

Gross Catholic Class Reunion Planning Tips



1973 * 1978 * 1983 * 1988 *

1993 * 1998 * 2003 * 2008 * 2013

2018 will be here before we know it, and that means many of you are thinking about planning a class reunion! If you are a graduate of the years listed above, you are hitting a milestone year, and it is time to celebrate!

We have compiled a few tips and “lessons learned” from Gross Catholic Alumni, as well as some suggestions to ease your reunion planning process.

While Gross Catholic cannot plan or host class reunions on our campus, we can help get the word out about your reunion events.

Here are some things Gross Catholic can do to help:

- Post messages on Gross' social media sites about your class reunion planning, and later about the actual plans
- Share information about class Facebook pages
(*Note: Please let us know the name of your class FB page, & email the link to us.)
- Provide you with a list of your classmates and addresses that we currently have in our database
- Print mailing labels for your class so you can send invitations
- Include information about your reunion in the Spring issue of *Visions* magazine (*Note: This info must be submitted by mid-January in order to make our print deadline.)
- Send an email blast to your classmates (to the emails we have in our database) communicating information you'd like to share regarding planning or actual reunion events
(*Note: We have limited email contact information for some classes. If you have knowledge of additional classmates' email addresses, we would love to add them!)
- **Be sure to tell us about your finalized reunion plans!**
(Remember: We can only help spread the word if you tell us your plans!)

The following venue ideas, tips, lessons, and other suggestions were provided by Gross Catholic alumni who have been involved in previous reunion planning. Maybe there is something here that can help your planning efforts.

Venue Ideas Suggested by GC Alumni:

- Horseman's Park (One class reserved a tented area during a live-racing event day.)
- Sinnott's Sand Bar (alumni-owned) (There are several sand volleyball courts.)
- Donohue's Pub (alumni-owned)
- Darby's Tavern (alumni-owned)
- Scriptown in Black Stone (alumni-owned)
- Blatt Beer and Table Downtown (Contact: Larissa Ramos: larissa@blattbeer.com)
- Bar Crawl in the Old Market or Black Stone
- 1912 Rooftop in Benson
- Old Mattress Factory
- Stinson Park (One class reserved an area so people could come and go, grab food from nearby restaurants or bring a picnic, etc. This was very family-friendly.)
- Golf outings at various local golf courses as part of the weekend's events
- River City Star boat cruise

Planning Tips from Fellow GC Alumni:

- Organize a class Facebook page if you don't already have one.
(If one person creates it, you can add your classmates. If you can't find everyone, list the "missing classmates," and ask if others can add them.)
- Tell Gross Catholic if you have a class Facebook page!
- After setting up the Facebook page, create a survey and post it on the page.
(Used to gather input about where to have the reunion, how much to charge, etc.)
- Also send the above survey to any emails that are known.
- Saturdays are good for "out-of-towners."
- Have the planning committee make desserts to share.
- Some classes said it worked well to order appetizers off the menu so no pre-planning was needed for food.
- Be sure to communicate if the cost includes dinner, snacks, or if it is up to individuals to purchase food/drinks on their own.
- Some groups suggested setting RSVP date far in advance to avoid the last-minute confusion.
- Using Venmo was helpful for payment.
- Some groups have given attendees gift bags with items their class committee ordered.
(pens, magnets, koozies, etc.)

- Place a white rose on a table to commemorate each deceased classmate, and have a framed listing of the names of classmates who are deceased.
- Donated prizes can be used for drawings throughout the evening. (Planning committee members asked businesses for small donations prior to the event.)
- Invite former faculty if you choose.
- Live music is fun...or choose a playlist of popular songs from your graduation year or decade. One class had a “one-man band.”
- Decide on the cost of attendance, but keep the price as reasonable as possible to allow more people to attend. Several people commented that high-cost reunions lowered attendance.
- Some alumni suggested avoiding an open bar so non-drinking classmates don't pay more than necessary.
- Several classes have given a class monetary donation to Gross Catholic, in honor of their graduating class.

Other Thoughts:

- Ask reunion attendees to **update their contact information** and then **share the updates with Gross Catholic** so we can update the information in our database. This could save you time the *next* time you plan a reunion.
- Be sure to let us know your **final reunion plans** so Gross Catholic can “be in the know” and post the plans on social media and other places to help spread the word.

We appreciate the input from alumni who responded with suggestions for reunion planning. While this is certainly not an all-inclusive list of possible venues or ideas, we hope it might help in your planning efforts.

Maintaining updated alumni contact information is always a challenge, but we would love to help you communicate with your Cougar classmates so you can have a great class reunion event!



Please contact Denise Fanslau '86 at fanslau@gcgmail.org or 402-734-2000 with questions or updated contact information.