

DECEMBER 24, 2023 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE

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.

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ StGabrielCatholicChurch/

MASS SCHEDULE

ST. GABRIEL

Thu. 9:00am

Sat. 5:30pm

Sun. 9:00am & 11:00am

GOOD SAMARITAN

Sat. 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

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

Mass Intentions at time of publication

Wed., Dec. 27, 9:00 am No Mass Thurs., Dec. 28, 9:00 am No Mass Fri., Dec. 29, 9:00 am No Mass

Pat Martonik

Sat., Dec. 30, 5:30 pm William Griffin, Jr. & celebrating the 66th

Anniversary of Carol and Paul Kosco

Sun., Dec. 31, 9:00 am For the parish and the entire universe

Sun., Dec. 31, 11:00 am Gustavo Burneo

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 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

Monday, December 25– Christmas Day

10:00 am | Mass

Tuesday, December 26—Offices Closed

9:00 am | Rosary

NOTE: There are no Masses on Wed., Thurs. or Fri. of this week

Wednesday, December 27—Offices Closed

8:15 am | Rosary

Thursday, December 28—Offices Closed

8:15 am | Rosary

9:45 am | Richmond Friends of the Homeless

(offsite)

Friday, December 29- Offices closed

8:15 am | Rosary

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am | Rosary

9:00 am | Mass with Consecration to the Holy

Family

11:00 am | Mass



Join Flocknote. With Flock-

note, 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

Interested in Vocations?

"Do not be afraid, for you have found favor with God." Consider following Christ more closely as a priest or in consecrated life. Talk to your priest or reach out to the Office of Vocations at (804) 359-5661or via email: yocations@richmonddiocese.org.



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.

WANT TO JOIN?

We are happy to have you make the parish your new spiritual home. Please register by visiting www.saintgabriel.org/Newcomer-Registration or stop by the parish office.

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.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

Or are you considering becoming a Catholic or do you need to complete your initiation sacraments? Wherever you are in your inquiry, know the Catholic Church welcomes new members of all ages. We would love to hear from you and help you discern the next step on your faith journey. To learn more about Catholicism and about the process of joining the Catholic faith, you can contact Lisa Gorton at 639-6712 or email lisa.gorton@saintgabriel.org.



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.



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. 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 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





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

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.



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.



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

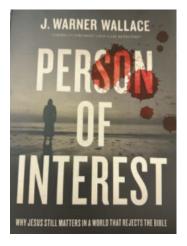
Please consider serving as a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher or Altar server. You set your Mass preference and availability. It's a great way to get to know members of the community! If interested, visit https://www.saintgabriel.org/training or call Lisa Gorton at 804-639-6712.

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



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.



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 at the Adult Formation Table in the Commons or visit www.saintgabriel.org/book-discussion-group to take part.





Richmond Friends of the **Homeless Bagged** Lunches Sun, Jan. 7

Following the 11 a.m. Mass, meet us in the kitchen to make 150 peanut butter & jelly sandwich lunches for Richmond's homeless. This is a great family activity. Youth can earn community service hours. It is monthly outreach activity Many hands make light work.



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. Ga-

briel 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.

Check out the Parish Library!

Use this QR code to see by author all of the great materials available to help you grow in your faith. To check out a book, just take the book home and put in one of the baskets on the shelves when you are done.



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

By registering at St. Gabriel, you declare your desire to be part of a Catholic faith community. If you

have recently moved to the area or if you are a longtime 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





- 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.

Are your Young Adult Children still listed under your parish registration? Have your children moved out of the house and are now on their own? Even if they are members under your household, it is their responsibility to join a church family, participate in the Mass, and to register as a member independent of their parents. Encourage them to register through the website or the QR code above. Please let us know if they have moved for accurate census numbers. Thank-you!



CATHOLIC

What Is Your Fiat?

Are you an anxious people-pleaser prone to overcommitting yourself? Welcome to the club! We have slogans, and for your convenience I've listed them here:

"Sounds great!"

"No worries!"

"Absolutely, I can do that, not a problem!"

These are your go-to responses for when someone requests a favor that is a huge inconvenience, but you would rather die than disappoint. It's not exactly disingenuous — it's just a little neurotic. Again, welcome to the club.

You know who doesn't belong to this club? The Blessed Mother. For many reasons, I'm sure, but the biggest one is that she's always completely up-front. Take her response to the Angel Gabriel: "Let it be done."

If there are more powerful words than these, I can't think of them now. And yet, as responses go, this certainly isn't an enthusiastic one. There was never a human creature more willing to obey God than Mary, full of grace, so it makes it all of the more striking that her response to Gabriel is this reserved — and it makes it all the more certain that she means exactly what she says.

Let it be done.

Not: Yes, this is exactly that I asked for!

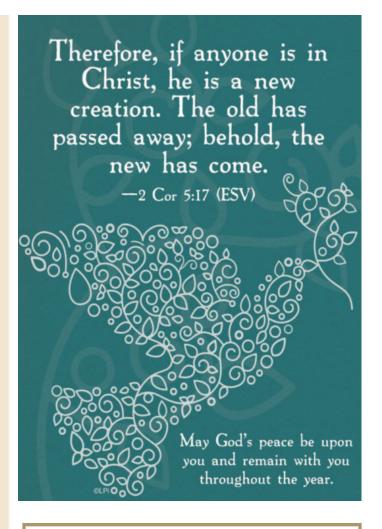
Not: Nope. This sounds awful. Count me out.

But precisely this: If God is asking, my answer is yes.

The Angel Gabriel visits us all, in a way, at some point or another, bearing news we did not expect. When we can say, in the face of that uncertainty, "Let it be done," we are embracing our calling as disciples. We are becoming like Mary.

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." — Luke 1:38

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



Scripture for the Week of 12/24

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 : 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

Mon:

Christmas Dawn: Is 62:11-12; Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12; Ti 3:4-7; Lk 2:15-20

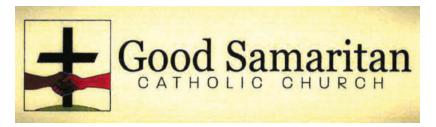
Christmas Day: Is 52:7-10; Ps 98:1-6; Heb 1:1-6; Jn 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

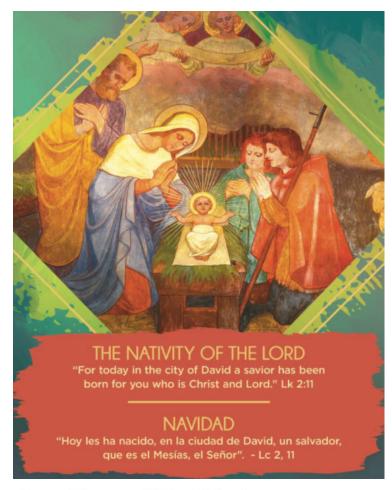
Tues: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59; Ps 31:3cd-4, 6, 8ab, 16bc-17; Mt 10:17-22

Wed: 1 Jn 1:1-4; Ps 97: 1-2, 5-6, 11-12; Jn 20:1a, 2-8 **Thurs:** 1 Jn 1:5-2:2; Ps 124:2-4, 7b-8; Mt 2:13-18 **Fri:** 1 Jn 2:3-11; Ps 96:1-3, 5b-6; Lk 2:22-35 **Sat:** 1 Jn 2:12-17; Ps 96:7-10; Lk 2:36-40

Next Sun: Sir 2-6, 12-14 pr Gn 15:1-6, 21:1-3: Ps 128:1-5 or 105:1-5, 8-9; Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17, or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17, 10:14 to 222, 40, 27, 202, 70, 40

12, 17-19; Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40





Questions of the Week Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

We hear how God established his covenantal promise with King David to raise up a son after him and ensure that David's house and kingdom will stand firm forever. What promises have you kept with family or friends?

Second Reading

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans with a hymn of praise to God. As Advent draws to a close, for what can you praise God?

Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel reading is the annunciation to Mary of the upcoming birth of Jesus. Mary's unconditional acceptance offers us a model to follow. How open are you to God's work in your life?

Mass Intentions:

January 6 at 4 pm: Mass intention available January 7 at 4 pm: Mass intention available

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!

6 de enero a las 4 pm: Intención de misa disponible

7 de enero a las 4 pm: Intención de misa disponible

24 de diciembre 2023— ¿Interesado en las vocaciones? "No temáis, porque habéis hallado gracia delante de Dios." Considere seguir a Cristo más de cerca como sacerdote 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.

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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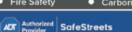




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