

DECEMBER 17, 2023 | THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

WELCOME! PARISH OFFICE

804-639-6712 (p) | 804-639-6591 (f) www.saintgabriel.org

Monday-Thursday | 8:30am-3:30pm Friday | 8:30am-1:30pm

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 Robinsonbbtsmi@aol.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 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.



MASS SCHEDULE

ST. GABRIEL

Wed. 9:00am Thu. 9:00am

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

Sun. 9:00am & 11:00am

GOOD SAMARITAN

<u>Sat.</u> 4:00pm

Sun. 4:00pm (Hispanic)

PARISH STAFF

Pastor—Rev. Dr. Felix Rex Amofa | Ext. 1 | famofa@richmonddiocese.org

Parish Business Manager

Therese Venti | Ext. 2 | therese.venti@saintgabriel.org

Director of Adult Formation & Pastoral Care/RCIA Lisa Gorton | Ext. 8 | lisa.gorton@saintgabriel.org

Director of Children, Youth & Young Adult Formation Carole Cox | Ext. 4 | carole.cox@saintgabriel.org

Music Coordinator

Barbara Chandler | Ext. 5 | barbara.chandler@saintgabriel.org

COUNCILS

Pastoral Council—Jim Haug | pastoral.council@saintgabriel.org

Finance Council—Susan Yost | finance.council@saintgabriel.org

Knights of Columbus—Stephen Freeby | 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, 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 Saint Gabriel and Good Samaritan Catholic Churches

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 <u>3 months</u> after notification. Please resubmit if needed.

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

Pat Martonik

Mass Intentions at time of publication

Wed., Dec. 20, 9:00 am Mass Intention Available Thurs., Dec. 21, 9:00 am Connie Williamson (living)

Fri., Dec. 22, 9:00 am Rena Montevideo Sat., Dec. 23, 5:30 pm Bompadre Family

Sun., Dec. 24, 9:00 am For the parish and the entire universe

Sun., Dec. 24, 4:00 pm Joseph Garrity Sun., Dec. 24, 6:30 pm Bob Cavanaugh

Sun., Dec. 24, 10:30 pm 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/

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 & click on "Events: Parish Calendar".

Sunday, December 17

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

1:00 pm | High School Faith Formation3:30 pm | Middle School Grade Formation

7:00 pm | Advent Musical Concert

Monday, December 18

11:00 am | Rosary

Tuesday, December 19

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 20

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

6:00 pm | Cantor/Musician Practice

7:00 pm | Choir Practice

Thursday, December 21

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

7:00 pm | RCIA/Candidates Gathering 7:00 pm | Knights of Columbus Officers

Meeting

Friday, December 22- Office closed at

Noon

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

10:00 am | Praying Hands Prayer Shawl

Ministry

Noon | Parish offices closed

Saturday, December 23

10:00 am | Rosary 10:00 am | Baptism

5:30 pm | Mass (Vigil for the 4th Sunday of Advent)

Sunday, December 24

8:00 am | Rosary

9:00 am | Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent

10:00 am | Arts and Environment 4:00 pm | Christmas Eve Mass 6:30 pm | Christmas Eve Mass 10:30 pm | Christmas Eve Mass

NOTE: Parish Offices will be closed from Fri., Dec. 22 at Noon through Mon., Jan. 1 in observance of Christmas and New Year's celebrations. Offices will reopen on Tues., Jan. 2.

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.

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.
- Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled.



Join Flocknote. With Flocknote, we are able to text everyone who joins or just a specific group. Join Flocknote and

just a specific group. Join Flocknote and keep in touch with us via text and email. Text "GABRIELVA" to 84576

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 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



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 conven-

tion 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 appoints and afficiency.

vide consistency and efficiency.

To set up your E-Giving account, use this QR code or visit 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!



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 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?** Call the ShopWithScrip Customer Support team at 1-800-727-4715 Option 3.



Christmas Masses 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., 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 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 to meet the Sunday obligation.

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



Be consecrated to the Holy Family on Sunday, December 30, at the 9 a.m. Mass as we celebrate the

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.



Celebrate the **Solemnity** of Mary, The Holy Mother of God on Monday, January 1 at 10 am. Encounter Jesus at the end of the Mass with Exposition, Adoration and Benediction as we pray for the new year.



Liturgical Ministry Training, Sat. Jan. 13, evec 1:30-5 pm., 5:30 p.m. Mass commissioning

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!



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



New Friday Morning Bible Study, Fri. Jan. 5. 9:45 a.m.

David the King with Bishop **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 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.



Commonwealth

Catholic Charities Collection

Catholic Charities was found over a century ago by men and women who Catholic Charities 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.



Food Pantry Weekend, Jan. 6 & 7

Please bring items for the food pantry for both St. Gabriel and Good Samaritan parishes. Donations may be left on the table by the library 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.



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.





The need is constant. The gratification is instant. Give Blood.

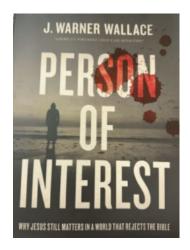
St. Gabriel Blood Drive
Come Join Us To Save A Life
Monday, January 22, from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm
Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: GABRIEL to
schedule an appointment. Maximize your blood
donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible
type O,B- or A- donor, consider making a Power
Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

"For it is in giving that we receive"



– St. Francis of Assisi

A true sign of Christmas is when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it the most. Thank you for celebrating your Christmas by donating **\$18,605** to this year's Angel Tree program. This out pouring of love was received by many in our community, at Catholic Charities, Pregnancy Resource Center, St. Francis Home, St. Joseph Villa and Student Support Services. May God bless you and your family.



Explore "Person of Interest: Why Jesus Still Matters in a World that Rejects the Bible" at the Book Discussion Group on Sat. Jan. 20, 10 a.m. in the Commons

Join cold-case detective, J. Warner Wallace, as he uncovers the truth about Jesus using the same approach he employs to solve real murder cases. Wallace describes his own personal investigative journey from atheism to Christianity as he carefully sifts through the evidence from history alone, without relying on the New Testament. In this book, you'll: *Understand how Jesus—the most significant person in history—changed the world and why he still matters today... Learn how to think like a cold-case detective by using an innovative and unique "fuse and fallout" investigative strategy, which you can also use to examine other claims of history... and Explore and learn how to respond to common objections to Christianity. Sign up on the clipboard in the Commons or visit www.saintgabriel.org/book-discussion-group to take part.

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics give the sign of peace to one another at Mass?

Answer:

The sign of peace is a part of the Mass that takes place immediately after we offer the Lord's Prayer. Inspired by the Jesus' words to his first followers, we stand together in a spirit of communion to pray as Jesus taught us: "Our Father who art in heaven..." In this prayer, we call for the coming of God's kingdom in all its fullness and ask that God provides for our needs — "Give us, this day, our daily bread" — to forgive our sins and to bring us to the joy of heaven.

It is almost natural, then, that the rite of peace would follow. As the celebrant prays that Christ's peace will fill our hearts, our communities, the Church, and the whole world, we extend to those around us a sign of peace (usually a hug or a handshake) as a symbol of the communion that we experience now and will experience forever in the fullness of the reign of God.

We are also reminded of Jesus' teachings that if we are at prayer and remember that a brother or sister is holding something against us, then we are to go and seek reconciliation with them before we continue our prayer (see Matthew 5:23). And so, the sign of peace also reminds us of the need to truly be in communion — united in love and peace — with God and one another before we approach the altar to receive the Eucharist.

So, the next time you're at Mass and the time comes for the sign of peace, remember that this is a moment to celebrate the gift of Christ's peace that each of us has received from God and to pass that peace along to those around us. We need this moment to practice, because this is also the same peace of Christ that we are instructed to carry out into the world at the end of Mass when the priest or deacon says to us, "Go, in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life."

Scripture for the Week of 12/17

Sun: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11; Lk 1:46-50, 53-54; 1Thes 5:16-24; Jn 1:6

-8, 19-28

Mon: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25 **Tues:** Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-6, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25

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

Thurs: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk

1:39-45

Fri: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd; Lk 1:46-56

Sat: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66 **Next Sun:** Fourth Sunday of Advent readings: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89: 2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

Christmas Eve and Day Readings:

Vigil: Is 62:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29; Acts 13:16-17, 22-25;

Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6; Ps 96:1-3, 11-13; Ti 2:11-14; Lk 2:1-14 Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20 Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Liturgical Life

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Isaiah rejoices over God's call in his life and the promise of restoration for all nations. As we continue in the season of Advent, what has brought some joy to you or your family?

Second Reading

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be people of prayer and joy, open to the work of the Holy Spirt in their lives. Is there anything recently that has brought you joy?

Gospel Reading

John presents the religious leaders of Jerusalem as puzzled and uncertain as to who John the Baptist was. How do you approach friends or family in your life who are confused or questioning the faith?

Interested in Vocations? "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me because the Lord has anointed me." God is empowering you for a specific purpose! How will you respond to so great a love? Is He asking you to follow Him by serving in the priesthood or consecrated life? Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661or via email: voca-tions@richmonddiocese.org.





Las Posadas 16 de diciembre, 6 pm—24 de diciembre, 6 p.m.

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

17 de diciembre a las 4 pm: Gladys Olanda Barrera Laarman

17 de diciembre 2023— ¿Interesado en las vocaciones? "El espíritu del Señor Dios está sobre mí, porque el Señor me ha ungido". ¡Dios te está dando poder para un propósito específico! ¿Cómo responderás a un amor tan grande? ¿Te está pidiendo que lo sigas sirviendo en el sacerdocio o en la vida consagrada? Hable con su sacerdote o comuníquese con la Oficina de Vocaciones al (804) 359-5661 o por correo electrónico: vocations@richmonddiocese.org.

The December luncheon will be held on Wed., Dec. 20 at Yen Cheng Chinese restaurant at noon.

Mass Intentions:

December 16 at 4 pm: Mass intention available December 17 at 4 pm: Gladys Olanda Barrera Laarman

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 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!



On Sat. Dec. 23, we will hold a 4 pm Bilingual Vigil Mass to celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent. Then, join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior at the Christmas Eve Bilingual Mass, Sun. Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

El sábado 23 de diciembre, tendremos una Misa de Vigilia Bilingüe a las 4 pm para celebrar el 4° Domingo de Adviento. Luego, únase a nosotros mientras celebramos el nacimiento de nuestro Salvador en la Misa Bilingüe de Nochebuena, el domingo 24 de diciembre, a las 4 p.m.

Bautismos: Visite 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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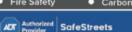




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