **final Mass of the school year** and will receive a **\$10,000 award**, generously funded by **Tess and Herb Verbese**.

### Previous Award Recipients

**2017** – Mrs. Amanda McCallum

**2021** – Mrs. Nancy Chiarelli

**2025** - Mrs. Hayden Call

**2018** – Mrs. Nikki Warren

**2022** – Mr. Daniel Bayer

**2019** – Mrs. Marion Scherger

**2023** – Mrs. Michelle Boyle

**2020** – Mrs. Meghan Olson

**2024** - Mrs. Donna Sparre

### Eligibility Requirements

To be considered for the award, a teacher must:

Be a full-time faculty member at St. Gabriel Catholic School for at least five consecutive years without any long-term breaks.

Be in good standing with St. Gabriel Catholic School and MACS.

Not have received this award in the past five years.

Teachers eligible for the **2026 award** include: Theresa Anderson, Lauren Convery, Kelly Darling, Deven Dickerson, Nicole Downing, Molly Gibbs, Christine Giroux, Terry Goebel, Sarah Marsha, Patty Martin, Jean Mulligan, Addy Jean Mullis, Anne Obeck, Lisa O'Herron, Meghan Olson, Aimee Reap, Julie Reinhardt, Mary Lauren Shea, Jennifer Singleton, ThuVân Vũ, Nikki Warren

### Award Criteria

A nominee should exemplify excellence in teaching by demonstrating:

Positive impact on students – fosters self-esteem, self-reliance, and a love for learning.

Exceptional dedication to Catholic education – integrates faith into their teaching and interactions.

Commitment to St. Gabriel's mission and success – upholds the school's values.

Exemplary faith and mercy – serves as a role model for students, families, and faculty.

Respect and dignity – treats students with kindness and fairness.

Effective teaching practices – employs best methods for student success.

## Nomination Process

### Who Can Nominate?

- Current parents, staff members, or 5th-grade students may submit a nomination.
- Self-nominations are not permitted.

### How to Nominate

- Nomination forms will be available on the St. Gabriel Catholic School website
- Families will receive an e-blast announcement with nomination details.
- Nominations will be accepted for three weeks following Spring Break.
- Only nominations submitted during the official nomination period will be considered.
- **The 2026 nomination period is open from Thursday, April 16 - Thursday, 7, 2026.**

## Selection Process

A **selection committee** will review all nominations. The committee includes:

- **St. Gabriel Catholic Church Pastor**
- **St. Gabriel Catholic School Principal & Assistant Principal**
- **Last year's award recipient**
- **Current PTO President**

The committee will evaluate nominations based on the award criteria.

Only **candidates who fully meet the criteria** will be considered.

The award will be granted only if the committee reaches a **unanimous decision**.

## Award Presentation

The recipient will be honored at the **last Mass of the school year**.

*Thank you for helping us recognize and celebrate the extraordinary educators at **St. Gabriel Catholic School!***



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for  
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## Nomination Form

Click [here](#) for online submission

*If submitting a written nomination, please print and include this page.*

**Nominee Name:**

**Nominee's Role at St. Gabriel Catholic School:**

**Please consider the following ideas as you write a nomination explaining why you are recommending this individual.**

- Primary reason for nomination
- How this person has impacted the St. Gabriel students
- Provide an example of the nominee's excellent dedication to Catholic Education
- Example(s) of Nominee's commitment to the St. Gabriel Catholic School community
- In the end, what sets this nominee apart from other St. Gabriel Catholic School teachers

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**I certify that I am nominating this individual because I believe he/she is a great example of the outstanding spiritual and academic commitment of St. Gabriel Catholic School faculty to the success of students at St. Gabriel Catholic School.**

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Affiliation to Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_ (e.g. student, colleague, or parent)

Please submit this application no later than **Thursday, May 7, 2026** to one of the following: *(This date will change each year, depending on when Spring Break is scheduled.)*

A) Deliver directly to St. Gabriel Catholic School Office in a sealed envelope.

B) Scan & email to Michele Snoke, [mjsnoke@stgabrielschool.net](mailto:mjsnoke@stgabrielschool.net)

C) Mail to:

Fr. Frank Award for Excellence in Teaching

c/o Michele Snoke

St. Gabriel Catholic School

3028 Providence Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28211

**For Review Purpose Only.**

Nominee's time teaching at St. Gabriel Catholic School: \_\_\_\_\_

Administrator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Signed: \_\_\_\_\_