

The St. Gabriel Catholic Church 2025-26 Pastoral Council



John Ambe

John along with his wife Immaculate and their kids have been members of St Gabriel's community since 2017 after they relocated from Northern Virginia. John is originally from Cameroon where he completed his undergraduate degree in Mathematics before embarking on a new chapter in the US. He furthered his education by obtaining a degree in Computer Engineering followed by the completion of his MBA from Lehigh University. He currently works as a security consultant for the Federal Reserve Bank. He has a rich cultural background and a deep sense of community to our church. His warm and welcoming spirit reflects the values of inclusivity and unity that are the heart of the St Gabriel community. John was involved in the Children Formation ministry, and his family served in the Eucharistic ministry. He looks forward to sharing many more moments of faith and fellowship together.



Clay Bigelow

Since joining the parish in 2021, Clay Bigelow has been an active and dedicated member, serving as a Eucharistic minister and participating in the Couples in Christ ministry. Clay's journey in faith began with the Church of Christ, but he entered the Catholic church while living in Ohio through the RCIA program in 2018. Outside of his religious endeavors, Clay has been married to Heather Bigelow for 18 years and they have three children: Ethan (14), Logan (11), and Lilah (9) who are all active altar servers. Clay is a seasoned mechanical engineer with extensive experience in the medical device and pharmaceutical industries. He is currently contributing his expertise at Haleon. While originally from Tampa, FL, Clay's career has taken him across FL, GA, OH, and VA.



Carroll Connelley

Carroll was born into the Catholic faith and grew up in the Arlington Diocese at Saint Lawrence Catholic Church before attending the Naval Academy and continuing on to a twenty-year career in the Marine Corps. While in the Corps he met his wife Lori, with whom they traveled the country, served with many a Chaplain and raised a family. They have four children, Devin (28), Skylar (23), Graycin (18) and Cian (13), all who have been raised in the faith. Carroll's father, John Connelley attended the minor-seminary in Baltimore, Maryland at St. Charles and then St. Mary's Seminary where he earned a degree in theology before deciding a different path for himself. As a result, Carroll grew up in a deeply religious home. Carroll has served as a lector at Mass since he was 15 years-old at the numerous Parishes during his travels and across the globe while deployed. For the past 15 years he has also participated in religious education programs both at St. Francis Catholic Church in Triangle, Virginia and now at St. Gabriel's since his family's arrival to Chesterfield in 2021. Carroll and his family have also been active in volunteer opportunities at St. Gabriel's and well as at the Chesterfield Food Bank. They sometimes attend Good Samaritan as well, as they enjoy the small setting and friendly confines in Amelia. Carroll looks forward to adding his voice to the Pastoral

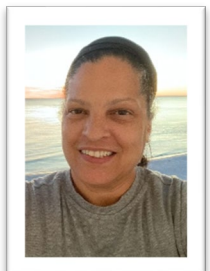
Council speaking up for those that are on the margins, underserved and often overlooked by society.



Stephanie Cochran

Stephanie was born and raised in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She attended church at St. Louise de Marillac (across the street from her childhood home) where she was baptized, received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist, and was confirmed. St. Louise de Marillac is the very same church where her father went to grade school (grades 1-8) and her grandmother worked in the cafeteria. Through the years, Stephanie and her grandmother would visit with the nuns that lived next to the church. Her favorite visits were on Halloween when the sisters would pass out the most delicious...raisins! Stephanie later earned her Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education from John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio. JCU's Jesuit motto is "being men and women for and with others". Stephanie has dedicated her life to educating children. She has taught in multiple states and moved to Virginia in 2011 with her two children: Xander (16) and Tori (13) have both attended Chesterfield County Public Schools from Kindergarten - present, including the Elementary School where Stephanie currently works: Woolridge Elementary. Stephanie joined St. Gabriel's parish in 2021 when her children, her niece, and her nephew went through the RCIA program. Stephanie and her family have been active members of the church ever since by volunteering to help organize and run

Vacation Bible School each summer. Stephanie has also greatly enjoyed being a catechist for the Pre-K/K Faith Formation class. Her calling to work "for and with others" continues by serving on the Pastoral Council. Stephanie strongly believes that God gives us gifts, and it's our responsibility to give them away. She's looking forward to serving the wonderful community of St. Gabriel!



Lourdes Mosley

Hello, I am Lourdes Mosley. I have been a member of Saint Gabriel Catholic Church since 2023. I am originally from New Jersey, but spent most of my youth in Puerto Rico. I enlisted in the Army in 1990. After serving in multiple positions, including platoon sergeant and instructor, and a deployment to Iraq in 2005, I retired after 20 years of honorable service. I met my husband, Lawrence Mosley, at Fort Lee, Virginia, in 1995. Together we have four children, three grandchildren, and two dogs. In my free time, I enjoy gardening, cooking, and going on long walks. At Saint Gabriel, I volunteer in the Children's Liturgy services and as a Team Leader during Vacation Bible School.



Richard Purdy (Vice Chair)

Richard and his wife Allie moved to Midlothian from Oakton in Northern Virginia in 2006 with their two sons. They quickly established lasting friendships with a number of other families who had also recently relocated to the St. Gabriel parish that year. This welcoming spirit of fellowship from the St. Gabriel community, together with Allie's support, lead to Richard completing the RCIA program shortly thereafter. Richard has served the parish for over a decade as an usher and lector. Richard was born and raised in Northern Virginia (Alexandria and Reston) and graduated from George Mason University with a degree in History. He currently works as a technical project manager specialist for a national, non-profit healthcare provider. Although his office is officially located in Southern California, he is fortunate to be able to work from home; travelling several times a year for various projects.



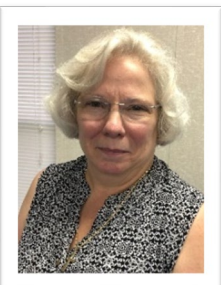
Tom Tortoriello

Tom and Beth-Anne were born and raised in New York before moving to Chesterfield in 1987, where they raised their two daughters. Now grown and married, their daughters have blessed Tom and Beth-Anne with five wonderful grandchildren. Family is central to Tom's life, and he cherishes the time he spends with his daughters and their families. A cradle Catholic, Tom attended St. Augustine School in New York through the 8th grade. He and Beth-Anne became charter members of St. Gabriel Parish 25 years ago. Over the years, both have actively participated in the parish, with Tom serving in various roles, including as a prayer leader, altar server, and usher. He is also involved with the Knights of Columbus, where last year he served as Grand Knight. Tom has contributed to his community in many ways, coaching his daughters' sports teams and serving on the Board of Directors for a local HOA. As a small business owner, he's committed to helping people in his community find meaningful employment. A transformative moment in Tom's faith journey was his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, deepening his connection to his beliefs and the relationships he's built within the St. Gabriel community.



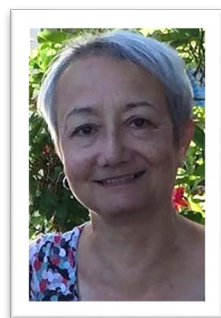
Eileen Violante

Eileen and her late husband Dan, along with their 4 sons, were charter members of St. Gabriel church 25 years ago. Eileen is a current member of the Rosary group, money counters, station leader at vacation Bible school and has taught religious education off and on for over 25 years at both St. Gabriel and Epiphany. Eileen is a proud grandmother of 11 and is blessed to have all her children living nearby. Eileen is looking forward to serving on the board, meeting new people and coming up with fresh and exciting ideas for our parish community.



Nancy Wilson (Chair)

Nancy is a cradle Catholic, raised in a devout traditional Catholic family. Her faith is deeply rooted in the example her parents set by consciously intertwining their Catholic faith and beliefs into the center of their family life. Nancy and her husband Wayne have three children and eight grandchildren. They spent the first half of their married lives in Illinois and Wisconsin, moving to Virginia 20 years ago. Nancy and Wayne joined the parish in 2006 after floating between the local parishes for a few years. Nancy considers it an honor to serve as a member of the Pastoral Council. St. Gabriel is a warm vibrant faith community that welcomes all with open hearts no matter what baggage one may carry with them. St. Gabriel's vibrant worship through the Mass, faith formation and the welcoming parish community have enriched their lives bringing unexpected gifts of love, laughter, generosity of spirit, new friends and a true deepening of their faith. Nancy prays that if she can pay forward all she has reaped since joining St. Gabriel to those walking through the door for the first time or rekindle the fire of faith in someone who may just be going through the motions; she will count her time spent in ministry at St Gabriel a win for Christ!



Kathy Zehender

Kathy was born and raised in Warren, PA, surrounded by her large Italian and Croatian families. She is a cradle Catholic, attributing her love of the Church to her father's strong example and the nuns of Holy Redeemer parish, who ran a wonderful CCD program & who lived next door to her. She attended the University of Rochester and Carnegie Mellon University, earning a BS in Chemical Engineering and a PhD in mathematics, after which she enjoyed several years working as a math professor at Georgia Tech and Loyola New Orleans, as well as a researcher at DuPont. She married David in 1986, and they moved to Midlothian in 1990, joining Epiphany Church until they became Charter members of St Gabriel's 25 years ago. Kathy and David have two adult children, Nick & Laura, daughter-in-law Amy, and recently became grandparents to two lively little ones, Revy and Sam.

Over the years, Kathy has been involved in the Children's Formation, VBS, Hospitality, Eucharistic Minister, WINGS, Respect Life, money counting, Bible study, and Prayer Leader ministries. A special highlight for her was going on the Holy Land pilgrimage with St Gabriel's and Father Eric in 2015. Kathy loves how the Church and her faith has carried her through the ups and downs of life, and she feels blessed to be part of the St Gabriel's community. She hopes to help our parish grow and

become a similar blessing to others.