

FRIENDS OF THE CHAPEL communicator

The mission of the Friends of the Chapel is to protect, preserve, and promote the Laclede Groves Chapel at the highest levels.

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Friends of the Chapel



Friends of the Chapel is a new community or “movement” created to assure the continued relevance of our cultural landmark, the historic Laclede Groves Chapel and its sacred artifacts and symbols. Built in 1918 as the heart of the Sisters of Mercy’s Saint Joseph Novitiate, Orphanage

and Convalescent Home, the chapel is a beautiful architectural gem still embracing its initial purpose as a sacred place to worship the Lord.

To become a Friend of the Chapel, we ask that you simply join us in adopting a mindset to help protect, preserve, and promote our chapel by telling its story to your friends, family, and neighbors. Consider yourself a chapel ambassador. Learn all you can about the chapel by exploring the chapel website.

lacledegroveschapel.com

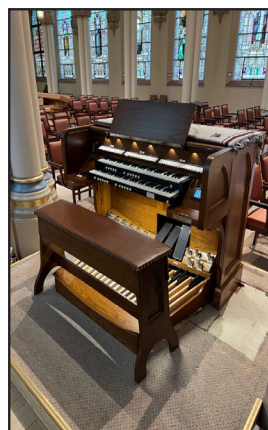
You can return to the Friends of the Chapel page on the website often to learn about new initiatives, events, and opportunities that are available to you. To receive ongoing information, send your name and a preferred email address to:

friendsofthechapel@gmail.com

Friends of the **Chapel**
Laclede Groves

Exciting New Chapel Concert Series

The Friends of the Chapel are at the beginning stages of planning a concert series of professional chamber ensembles, choral groups, pianists and soloists so that



residents and the community can enjoy beautiful music in this sacred space. The concert series may be initiated as early as this May with a recital by a renowned St Louis organist performing on the newly renovated 14 rank 2 manual Wicks organ.

Churches today are often designed for amplified sound of praise bands and singers using microphones. The acoustics are conducive to preaching and prayers heard through speakers.

The chapel at Evertrue Laclede Groves was designed for forms of worship that were quite different. The Sisters of Mercy at St Joseph Novitiate gathered using the divine office which consisted of seven services done in the course of the day. The sisters were seated facing the center aisle rather than the altar. Psalms and liturgy were chanted antiphonally with one side of the chapel chanting a response to the other side. Ancient hymns were sung and Scripture and prayers were read or chanted.

The high vaulted ceilings and marble surfaces of the chapel resonated the chants and hymns into a peaceful echo. The acoustics that blessed the worship of the convent are marvelous for musical performance today.

Arrangements will be made for patrons and sponsors to support a concert series.

It is fitting that our chapel will come alive with music.

lacledegroveschapel.com

Self-Guided Chapel Walking Tours

When we spend time in the chapel for worship or the memorial service of a friend or neighbor, it's easy to take the beauty of that place for granted. We are blessed to have such a magnificent space to spend time with God.

Think about being more intentional in appreciating the historic and breathtaking art in the chapel. There are two ways to learn more about the saints depicted in our beautiful windows and mosaics through the chapel website - lacledegroveschapel.com.

1. From the home screen choose the "Windows" or "Mosaics" tab in the menu. On the windows page, click on the thumbnail image in the menu to go to a separate page which includes comprehensive information and additional images of the saint or saints. On the mosaics page, click on the "Biographical Sketch" button for more information, or,
2. Click on the "play" button on the audio tour graphic accompanying the window or mosaic to hear a short, one to two minute description of the saint or saints represented. Using this option, you can take a self-guided, walking tour through the chapel and learn more about the saint/s represented as you behold the actual window.



Featured Chapel Art

St. Catherine of Siena, born as Caterina di Giacomo di Benincasa on March 25, 1347, in Siena, Italy, is one of the most prominent figures in Christian history. She was the twenty fourth of twenty five children.

She was canonized as a saint in 1461 by Pope Pius II and declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970, recognizing her significant contributions to theology and the Church.

She is venerated as a patron saint of Italy alongside St. Francis of Assisi.

"Preserving the Light" Restoring our Priceless Windows

The success of "Preserving the Light," the resident initiative to restore our beautiful chapel windows, is rooted in the passion and tenacity of the Friends of the Chapel. This group's unwavering dedication, countless hours of advocacy, and creative problem-solving have made this project possible.

Preserving our chapel windows is a meaningful endeavor, and there are several ways you can contribute to this effort. Every gift, regardless of size, makes a difference.

- **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):** If you are age 70½ or older, you may use a QCD from your IRA to make a charitable gift directly to "Preserving the Light". This option may allow you to satisfy your required minimum distribution while potentially reducing your taxable income.
- **Cash Gifts:** Simple and direct, cash donations are always appreciated. Whether given as a one-time contribution or as a recurring gift, your support will help fund the restoration and preservation work. Checks should be made payable to Laclede Groves - Preserving the Light and placed into a payment drop box around campus or delivered to the Business Office. Giving envelopes are also available.
- **Pledge Commitment:** If you wish to support the initiative over time, you may make a pledge. This allows you to commit to a specific amount, to be fulfilled according to a schedule that works for you (monthly, quarterly, or annually).

We invite all residents to join in this opportunity to make a lasting impact. For more details about giving options, or to discuss how you'd like to support the chapel windows initiative, please contact Gina Timme, Director of Development, Gina.Timme@evertrueliving.org or 314-373-4094.



Use this URL to access the EverTrue giving page. Together, we can ensure that the chapel windows continue to illuminate our lives and our community for years to come.