



DECEMBER 3, 2023 | FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## WELCOME!

### PARISH OFFICE

804-639-6712 (p) | 804-639-6591 (f)  
[www.saintgabriel.org](http://www.saintgabriel.org)

Monday-Thursday | 8:30am-3:30pm

### Sacramental Emergencies

804-639-6712 Ext. 1

### Anointing of the Sick

Contact the parish office for arrangements. In an emergency, call 804-639-6712 and dial ext. 1.

### Ministry to the Sick

Catholics in our area who are seriously ill or their family members may contact the office for prayer requests. To request a prayer shawl, contact Becky Robinson-bbtsmi@aol.com.

### Baptism

Please visit [saintgabriel.org/Baptism](http://saintgabriel.org/Baptism) register for preparation and celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism. It is recommended to contact the parish office six months in advance to prepare for the sacrament.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

The sacrament is available each Sunday from 8:15-8:45 a.m. and 10:15-10:45 a.m. You may also approach the priest after the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Saturday, following the 9 a.m. Masses Wednesday—Friday or call the parish office for an appointment.

### Marriage

Couples need to contact the pastor before scheduling a wedding at the parish. The presider will coordinate all preparation needed. It is recommended couples schedule this at least one year in advance to give adequate time to prepare.



Visit us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/StGabrielCatholicChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/StGabrielCatholicChurch/)

## MASS SCHEDULE

### ST. GABRIEL

Wed. 9:00am  
 Thu. 9:00am  
 Fri. 9:00am  
 Sat. 5:30pm

### GOOD SAMARITAN

Sat. 4:00pm  
 Sun. 4:00pm (Hispanic)

## PARISH STAFF

### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Felix Rex Amofa | Ext. 1 | [famofa@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:famofa@richmonddiocese.org)

### Parish Business Manager

Therese Venti | Ext. 2 | [therese.venti@saintgabriel.org](mailto:therese.venti@saintgabriel.org)

### Director of Adult Formation & Pastoral Care/RCIA

Lisa Gorton | Ext. 8 | [lisa.gorton@saintgabriel.org](mailto:lisa.gorton@saintgabriel.org)

### Director of Children, Youth & Young Adult Formation

Carole Cox | Ext. 4 | [carole.cox@saintgabriel.org](mailto:carole.cox@saintgabriel.org)

### Music Coordinator

Barbara Chandler | Ext. 5 | [barbara.chandler@saintgabriel.org](mailto:barbara.chandler@saintgabriel.org)

## COUNCILS

### Pastoral Council

Jim Haug | [pastoral.council@saintgabriel.org](mailto:pastoral.council@saintgabriel.org)

### Finance Council

Susan Yost | [finance.council@saintgabriel.org](mailto:finance.council@saintgabriel.org)

### Knights of Columbus

Stephen Freeby | [sfreebyjr@yahoo.com](mailto:sfreebyjr@yahoo.com)

**NEW TO THE PARISH?** Welcome! We are blessed to have you with us. Whether you are visiting us for a brief time, looking for a new parish home, are returning to the practice of your Catholic faith or are interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church you are welcome. You can find out more about the parish on our website,

### SAINT GABRIEL

8901 Winterpock Road  
 Chesterfield, VA 23832

### GOOD SAMARITAN

13441 Patrick Henry Highway  
 Amelia, VA 23002

## PARISH VISION STATEMENT

St. Gabriel announced the coming of Jesus Christ. The community of Saint Gabriel announces the Good News alive today through our commitment to be a parish of welcome and hospitality through the stewardship of our gifts. Through our worship, outreach, formation, compassion and forgiveness, we are called to pause and reflect on our relationship with God and one another as we live the gospel each day of our lives.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

**Sick Parishioners Names will appear for 3 months after notification. Please resubmit if needed.**

Florence Black	Pat Martonik
John Cimmino	Julio Pons
Maria Estremera	Leah Robinson
Tina Shashaty Fuchs	Patrick Salerno
Tim Kirkbride	Mary Stump
Mary Kozlowski	Lori Sullivan

## Mass Intentions at time of publication

Wed., Dec. 6, 9:00 am	Myrna Dillon
Thurs., Dec. 7, 9:00 am	Mass Intention Available
Fri., Dec. 8, 9:00 am	Edith Nicolas
Sat., Dec. 9, 5:30 pm	Deacon Roy Smith
Sun., Dec. 10, 9:00 am	Vicky Gentile
Sun., Dec. 10, 11:00 am	For the parish and the entire universe

## BEWARE OF SCAMS

Always consider that uninvited contact from people or businesses, whether by phone, mail, email, in person or on a social networking site may be a scam. If it looks too good to be true or seems like an odd request, it probably is. Never give your personal information or monetary donations to anyone without verifying that the request is coming from a legitimate source.

## HELP FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE

Child Protective Services Hotline | 1-800-552-7096  
 Attorney General's Clergy Abuse Hotline | 1-833-454-9064  
 Victim Assistance Reporting Line | 1-877-887-9603  
[richmonddiocese.org/reporting-of-child-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/](http://richmonddiocese.org/reporting-of-child-sexual-abuse-and-sexual-harassment/)



**Join Flocknote.** With Flocknote, we are able to text everyone who joins or just a specific group. Join Flocknote and keep in touch with us via text and email. Text "GABRIELVA" to 84576

## Please Note:

Kindly bring any items or written material(s) you would like to distribute to the community to the office for approval.

**Do Not Leave** items in the church or commons.

## WEEKLY MASS & EVENT SCHEDULE

For the full Parish Calendar go to [saintgabriel.org](http://saintgabriel.org) & click on "Events: Parish Calendar".

### Sunday, December 3

8:00 am	Rosary
9:00 am	Mass and Food Pantry Collection
11:00 am	Mass and Food Pantry Collection
1:00 pm	Confirmation Retreat Reception

### Monday, December 4

11:00 am	Rosary
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### Tuesday, December 5

9:00 am	Rosary
9:00 am	Centering Prayer
7:00 pm	Healing Circle
7:00 pm	Lectionary Study
7:30 pm	Fishermen

### Wednesday, December 6

8:15 am	Rosary
9:00 am	Mass
9:45 am	WINGS
6:00 pm	Cantor/Musician Practice
6:30 pm	Adult Faith Formation Ministry
6:30 pm	Respect Life Ministry
7:00 pm	Choir Practice

### Thursday, December 7

8:15 am	Rosary
9:00 am	Mass
10:00 am	Arts and Environment
7:00 pm	RCIA/Candidates Gathering
7:00 pm	Knights of Columbus

### Friday, December 8— Feast of Immaculate Conception, Holy Day of Obligation

8:15 am	Rosary
9:00 am	Mass
10:00 am	Praying Hands Prayer Shawl Ministry
11:30 am	High School Catechists meeting
7:00 pm	Mass

### Saturday, December 9

10:00 am	Rosary
10:00 am	Arts and Environment
5:30 pm	Mass

### Sunday, December 10

8:00 am	Rosary
9:00 am	Mass
11:00 am	Mass
12:00 pm	Richmond Friends of the Homeless PB&J Lunches
1:00 pm	PreK-1st Grade Faith Formation
1:00 pm	RCIC
3:00 pm	2nd-5th Grade Faith Formation



## THIS SUNDAY LAST DAY to give to 2023 An- gel Tree

At Christmas we remember - "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." (Jn 3:16)

If you can, be an "angel" to someone this Christmas season. You may choose one or more of the designated charities listed below. Use the QR code to make your donation or use one of the Angel Tree envelopes located on the Angel Tree table by the library in the commons.

Once you have made your donation, please take an angel from the Angel Tree table and hang it on one of the trees in the commons. You can put your name on it, decorate it, if you so choose, or just hang it as is...we would love to see the trees fully covered in angels.

We will be purchasing gift cards through our scrip program and distributing them to each agency. **The last day to donate is**

**Sunday, December 3.**

**St. Gabriel Families** - Reaching out and helping families in our parish who are experiencing difficult times.

**Catholic Charities** - Was founded over a century ago by men and women who believed that the collective efforts of the church to faithfully serve people in need could change the course of poverty in our nation. Donations are to support foster children.

**Pregnancy Resource Center** - Since 1983, the PRC of Metro Richmond has served thousands of women and men in the greater RVA community. It's their goal to provide compassionate care, objective information and practical resources on pregnancy.

**St. Francis Home** - It's their purpose at the St. Francis Home to offer assisted living services at a rate substantially lower than the industry standard.

**St. Joseph Villa** - They are dedicated to helping children and youth reach their potential. We create brighter futures for children of all socioeconomic backgrounds faced with developmental disabilities, diverse learning styles, mental health issues, homelessness and other challenges.

**Student Support Services** - Supports students in need throughout the Chesterfield County Public School System.



### Go Green - Enroll in Electronic Giving

One way to keep our parish going and growing is by consistent giving. An easy, convenient, secure and environmental friendly way is by using *E-Giving*. When you choose to give online, your donation will transfer directly to the parish. It is a convenience for you as you no longer need to bring your envelope, stop by an ATM or have your checkbook on you. It helps the parish as recurring donations provide consistency and efficiency.

To set up your E-Giving account, use this QR code or visit [www.saintgabriel.org/E-giving](http://www.saintgabriel.org/E-giving).

To set up your recurring donation:

1. under donation click on "recurring"
2. select the fund you would like to give to (offertory, building and growth, social concerns....)
3. input your dollar amount
4. click on the recurrence time (weekly, bi-weekly, monthly)
5. you can do more than one fund by clicking on "+ Add Donation"
6. input how you would like to donate, credit/debit card or bank account
7. input your payment information
8. submit

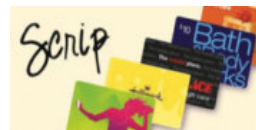
It's that easy. At any time you can change your donation, do a special one-time donation. You manage your account. Please contact the parish office to let us know to stop sending envelopes. Thank you!



### Register your Kroger Plus Card

**for St. Gabriel** We have 151 households that have registered their Kroger Plus Card for St. Gabriel. **Let's continue to**

**grow that number!** It's SO simple...go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and use St. Gabriel's organization number, 82387. Every time you shop at Kroger with your Kroger Plus Card it raises money for our parish! **We just received a quarterly rebate check for \$642.14, bringing our total for fiscal year 2023/24 to \$1,314.42**



### Shop with Scrip right from your phone with the RaiseRight app!

1. Download the RaiseRight mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet
  2. Enter the enrollment code to join. Call office for enrollment code.
  3. The brand gives back to St. Gabriel the moment you buy a gift card—at no extra cost to you!
- Have questions about getting started?** Call the ShopWithScrip Customer Support team at 1-800-727-4715 Option 3.





### This is Food Pantry Weekend, Dec. 2 & 3

Please bring items for the food pantry for both St. Gabriel and Good Samaritan parishes. Donations may be left on the table by the kitchen in the Commons at any of the Masses. Any financial donations can be placed in the basket marked Food Pantry at the entrance to the worship space. Visit <https://www.saintgabriel.org/Food-Pantry> for a list of what is needed. While all donations are appreciated, **only items listed are needed, we kindly ask that you check the list before bringing your donation. Also, please check the expiration dates on the items you are donating. We cannot distribute items with an expired date.** Thank you so much for supporting those in need in our community.

### Food Pantry Volunteers

We are in need of Food Pantry volunteers. Volunteer time is on Wednesday's from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm to prepare bags of food for those in need and the first full weekend of the month to put food away. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office, 804-639-6712 or email [therese.venti@saintgabriel.org](mailto:therese.venti@saintgabriel.org).



### Richmond Friends of the Homeless Bagged Lunches Sun, Dec. 10

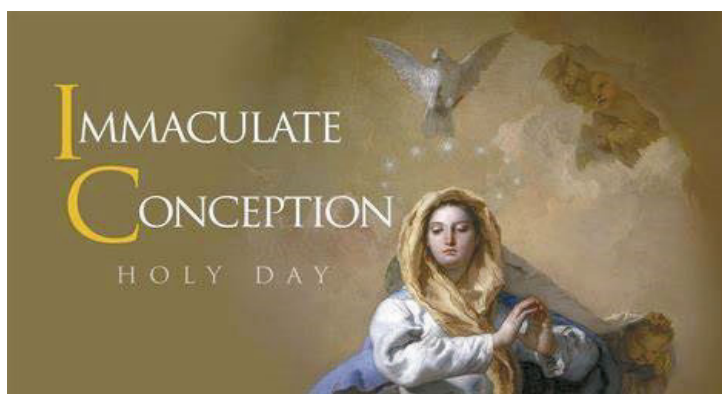
Following the 11 a.m. Mass meet us in the kitchen to make 150 peanut butter & jelly sandwich lunches for the homeless in Richmond. This is a great family activity. Youth can earn community service hours. It is an on-going monthly outreach activity (Sunday before the second Monday of each month.) Many hands make light work.



### Please join us for an Advent Musical Concert on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m.

This is an opportunity to prepare our hearts for Christmas by hearing Scripture readings, choral and instrumental music provided by parish and other local musicians, and singing some familiar carols. Refreshments will be served after-

ward. Offered in partnership with music ministry and St. Gabriel Knights of Columbus Council 13170.



Masses **THIS Fri. Dec. 8,**  
9 a.m. and 7 p.m.



### March for Life Fri, January 19

Join St. Gabriel's parish in support of the Right to Life at the **March for Life** in

Washington, D.C. on **Friday Jan. 19, 2024.** We will start with Mass at 7:30 a.m., followed by Adoration for those not able to make the trip. The bus, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will depart at 8:30 a.m. There is a fee of \$10.00 per person/\$20.00 per family to cover the cost of water and snacks on the bus. Please bring your own lunch. Sign-up sheets and additional details will be available in the Commons after Mass the **weekends of December 16/17, January 6/7 and 13/14.** Please make all checks payable to St. Gabriel Catholic Church. Use the QR code if you would like to register online.



Christmas Masses  
at  
St. Gabriel's

### Mark your calendars:

#### Sunday, December 24,

4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Doors open at 3 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

#### Monday, December 25, 10 a.m. Mass

NOTE: There will be a 4th Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass on Sat. Dec. 23, at 5:30 p.m. and 4th Sunday of Advent Dec. 24, 9 a.m. Mass only.

There will be no Masses Wed.—Fri. Dec. 27-29, 2023



New Friday  
Morning  
Bible Study  
begins  
Fri. Jan. 5

### David the King with Bishop Robert Barron

David is the paradigm of the good king in the Old Testament. His kingship recalls that of Adam in the Garden of Eden, and yet it points toward the King of kings, Jesus Christ. The video-based study program contains seven 90-minute sessions to explore the Davidic themes of kingship in the Old Testament and their fulfillment in Christ.

If interested visit [saintgabriel.org/Bible-Studies](http://saintgabriel.org/Bible-Studies) or contact Lisa Gorton at 804-639-6712 or sign up at the Adult Formation Table in the Commons. Directions will be given on how to purchase your \$20 study guide after you sign up.

## St. Gabriel Catholic Church is seeking a Part-Time Administrative Assistant (16 hrs. a week)

One Sunday a month the Administrative Assistant will supervise the use of the church building and media equipment for Children's Formation and 12 Monday evenings during the year for Sacramental preparation. They will also have office hours to handle production of bulletins, website, emails, parish census records and sacramental records. Maintains safe environment materials, assist with office and church inventories and assist parishioners with general questions. Provides phone coverage while in the office. Related associate/bachelor's degree preferred, strong computer skills, working knowledge of various computer software, and confidence in learning new software. Must possess effective verbal/written communication skills, planning and organizational skills, interpersonal skills and be able to maintain confidentiality. Please send resume and diocesan application (found on Richmond Diocese website) to St. Gabriel Catholic Church, Therese Venti, 8901 Winterpock Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832; or email to [therese.venti@saintgabriel.org](mailto:therese.venti@saintgabriel.org).



### The St. Gabriel Migrant Ministry team was very busy during

**2023.** With the support and prayers of the St. Gabriel Congregation, Father Felix, parish staff and a grant from the Diocese, the team added several new activities and began work on an expanded outreach initiative to assist migrants in Chesterfield County. Assistance to seasonal Mexican farm workers continues to be a focus of the ministry; but, the ministry is developing an outreach initiative to migrants resident in Chesterfield County. The Migrant Ministry team thanks the St. Gabriel Community for your support and prayers. If you are interested in joining or would like to know more about the ministry, please contact Dan Boyce @ [danboyce@gwmail.gwu.edu](mailto:danboyce@gwmail.gwu.edu).



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the CCHASM (Chesterfield, Colonial Heights, Alliance for Social Ministry) Thanksgiving Meal program. The parish was able to send 75 meals along with a \$20 Food Lion card to CCHASM for distribution. We were also blessed to have 6 Thanksgiving meals to give to those who come to our food pantry. May you and your families have a very blessed and wonderful Christmas.



**Commonwealth  
Catholic Charities**

### Catholic Charities Collection

Catholic Charities was found over a century ago by men and women who believed that the collective efforts of the church to faithfully serve people in need could change the course of poverty in our nation. Their mission includes affordable housing, food & nutrition, intergraded health, disaster relief, immigration and refugee support to name a few. At all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there will be a second collection to support their incredible and loving work. If you can, please consider making a donation.





## Advent Reconciliation Services

Tues., Dec 5, 7 p.m. – Church of the Epiphany

Tues., Dec. 12. Noon – St. John Neumann Catholic Church

Wed., Dec. 13, 7pm – St. Edward the Confessor Catholic Church

Fr. Felix hears confessions each Sunday from 8:15-8:45a.m. and 10:15-10:45a.m. You may also approach Fr. Felix after the 5:30p.m. Mass on Saturday or after the 11:00a.m. Mass on Sunday, during First Friday Holy Hour or call the parish office for an appointment.

## Your Parish Needs You... and You Need Your Parish!

By registering at St. Gabriel, you are declaring your desire to be part of a Catholic faith community. If you have recently moved to the area or if you are a long-time resident, make it official. **All information is kept confidential.**

### Registering is easy!

Just scan this QR code or complete the form at [www.saintgabriel.org](http://www.saintgabriel.org).

### Top Reasons to Register

- A sense of belonging and identity in the community.
- It is a commitment to practice your faith.
- Registration enables our pastor, staff, and community to get to know you better, to welcome and minister to you. This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.
- Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you with timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Also, in supporting your parish, if you use offertory envelopes or online giving, you will also receive a year-end statement of your donations for income tax purposes. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number.
- For the parish to record sacraments, as required by church law, and faith formation for your household, you need to be registered.
- Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/ godparent validation.



## Looking for ways to grow this Advent Season?

Visit the parish website page at

**[www.saintgabriel.org](http://www.saintgabriel.org) — Advent Resources** page to see the many opportunities available for you and for your family.

Also, don't miss the 2024 calendars on the welcome table in the Commons—please take just one per household.

## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Advent is a time for waiting, for hoping, for praying. It is a time for reflecting on the special work to which God calls us all. Stay alert. Show Him you are listening.

## Scripture for the Week of 12/3

**Sun:** Is 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19, 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

**Mon:** Is 2:1-5; Ps 122:1-9; Mt 8:5-11

**Tues:** Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

**Wed:** Is 25:6:10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

**Thurs:** Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

**Fri:** Gn 3:9-15, 20; Ps 98:1-4; Eph 1:3-6, 11-12; Lk 1:26-28

**Sat:** Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8

**Next Sun:** Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

## Interested in Vocations?

"Like a man away on a journey, he assigns each of us a task; be on the alert." Being chosen to serve as a priest or in consecrated life is an amazing work of the Lord. Ask the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother to help you recognize and be faithful to your vocation. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661 or via email: [vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

"Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come." - Mk 13:33

"Velen y estén preparados, porque no saben cuándo llegará el momento. ... Lo que les digo a ustedes, lo digo para todos: permanezcan alerta". - Mc 13,33

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Leccionario II ©1987 Comisión Episcopal de Pastoral Litúrgica de la Conferencia del Episcopado Mexicano.

CLP

### Mass Intentions:

December 9 at 4 pm: Mass intention available  
December 10 at 4 pm: Mass intention available

**Baptisms:** Visit [www.saintgabriel.org/gsbaptismform](http://www.saintgabriel.org/gsbaptismform) for information regarding how to prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism. It is recommended that parents submit the baptism form or contact the parish office six months in advance to prepare for the sacrament.

**Weddings:** Are you engaged and would like to plan your wedding? Congratulations and know we are excited to share in the planning of your Sacrament of Marriage. Please note that wedding dates **cannot be scheduled** before a couple meets with the presider. Contact the parish office at 639-6712 for an appointment at least one year in advance of the proposed wedding.

**Quinceañeras:** Is your daughter celebrating her Quinceañera this year? Quinceañera must be registered with the church coordinator before it can be scheduled. Forms are available on the parish website or in the coordinator's office. Register today!

## Saint of the week

Servant of God Walter Cizek was a Jesuit priest and theologian who spent 23 years as a prisoner of war during the World War II and the Cold War. His endurance of suffering for his beliefs and his writings reminds us of the importance of religious freedom and the power of faith.

9 de diciembre a las 4 pm: Intención de misa disponible

10 de diciembre a las 4 pm: Intención de misa disponible

### 3 de diciembre 2023— ¿Interesado en las vocaciones?

"Como un hombre que se va de viaje, nos asigna a cada uno de nosotros una tarea; Estén alerta". Ser elegido para servir como sacerdote o en la vida consagrada es una obra asombrosa del Señor. Pídele al Espíritu Santo y a nuestra Santísima Madre que te ayuden a reconocer y ser fiel a tu vocación. Hable con su sacerdote o comuníquese con la Oficina de Vocaciones al (804) 359-5661 o por correo electrónico: [vocations@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:vocations@richmonddiocese.org).

**Bautismos:** Visite [www.saintgabriel.org/gsbaptismform](http://www.saintgabriel.org/gsbaptismform) para obtener información sobre cómo prepararse y celebrar el sacramento del bautismo. Se recomienda que los padres envíen el formulario de bautismo o comuníquese con la oficina parroquial con seis meses de anticipación para prepararse para el sacramento.

**Bodas:** ¿Estás comprometido y te gustaría planificar tu boda? Felicitaciones y estamos emocionados de participar en la planificación de su Sacramento del Matrimonio. **Tenga en cuenta que las fechas de la boda no pueden ser programadas antes de que una pareja se reúna con el celebrante.** Comuníquese con la oficina parroquial al 639-6712 para una cita al menos un año antes de la boda propuesta.

**Quinceañeras:** ¿Tu hija está celebrando su Quinceañera este año? La Quinceañera debe registrarse con el coordinador de la iglesia antes de que pueda programarse. Los formularios están disponibles en el sitio web de la parroquia o en la oficina del coordinador. ¡Regístrese hoy!





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Ste 100, Midlothian, VA 23112  
**Phone: 804-739-8166**  
Fax: 804-639-6614

15400 WC Commons Way,  
Midlothian, VA 23113  
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Fax: 804-379-8162

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