



GONAZAGA FATHERS CLUB

Events/Meetings/Retreats

www.GonzagaFathers.com



Membership in the Gonzaga Fathers Club is open to all dads, step dads, and guardians of current and former Gonzaga students. Our mission is to serve, support, and advance the ideals of the Jesuit community and the student body of Gonzaga. We do that by directing efforts to serve, providing the financial means to support, and creating an environment to advance the spirit of "men for others" through the involvement of students and dads, step dads, and guardians together.

Gonzaga Fathers Club (GFC) Meetings

These monthly meetings are not for a small clique of dads – they are structured and intended for all dads to attend. Some of the meetings have themes – such as the extremely popular “Steak and Ale” night to start off the year, the Beer and Brats meeting and the International Beer Night – and all are both informative and fun.

Why go? This is your inside track to what’s going on at Gonzaga and a great chance to meet and network with other dads. We are honored to have incoming Gonzaga President **Rev. Stephen W. Planning, S.J.** as the GFC moderator. Fr. Planning is our most direct connection to what is happening at the school. We’ll get an update of what is happening at Gonzaga, including sports, academics, awards and sometimes the inside scoop on what to look for (like when interims and report cards will be available). A **guest speaker** from the school is often part of the agenda. At our first meeting – the Steak and Ale – we’ve invited Gonzaga Athletic Director Joe Reyda to come and speak about the sports programs at Gonzaga. Throughout the year, we’ll hear from representatives of the Music and Fine Arts programs, and from leaders of various service projects available for your sons. Put these meetings on your calendar – they are **“Your Connection”** to Gonzaga. **“Are You In?”**

Gonzaga/Visitation Family Mass and Picnic

This event includes a Mass and picnic for Gonzaga and Visitation families on the grounds of Georgetown Visitation Academy. An outdoor Mass, followed by a cookout and a few competitive games between the girls and the boys round out what is a very popular event. Check the website for date and time. **Bring your entire family.**

“God on Eye Street” Membership Meetings

At two of our monthly meetings, we focus specifically on spirituality. These mini-retreats begin with Mass which is followed by a casual dinner and then large and small group discussion. Fathers are also offered an opportunity to go to confession. Dads who participate – and many do – say these are some of their favorite nights of the year and a welcome break from our busy lives.

DC Classic Invitational Basketball Tournament

Each year, the Gonzaga Fathers Club stages one of the most important basketball tournaments in the country. The DC Classic features top teams from around the nation in a three-day December tournament held at Gonzaga and at American University. The funds raised at the Classic – through program advertising and ticket sales – are used to underwrite the costs of various Gonzaga service programs throughout the year. And it is great basketball.

Father/Son Service Project

This is a great opportunity to join with your son and provide service to the community. It is a day-long project and no specific skills are required... only a willingness to work hard and help others. In 2011, over 200 Fathers and Sons spent the day at *St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home*, painting, cleaning and repairing the buildings and grounds. It is yet another opportunity to demonstrate your commitment to be "men for others."

Freshman Father/Son Service Project

For Freshman fathers and sons only, this event is a great way to introduce our new fathers and sons to service at Gonzaga. Similar to the Father/Son Service Project, it is usually a half day at or near Gonzaga

Joint Fathers Club/Mothers Club Membership Meetings (GFC/GMC)

Two of our monthly meetings (one in the fall and one in the spring) are joint meetings with the Gonzaga Mothers Club. These meetings are held in the Upper Commons and Gonzaga Theatre. They often feature an outside speaker. In the past, we've invited Paul Warren, author of a recent book on the links between Gonzaga and the Lincoln Assassination and Danny Costello, author of *The Ragtree*.

Father/Son Pep Rally and Hall of Fame Night

This is a **must attend** event for all fathers and their sons. Held the night before the Gonzaga-St. John's Football game – one of the longest running high-school rivalries in the country—it includes dinner, a pep rally and an induction ceremony for those elected to the Gonzaga Athletics Hall of Fame.

Bull and Oyster Roast

While this event is not sponsored by the Fathers Club, members assist helping make sure the event is a success. It is a great night for you and your spouse to join your Gonzaga friends, featuring music, dinner and drink.

Father/Son Communion Breakfast

This is the largest event sponsored by the Fathers Club, and usually the first introduction to the Gonzaga tradition for incoming freshmen. Mass is held at 8 AM in the beautiful Church of St. Aloysius Gonzaga, followed by breakfast, featuring a prominent speaker, at the Hyatt Regency.

Visit www.GonzagaFathers.com to learn more