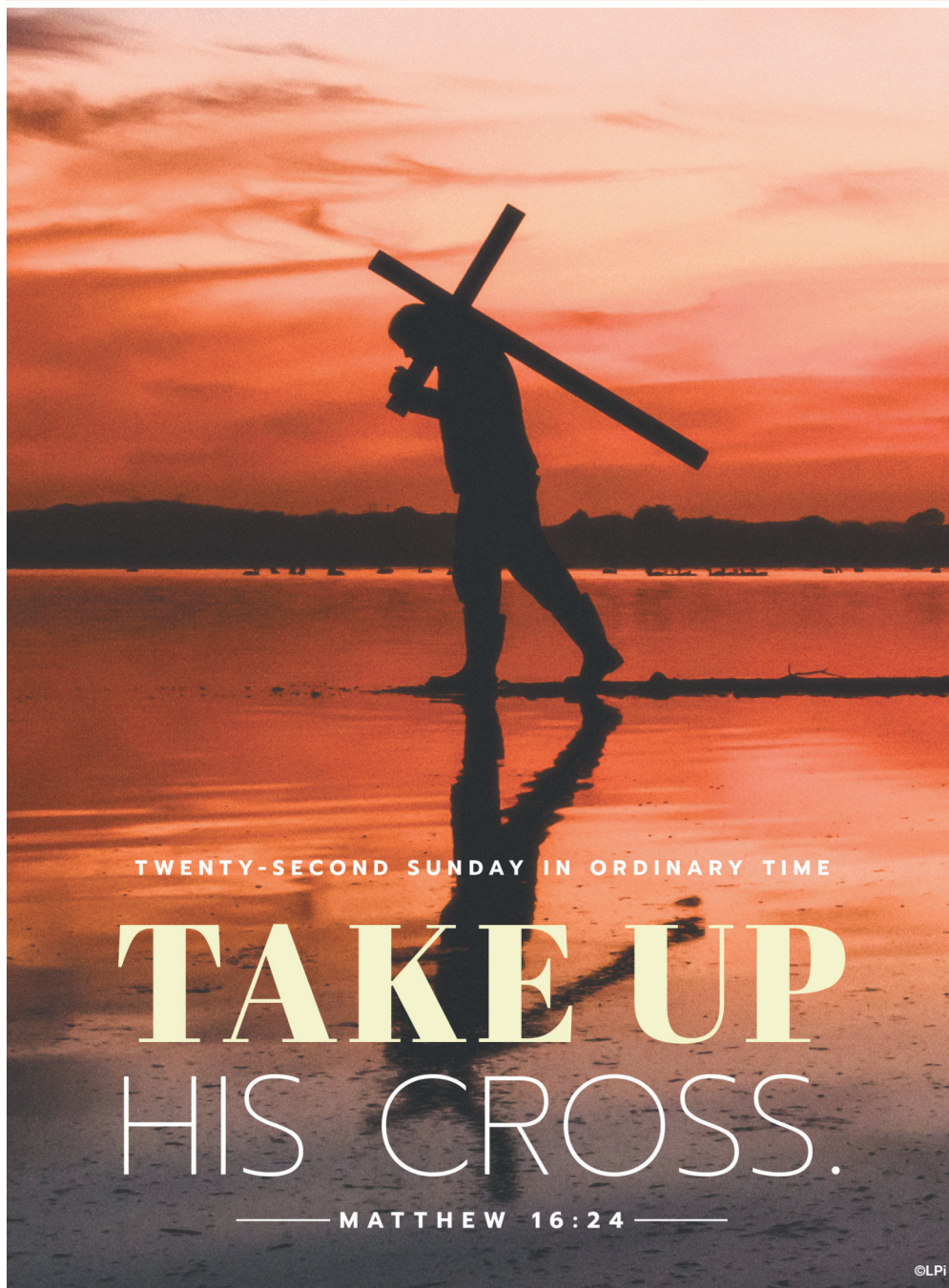


ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026



TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TAKE UP HIS CROSS.

— MATTHEW 16:24 —

©LPi

BELONG, BELIEVE, BECOME

Here at St. Gabriel, we strive to embrace these values:

Belong (You are loved here) *Believe* (Discover Christ with us)

Become (Be transformed)

Whoever you are, wherever you are in faith or life, if church is new to you, or you've been away – you are always welcome here. When you feel called to make this place your spiritual home, we warmly invite you to join our parish family by visiting, calling, or emailing the parish office.

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses

Saturday | 5:00pm (Vigil)

Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am
11:30am, 6:00pm*

*6:00pm Mass is not celebrated during the summer months

Weekday Masses

Monday | 9:00am

Tuesday | 6:30am*, 9:00am

Wednesday | 6:30am*, 9:00am

Thursday | 6:30am*, 9:00am

Friday | 9:00am

Saturday | 9:00am

Holy Days | See bulletin for schedule

*6:30am Mass is not celebrated during the summer months

CONTACT US

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Priest in Residence

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Msgr. Frank Del Prete

Pastor Emeritus

SOCIAL MEDIA

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FROM FR. FRANK

ST. GABRIEL WISH-LIST CONTINUED: GREETER MINISTRY

When I was serving as a priest at my first parish, Saint Helen in Westfield, we were undergoing a kind of reality check. We were a large parish – about **4,300 registered families**. And one of the things that Fr. Michael (now Bishop Michael) and I, along with the staff were trying to figure out was: **"If that's true: why don't we have AT LEAST 4,300 people in the pews? Every Sunday?"** We were only getting about 2,300.

Listen, registration numbers can be *deceiving*. People register for all kinds of reasons: for a baptism – in some places it's a "forced" registration! Same to get married! For CCD. Some registered years ago and moved away. Or they genuinely want to be part of the life of the parish. But, of course, being *registered* at a parish doesn't necessarily mean you actually *come* to the parish! So, no – 4,300 registered parishioners doesn't equal 4,300 people at Mass weekly. But it shouldn't have equaled 2,300, either.

There were **a lot** of people living right around us who *weren't* coming. And the larger trends weren't exactly encouraging, either. Strangely enough, our registrations were *increasing*, but the Mass attendance was *declining*! Go figure!

We were reminded of some of those same trends here at St. Gabriel's through *We Are His Witnesses*, when we looked at our own situation. We're a parish of roughly 1,300 families, yet, currently, on a really "good" Sunday, we get about 650 people.

But at St. Helen, we decided we weren't comfortable simply saying: *"Well, that's just the way things are,"* or blame "them." So, we started looking around. We asked, **"were there churches that were actually GROWING?** Guess what? There were! Catholic churches. Evangelical or Non-denominational churches. Churches **growing** in spite of all the national trends going in the opposite direction. And we wanted to know: **"what were they doing that we're not?"**

One of the Catholic parishes we learned from was **Church of the Nativity in Timonium, Maryland**. Please *google* this church right now. Wow! Years ago, they were a stagnant place – but now are totally alive, and *still* growing! They learned a lot from growing non-denominational churches...not their theology or changing the Mass. But their **best practices**. Their **Intentionality**.

Those churches had a very clear mission. And they made a conscious decision to get the people who were **already onboard** with constantly thinking about the person who **wasn't there**. And because they were thinking about *that* person, they became very intentional about everything: was the website invitational and not just "insider" jargon? (*Erin is working on it. Stay tuned*) Was the place clean? Was there good signage? Was there something for children? Was it welcoming? Was the music engaging? Was the preaching connected to real life? Did people know where to go?

And maybe the simplest question of all: **"when somebody walked through our doors, did their experience here make any kind of impact on them?"**

That's where something as simple as a Greeter Ministry comes in. All growing churches have them. And, eventually, I'd love to see us do that here.

So, what would that actually look like? Let me paint the picture. A greeter comes to Mass about **20 minutes early**. You're at one of our entrances – maybe even outside when the weather is nice. You open a door. (*No one should have to open a door for themselves here!*) You smile. You're genuine. You say *"good morning! Welcome! Glad you're here!"* You learn names. You show a family where Children's Church is. You help someone find the bathroom. You notice an elderly person who could use a hand. You introduce a newcomer to somebody else. You hang out in the vestibule a little while for the late-comer and you welcome them the same. And maybe the biggest thing: **You're always on the lookout for the person who is anonymous.**

After Mass, right after you receive communion, you're back at the door. *"Great to see you. Thanks for coming. Hope to see you next week."*

It's not rocket-science: **Come a little early. Stay a few minutes late. Open the door. Notice people. Learn names. Make somebody feel like we were expecting them.**

Imagine if we had people doing that at **every entrance, at every Mass, every weekend.**

Families could do it together! Couples! Teenagers! Retirees! Anyone! And slowly, this becomes more than a ministry - **it becomes our culture.**

Like I've been saying: I can welcome people from the Altar all I want. But by the time I do that, they've already been here for 10 minutes! They've already decided whether this place feels warm or cold. Whether anybody noticed them. Whether they feel like an outsider. Whether they might want to come back.

And here's my dream: I want St. Gabriel's to be a place where somebody can walk through our doors not knowing anybody, not knowing what to do, maybe not even knowing exactly what they believe, and still walk away thinking: **"I could belong here..."**

Sometimes bringing somebody back to the Church begins with a great homily or beautiful music. But *most times* it begins with somebody standing at the door who simply looks them in the eye and says: **"Good morning. We're glad you're here...glad you came."**

I see a Greeter AS important as a lector or Eucharistic Minister. In the end, it's a Liturgical Ministry, because when people are disarmed at the doors, they *sing* better, they *respond* better. They're *primed* to hear the Word. And isn't that the goal? People open to what happens during Mass – an encounter with the Risen Christ!

You know, looking back at the Greeters Ministry that I'm proud to say I spearheaded back in 2013 at St. Helen's: **it's still going!** And guess what? **IT WORKS.** I saw it with my own eyes.

All I wanted to do in this column is have you **dream** with me: to **imagine...amazing**. There's no plan or invitation to sign-up for this yet. But this won't be the last time I'll be speaking about this.

What does amazing look like, for us?

Friends, know, as always: **YOU ARE LOVED!**

Fr. Frank





THE KNIGHTS CORNER

September is right around the corner and the Knights are ready to hit the ground running. Our **first council meeting** of the new Columbian year, which runs from July 1 through June 30, **will be held on September 14**. The following Sunday, the 20th, we will be holding our **annual Mum Sale**. Please plan to buy your fall flowers from us as the proceeds will go towards donations to local charities. Also on the 20th, Brighton Gardens will host the **coffee social** as a thank you to Saint Gabriel's for the service we provide to their residents by distributing the Eucharist every Sunday. The Knights will help with the set-up and clean-up. The first **Men's Mass of the year is scheduled for September 26**. These Masses are hosted by the Knights (we provide the coffee and donuts!) but is open to all men of the parish and beyond. At times we have had participants from up to six different parishes. Finally, the Knights will have a large presence at **Fr. Frank's Installation Mass on the 27th**. The Fourth Degree Color Guard will be leading the precession and all St. Gabriel Knights are encouraged to attend in our now famous red polos and blue blazers. A busy start to what we pray will be a fulfilling year based in Charity, Unity, and Fraternity in service to the parish, the local community, and beyond!

For those who like to plan ahead, the **parish community blood drive** will be on October 24, the **October Rosary week** will be the week of 10/19, and an **Advent Mini-Retreat** for men is planned for November 14. The people of Saint Gabriel's have a long tradition of supporting the Knights and **we are so grateful to all of our fellow parishioners**. Your support allows us to help so many in our local community and beyond. It's going to be a great year!!

If you are interested in **joining the St. Gabriel's Knights of Columbus**, contact a current member or send us an email at knights@stgabriel.org.

Did you know? This year we enjoyed the **longest unofficial "summer season"** with the earliest Memorial Day, May 25, bookended by the latest Labor Day, September 7.

The Sacrament of Baptism

We're delighted to welcome your child into the life of Christ. **Baptisms are celebrated on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 12:00pm** (not celebrated during Lent, except in cases of serious need). First-time parents are required to attend a Baptism Preparation class.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA)

Adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, or Eucharist are invited to contact Frances Ferraro.



The Sacrament of Marriage

Congratulations! To begin marriage preparation, contact Fr. Frank Fano.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 4:00-4:45 PM, or by appointment.

Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

If you or a loved one would like Holy Communion brought to your home, please contact the parish office.

Frances Ferraro: fferraro@stgabriel.org

Fr. Frank Fano: ffano@stgabriel.org

SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

A JOYFUL CELEBRATION FOR OUR PARISH

Please join us as we **celebrate a special milestone** in the life of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish!

On **Sunday, September 27**, during our celebration of the Solemnity of St. Gabriel the Archangel, **Bishop Michael Saporito** will celebrate the **Mass of Installation of Fr. Frank Fano** as Pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Parish.

Although Fr. Frank officially began his ministry as our pastor on July 1, this special Mass gives us the opportunity to come together as a parish family in prayer and thanksgiving as he is formally installed as our pastor.

Mass of Installation | 12:00 Noon

Reception | 2:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join us for the Mass and reception! We kindly ask that you **RSVP for the reception by September 20** so that we can prepare for you. To RSVP, please contact Patti Ross at 201-962-3793.

We look forward to celebrating this joyful occasion together as a parish family!



There's so much to look forward to at St. Gabe's! As we begin a new season of parish life, we look forward to new opportunities for faith, fellowship, and growing together as a parish family. There's something for everyone!

Watch the bulletin, Flocknote, and social media for upcoming events and ways to get involved. We can't wait to see you!

- Children's Church- returns 9/13 at the 10:00am mass
- 6pm Sunday Mass - returns 9/13
- Faith Formation
- Fr. Frank's Installation Mass- 9/27 at Noon
- Women's Christian Community Group
- ChristLife
- Seniors Social Club
- Men's Fellowship
- Tech Crew (Livestream)

And much more!

OUR PARISH COMMUNITY HOLDS IN PRAYER ALL WHO ARE SICK OR HOMEBOUND.

Salvatore Averso
Daniel Castillo
Dawn Conguis
Ada Fields
Meg Gallagher
Grace Gilbert
Bill Hamilton



Bob Kleinknecht
Thomas Malanka
Joan Massotti
Nicole Trotta
Merilyn Wolf
Patrick Scheid Scorese

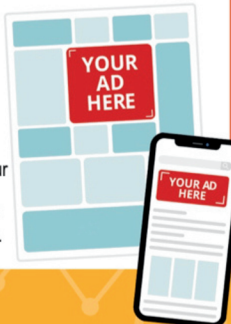
ST. GABRIEL'S SOCIAL CLUB

The Seniors Social Club meets on the third Thursday of each month and is open to adults ages 50 and up. The first meeting of the season will be **Thursday, October 21**. For more information, contact **Patti Ross at 201-962-3793**.

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Monica Sankey from LPI, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



LPI Monica Sankey
856-669-1385
msankey@4lpi.com

FLOCKNOTE: NEVER MISS A PARISH EVENT AGAIN!

Join Us on Flocknote! Stay connected with St. Gabe's through parish news, upcoming events, important announcements, reminders, and schedule updates. All delivered right to your inbox. Sign up today and stay connected!



PRAY. GIVE. HELP.

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin has asked the parishes of the Archdiocese of Newark to prayerfully and generously support those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, Colombia and Indonesia. **A second collection will be taken up the weekend of August 29-30 (next weekend) to support Catholic Relief Services' response and provide critical assistance to families and communities in need.** Parishioners may also make donations directly and more expeditiously to **Catholic Relief Services at crs.org**.

MY SOUL IS
thirsting
FOR YOU,
MY GOD.

PSALM 63

COME SING WITH US ALL ARE WELCOME!

Have you ever thought about joining the choir? We'd love to welcome you! Whether you're an experienced singer or simply enjoy making music, there's a place for you in our Adult Choir.

I joined my church choir when I was in high school, and it became one of the most meaningful parts of my life. Singing with others not only deepened my faith, but also led to lasting friendships and a wonderful sense of community.

Choir is a place where we pray, learn, laugh, and lift our voices together in praise of God. It's a rewarding way to grow spiritually while sharing the gift of music with our parish.

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:30 p.m., and our first rehearsal is **September 10**. New members are always welcome!

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact the Music Director, Dr. Melody Chen, Melodychen913@gmail.com.



Safe Environment Corner

Gaming Safety Tips for Families

Video games are a popular activity for many children. Since most games connect to the internet, it is important to help children use them safely.

- Check a game's rating before allowing your child to play.
- Use parental controls to manage content and online features.
- Keep gaming systems in a common area of the home.
- Remind children never to share personal information online.

By staying involved, parents can help children enjoy gaming in a safe and responsible way.

Anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct is asked to inform us so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and to provide support to victims of sexual abuse. Call the Coordinator for the Office of Accompaniment in the Archdiocesan Department for the Protection of the Faithful at 201-407-3256.

WOMEN'S COMMUNITY GROUP

The Women's Christian Community Group gathers each month, September - June, for fellowship, faith-sharing, and an opportunity to grow together in faith. All women of the parish are welcome to join this friendly and welcoming group!

Meetings are held on the **second Tuesday of each month** in the Parish Rectory. The first meeting of the new season will be **Tuesday, September 8 at 1:00pm**.

For more information, please contact **Patti Ross at 201-962-3793**.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our August 23rd collection totaled \$12,569.75.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish. May God bless you and your families!



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REPORT FINANCIAL MISCONDUCT CONFIDENTIALLY

If you suspect financial misconduct, use EthicsPoint, an independent and confidential reporting tool that helps the Archdiocesan community address issues while promoting positive parish, school and workplace environments. Visit www.rcan.org for the hotline and reporting link.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: August 29, 2026

9:00am † Catherine Mulligan- r/b Kristin Malley
5:00pm † Richard V Cancilla- r/b Pat Cancilla

Sunday: August 30, 2026

8:00am † Patricia & John Halliwell- r/b Pam Corry
10:00am † Ronald Sinkovitz- r/b Marie Ruppel
11:30am † Concetta DeSantis- r/b Nina & Kevin Bernhardt

Monday: August 31, 2026

9:00am † Joe Fadell - r/b The Sterancsak Family

Tuesday: September 1, 2026

9:00am † Carmine Donnarumma - r/b The La Sala Family

Wednesday: September 2, 2026

9:00am † Rosetta Davis - r/b Patti Ross

Thursday: September 3, 2026

9:00am † Richard V Cancilla - r/b Pat Cancilla

Friday: September 4, 2026

9:00am † Agnes Kwiek - r/b Family

Next Saturday: September 5, 2026

9:00am † Chela Sanchez - r/b Chela
5:00pm † Emilio and Tiffani Alonso - r/b Donna Alonso

Next Sunday: September 6, 2026

8:00am † Robert J Lawson - r/b The Bigley Family
10:00am † Joseph and Frances Mistretta - r/b Fred and Sharon Mistretta
11:30am † David H Fant - r/b The Cheney Family

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

The sanctuary lamp at the Blessed Sacrament will be lit the week of August 30th for Bobby & Jerry Mattessich requested by Anna Mattessich

The Altar Bread and Wine consecrated during the week of August 30th is requested for Bobby & Jerry Mattessich requested by Anna Mattessich.

The Sanctuary Lamp at the Blessed Sacrament and the Altar Bread and Wine for the week are available as memorials for loved ones. To arrange, contact the parish office at (201) 327-5663.

PRESIDERS' SCHEDULE

August 29-30

Sat 5:00pm- Fr. Ron
Sun 8:00am- Fr. Ron
Sun 10:00am- Fr. Frank
Sun 11:30am- Fr. Frank

September 5-6

Sat 5:00pm- Fr. Frank
Sun 8:00am- Fr. Frank
Sun 10:00am- Fr. Frank
Sun 11:30am- Fr. Anthony

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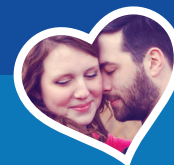


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