DECEMBER 14, 2025 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME! PARISH OFFICE

804-639-6712 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 <u>emergency</u>, call 804- 639-6712 and dial ext. 1. Anointing of the Sick is administered after Friday Mass.

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 Helen Lathruphelenlathrop@gmail.com

Baptism

Please visit 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 10:15-10:45 am, except for the first Sunday of the month. You may approach the priest after the 5:30 pm. Mass on Saturday. Also available after 9 am Mass on Thursdays, and on the first Friday of the month from 9:40-10:20 am.

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/

MASS SCHEDULE

ST. GABRIEL

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

Sun. 9:00 am, 11:00 am

GOOD SAMARITAN

Sat. 4:00pm

Sun. 4:00pm (Hispanic)

PARISH STAFF

Pastor—Rev. James Boachie | Ext. 101 | jboachie@richmonddiocese.org.

Deacon—John Blakeney | Ext. 103 | deaconblakeney@saintgabriel.org

Parish Business Manager

Therese Venti | Ext. 102 | therese.venti@saintgabriel.org

Director of Adult Formation & Pastoral Care/RCIA Lisa Gorton | Ext. 108 | lisa.gorton@saintgabriel.org

Director of Children, Youth & Young Adult Formation Carole Cox | Ext. 104 | carole.cox@saintgabriel.org

Music Coordinator

Emily Rosenberger | Ext. 105 | emily.rosenberger@saintgabriel.org

Administrative Assistant

Heather Bigelow | Ext. 107 | heather.bigelow@saintgabriel.org

Accompanist—Jacob Berg | Ext. 106 | jacob.berg@saintgabriel.org

COUNCILS

Pastoral Council—Nancy Wilson | pastoral.council@saintgabriel.org Finance Council—Susan Yost | finance.council@saintgabriel.org Knights of Columbus—Tim Evans | Tevansgk13170@gmail.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. Ready to join? Please register by visiting www.saintgabriel.org/Newcomer-Registration or stop by the parish office. More information about what our parish offers can be found at www.saintgabriel.org or by calling the parish office at 804-639-6712.

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...

Jodi Petway Mary Kozlowski Pat Martonik Becky Robinson Julio Pons Amy Caprara Patrick Salerno John DeGiorgio Lilly Grace Moreland Dorothy Hayton Julian Pragle John Paul Macri Abdulbari Hassan Jim McCarthy Mary DeCosta Joanne Johnson Fr. Bob Brownell Lori Sullivan Mary Sasara Eileen Albert Ray Parrott Tina Huev Eileen Albert Bernadette Gallagher

Sick parishioners' names will appear for 3 months after notification. Please resubmit if needed.

CLIP.

Mass Intentions at time of publication

Wed., Dec 17, 9:00 am Sucre Mieles

Thur., Dec 18, 9:00 am John Chandler and Julia Bonce

Fri., Dec 19, 9:00 am Sydney Zatkulak on her 22nd birthday

Sat., Dec 20, 5:30 pm Stevn and Robert Peterson

Sun., Dec 21, 9:00 am Jenny Litos Sun., Dec 21, 11:00 am For the parish

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/

Please Note:

Kindly bring any items/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 & click on "Events: Parish Calendar."

Sunday, December 14– THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 am | Rosary 9:00 am | Mass 11:00 am | Mass

1:00 pm | High School Formation 3:30 pm | Middle School Formation

Monday, December 15

11:00 am | Rosary

6:00 pm | Children's Christmas Choir

Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 16

9:00 am | Centering Prayer

9:00 am | Rosary 7:00 pm | Fishermen

7:00 pm | Lectionary Study

Wednesday, December 17

8:15 am | Rosary 9:00 am | Mass

6:00 pm | Prison Ministry

6:30 pm | Cantor/Instrumentalist

Rehearsal

7:00 pm | Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 18

8:15 am | Rosary 9:00 am | Mass

7:00 pm | Knights of Columbus Officers'

Meeting

7:00 pm | Order of Christian Initiation of

Adults

Friday, December 19

8:15 am | Rosary 9:00 am | Mass 10:00 am | Bible Study 10:00 am | Praying Hands

Saturday, December 20

10:00 am | Rosary 5:30 pm | Mass

Sunday, December 21– FOURTH

I Mass

SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8:00 am | Rosary 9:00 am | Mass

11:00 am

An important note about Christmas Masses:

As you're all aware, Christmas is a time when we host many visitors. For that reason, it is very important we are welcoming. Please understand that if you would like to sit with particular people at Mass, you all need to be seated together at the same time; we ask that you do not save seats. All people who enter the worship space should be able to quickly and easily find an available seat. We are all looking forward to celebrating the birth of our Savior together and pray that our community will radiate Christ's love to all who join us. Thank you for your cooperation.



A second collection will be taken up at all Christmas
Masses for
Commonwealth
Catholic Charities.
You can donate
online as well.
Thank you for your generosity.

Join Flocknote

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





Parishioners,

Please remain aware of your surroundings while entering and leaving the church. If you notice anything unusual (like a car parked for long periods of time in the

extremities of the lot), please stay in your vehicle or in the church, and call the Chesterfield County Non-Emergency line: 804-748-1251. Thank you for doing your part to keep our parish safe.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Consider signing up for one of the many ministries of the parish. It is a great way to get to know more people, give back and grow in your faith. See the many ways you can serve Christ in the world by visiting www.saintgabriel.org/Time or call the parish office. The budget is divided evenly over the 12 month fiscal period. Please bear in mind that all donations do not come weekly or monthly. The parish receives quarterly, semi-annual, and annual donations.

Parish Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who responded to the parish survey regarding permanent name tags. 150 families responded, which is the typical amount we receive from surveys (between 10 to 12% of the parish). The majority of responses (56%) were not in favor name tags and therefore the parish will not be implementing them.





Shop with Scrip 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: 7L49A6988534

3. The brand gives back to St. Gabriel the moment you buy a gift card—at no extra cost to you!

Have questions? Call the ShopWithScrip Customer

Support team at 1-800-727-4715, Option 3.



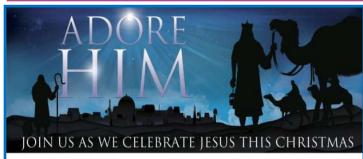
Register your Kroger Plus Card for St. Gabriel

We have **164** 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 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 \$428.81. The total for 2025/26 thus far is \$837.87.



<u>Liturgy</u>



Holiday Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

Doors open 50 minutes before, please do not reserve seats.

4 p.m. (Children's choir, no incense)

6:30 p.m. (incense)

10 p.m. (Christmas Carols begins at 9:30 p.m. with adult choir, incense)

Christmas Day

There will be no Mass on Fri. Dec. 26

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Wed. Dec. 31, 5 p.m. (Incense)
Thurs. Jan. 1, 10 am (Incense)

There will be no Mass on Fri. Jan. 2

Are you expecting, or do you have a child in need of Baptism?

We are excited to celebrate with you! The next parent preparation class is **Saturday, January 24, 9 a.m. to noon**, with baptisms to be celebrated on Saturday, February 14 at 10 a.m. For additional class and baptism dates visit: www.saintgabriel.org/baptism. If you have questions, contact Lisa Gorton at 804-639-6712 or email lisa.gorton@ saintgabriel.org.



Liturgical Ministry Training

Saturday, January 10, 9 am - 1 pm

Commissioning at the 11:00 Mass on January 11th

Please consider serving as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher or Altar server.

You set your Mass preference and availability. It's a great way to get to know members of the community! If interested, visit https://www.saintgabriel.org/training or call Lisa Gorton at 804-639-6712.

We are in great need of Eucharistic Ministers and Ushers. Please consider joining!

Children and Youth



TODAY is Faith Formation for MS/HS!

1 pm— High School
3:30 pm— Middle
School

Social Justice



Join St. Gabriel's parish in support of the Right

to Life at the March for Life in Washington, D.C. on Friday Jan. 23, 2026. We will start with Mass at 7:30 a.m. 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 at the Welcome table in the Commons after Mass this weekend, January 3/4, 10/11 and 17/18. Please make checks payable to St. Gabriel Catholic Church or use the QR code if you would like to register online.





A letter from Mike and Thelma Bryner about our recent donations of Thanksgiving meals to CCHASM:

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

To say "Thank You" simply does not address the heartfelt gratitude that we heard upon delivering the 60 Thanksgiving Meal kits and 60 grocery store gift cards that you, the Saint Gabriel Family, provided to CCHASM at the Chesterfield County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, November 19th. CCHASM stands for Chesterfield Colonial Heights Alliance for Social for Social Ministry.

When told that this delivery was from Saint Gabriel, there was a huge smile on the face of the two staff ladies at the reception table. They both explained that the Saint Gabriel family is near and dear to their hearts as this, our community, shares and supports so many families on a regular basis. They do rely on us to assist those most in need.

Something else they shared was how some individuals we support, due to their individual circumstances, live in a nearby food desert. If it were not for your generosity each month when we have Food Pantry collection, there would be some families struggling more in our local area than we know. Thank you always for your generous support of those in need of food (and prayers) for daily living.

Please remember you don't have to wait for food pantry weekend to make a donation. You can do a monetary donation through E-giving or by using one of our food pantry envelopes on the Welcome Table. You can also drop off food items (please check the list on our website) at the parish office.

Other

Saint Francis - Manchester

<u>Please join us at the 4th Annual Community Briefing!</u>
A discussion of issues concerning Richmond's seniors

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Virginia War Memorial

7:30 AM - 8:15AM

Breakfast provided

Businesses, churches, and civic groups can make an impact!

Please RSVP to dcrutchfield@saintfrancisrva.org

Comboni Missionary Sisters USA

We would like to inform you that the winners of the raffle benefitting the Comboni Missionary Sisters are from the following parishes:

1st prize: \$1,000- Our Lady of Lourdes

2nd prize: \$500– St. Ann's 3rd prize: \$200– St. Joseph 4th prize: \$200– St. Mary's 5th prize: \$100– St. Joseph

Thank you once again for your generous support and for welcoming us to your parish for our annual fundraising project. The fund will support our Student Sisters in their professional studies at various universities in the United States, the Comboni Sisters in nursing homes, and contribute to the completion of our new residence in Glen Allen.

We are happy to share that the fundraising was highly successful, and it will make a lot of difference in our missionary life and the people we are called to serve.

Thank you very much for your collaboration and for your ministry. Our prayers are continuous for you and your parishioners.

May God bless you with peace and joy.

Sincerely, Sr. Maria José da Silva, CMS Fundraising Organizer

Diocesan

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond,
Office of Communications, is
seeking a Managing Editor for The
Catholic Virginian. For the full ad and
how to apply, please visit https://
bit.ly/43lv91L For any questions, please
contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist /
Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org



The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is seeking a Full Time Information Technology Specialist to work in the Roanoke area. For the full ad and how to apply, please visit https://bit.ly/48c4Hz3. For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

The Catholic Diocese of Richmond is now accepting applications for its Campus Ministry Fellowship Program for the 2026–2028 cycle. For the full ad and how to apply, please visit https://bit.ly/4p1NEqg For any questions, please contact Kelly Shumate, HR Generalist / Recruiter at jobs@richmonddiocese.org

CATHOLIC

Mini Reflection: We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert. Why? What are we expecting to see?

What We See in the Desert

I've always wanted to see a real desert.

I know all about frigid, snowy winters and warm, wet summers. I grew up on rich soil that yields lush vegetation and bountiful harvests. But I've never experienced a desert, not in my own country or abroad, and I'm curious.

I know there must be something magical about the desert for it to feature so heavily in Scripture, for it to provide a backdrop to so many crucial moments of salvation history. The Israelites following the cloud, the temptation of Christ, the voice crying out: "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Why do these moments have to happen in a desert? Why do they make so much less sense in a tropical rainforest or a verdant forest?

I think it's because the desert doesn't have anything to offer us, at first glance. No one longs for the physical sensation of a dry heat and a beating sun. But the vast emptiness and the almost mystical harshness — even if we don't desire and delight in it, this is a setting that we understand, somehow, intrinsically. We know it deep within our soul. God is there.

We go to Mass. We go to Confession. We pray. We read Scripture. In doing all these things, again and again, we go out to the desert.

Why? What are we expecting to see?

If we expect to be entertained, we will be disappointed. If we expect reassurance, we will be disappointed. If we expect to feel pleasant and safe and sheltered, we will be disappointed.

The desert is there to challenge us. The desert is there to show us who we are, and who we can be.

So go.

- Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Interested in Vocations?

Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) - December 14, 2025

"Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Matthew 11:2-3)

John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Vocation Office at 804-359-5661 or via email: vocations@richmonddiocese.org

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

Answer:

As Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

Scripture for the Week of 12/14

Sun: Is 35:1-6a, 10; Ps 146:6-10; Jas 5:7-10; Mt 11:2-11 **Mon:** Nm 24:2-7, 15-17a; Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9; Mt 21:23-27

Tues: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13; Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 23; Mt 21:28-32

Wed: Gn 49:2, 8-10; Ps 72:1-4b, 7-8, 17; Mt 1:1-17 **Thurs:** Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25 **Fri:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6b, 16-17; Lk 1:5-

Sat: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Lk 1:26-38

Next Sun: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-6; Rom 1:1-7; Mt 1:18-24



Financial information for the week ending November 23 was \$ and November 30 was \$. Mass Intentions at time of publication: Derek DeVito

Dec 13: 7 pm – Hispanic Rosary **Dec 16:** 10:30 – Mass **Dec 17:** 10:30 am – Rosary

Dec 18: Noon– Luncheon at Angelo's **Dec 19:** 7 pm– Hispanic Rosary

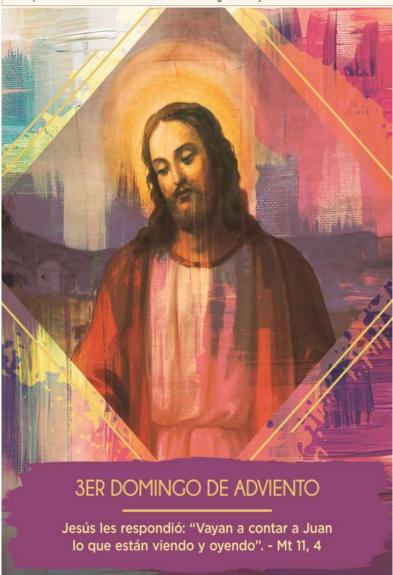
Dec 20: 9 am– Quilters; 5 pm– Ham dinner, followed by cookie exchange; 7 pm– Hispanic Rosary **Dec 22:** 10 am– Decorate for Christmas **Dec 24:** 6:30 pm– Christmas Eve Mass; fellowship after

Dec 26: 7 pm– Hispanic Rosary **Dec 31:** 5 pm– Liturgy of the Word, followed by New Year's Eve party

Baptisms: Visit 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 804-639-6712 for an appointment at least one year in advance of the proposed wedding.

Quinceaneras: Is your daughter celebrating her Quinceanera this year? Quinceanera 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!



Información financiera para las semanas que termina el 23 de noviembre es \$ y el 30 de noviembre es \$.

Sábados 7 p.m. **Rosario Hispano** Viernes a las 7 p.m. **Vía Crucis Hispana durante la Cuaresma**

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

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

¿Interesado en las Vocaciones?

Tercer Domingo de Adviento (Domingo Gaudete) - 14 de diciembre de 2025

"¿Eres tú el que ha de venir, o debemos esperar a otro?" (Mateo 11:2-3)

la eregueta de sur a los demás, Dios podría estar llamándote al sacerdocio o a la vida consagrada, compartiendo su amor sanador como pastor. Escucha atentamente su voz. Habla con tu

sacerdote o comunicate con la Oficina de Bautismos: Visite www.saintgabnel.org/gsbaptismform para obtener información sobre ல்று ஒது வக்கு seabha 64 கண்டு மிக்கிய நிலை உண்டு வக்கும் வுலிய திருரு புதியுள்ளும் அயுக்கும் அரு முழும் இது பிது gicina 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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