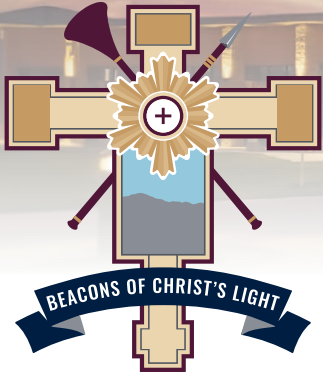




ST. GABRIEL

THE ARCHANGEL ♦ CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcoming **FR. FRANCISCO QUEZADA AS OUR NEW PASTOR** *Praising and Serving God in Our Parish Community*

Fr. Francisco Quezada's stewardship story begins with his naming — or, more specifically, with his mother *not* naming him. His mother had wanted five daughters, and when Fr. Quezada arrived as the third child and first boy, his mother didn't have a name prepared.

"After two days, my father named me after the co-founder of the Jesuits, Francisco Javier, or Francis Xavier, and my name is absolutely providential," Fr. Quezada says. "I became a missionary priest like Francis Xavier. I was ordained, trained, and educated by the Oblates of Mary Immaculate to become a missionary priest, and my journey began with my mother resisting to give me a name."

Fr. Quezada knew he wanted to be a priest when he was a young man serving at the altar during Mass.



Fr. Quezada looks forward to getting to know each parishioner and to praising, reverencing, and serving God together as the faith community of St. Gabriel.

"I filled out an application for the seminary at 14," he says. "Then the recruiter showed up at the house asking for an interview with my family."

While attending the seminary in San Antonio, Texas, Fr. Quezada experienced the comprehensive and substantial human formation religious order priests receive, and on Jan. 9, 1988, he was ordained at Holy Family Parish in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Throughout his decades of ministry as a priest, Fr. Quezada has most valued people and working with the people of his parish.

"The many personalities in parishes appear to me as those Biblical figures who Jesus met along the way," he

says. "The woman at the well, the tax collector, the disciples — those people are alive and in our parish."

Fr. Quezada became the new pastor at St. Gabriel on July 1 and didn't anticipate receiving such a

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LIVING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PARISH HOSPITALITY MINISTRIES

A Gift of Time and Talents

Stewardship is not just a one-time act — it's a way of life for Catholics. It's about recognizing that everything we have comes from God and using our time, talents, and treasure to serve Him and others. One powerful way to live out this calling is by actively participating in parish hospitality ministries, serving as ushers, greeters, and lectors during the Mass. These roles not only enhance the Mass experience but also allow us to share our gifts with our parish community.

Ushers: The Guardians of Order

Ushers play a crucial role in maintaining a sense of order and reverence during the Mass. Their responsibilities go beyond seating parishioners — they are stewards of the worship space. By becoming an usher, you can live out stewardship in the following ways:

Creating a Welcoming Environment: Ushers ensure that parishioners feel welcome and comfortable. Their friendly demeanor sets the tone for the entire congregation and helps newcomers feel at home.

Supporting the Celebrants: Ushers assist the priest and other liturgical ministers, making sure that the Mass flows smoothly. Their dedication contributes to a seamless and uplifting worship experience.

Strengthening Community: Serving as an usher fosters a strong sense of community. It's an opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners and deepen your bonds with the Church.

Greeters: The Face of Hospitality

Greeters are often the first point of contact for parishioners and newcomers. Their warm and friendly welcome can make a significant impact. By taking on this role, you can live out stewardship by:

Sharing the Love of Christ: As a greeter, you embody Christ's love through your warm greetings and friendly demeanor. Your actions can bring joy and comfort to those who enter the Church.

Nurturing a Sense of Belonging: A welcoming environment helps people feel they belong to a caring and loving community. This can lead to more active participation and involvement in parish life.

Lectors: The Proclaimers of the Word

Lectors have a unique and profound responsibility in the Mass. They bring the Word of God to life through their readings. Becoming a lector allows you to live out stewardship by:

Sharing the Scriptures: Proclaiming the Word is a sacred duty, and lectors have the privilege of bringing the teachings of Christ to life. This act of service inspires reflection and deepens understanding among the congregation.

Enhancing Spiritual Growth: Lectors deepen their own understanding of Scripture and spiritual growth as they prepare and share God's message. It is a personal journey that enriches the lives of others as well.

Engaging in parish hospitality ministries is a fulfilling way to live out stewardship as a way of life. By sharing your time and talents as ushers, greeters, and lectors, you enhance the Mass experience for yourself, your family, and your fellow parishioners. Your welcoming presence, organizational skills, and passionate proclamation of the Word contribute to a more vibrant and inclusive parish community, fostering spiritual growth and a stronger sense of belonging. Through these ministries, you demonstrate your commitment to living a life of stewardship, embracing the call to serve God and His people.

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

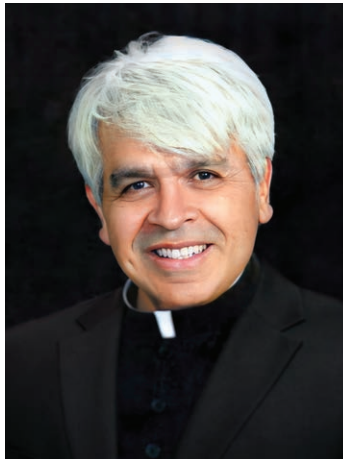
A SEASON OF *Gratitude* AND *Generosity*

Dear Parishioners,

As we enter October and November here in Colorado, the crisp air and early signs of winter remind us of the beauty of God's creation. The golden colors of the aspens fade, the mountain peaks turn snow-capped, and nature prepares for rest. It's a time of quiet reflection as the year draws toward its close — and an ideal season to renew our hearts in gratitude.

Within the rhythm of the Church, this is a season rich with meaning. We celebrate the Feast of All Saints and pray for the faithful departed on All Souls Day. We honor the dignity of life during October's Respect Life Month and gather around the Thanksgiving table in November to give thanks for God's many blessings. All of this draws us into a deeper awareness of how abundantly God provides for us.

Stewardship, at its heart, is a response to that abundance. It's a way of life grounded in gratitude — a daily commitment to offer our time, our talents, and our treasure in service to the Lord and one another. Whether through parish ministries, faith formation programs, or simple acts of kindness to those around us, each of us



is called to make stewardship a living reality.

Here at our parish, these autumn months bring a flurry of activity: faith formation classes are underway, parish events and outreach efforts are in full swing, and our liturgical year will soon turn toward Advent. I encourage all of us to reflect on how we can be more present and involved — how we can return to God a portion of the many gifts He has entrusted to us.

In this issue of our parish newsletter, you'll find stories that show how stewardship is alive and thriving in our parish community.

May these months of reflection and thanksgiving lead us closer to Christ, as we renew our hearts in gratitude and live out our discipleship with joyful generosity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Quezada'.

Fr. Quezada
Pastor





ST. GABRIEL
THE ARCHANGEL • CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE MATER FILIUS HOUSE

Building Hope and Br

Founded 22 years ago in Mexico City, the Mater Filius House takes its name from the Latin for “mother and child.” Its mission is to support pregnant women through housing, spiritual guidance, childcare education, mentoring, and more. The Mater Filius House at St. Gabriel is the sixth in the United States and 23rd overall. Jeanne and Tom Barta serve as the Executive Directors.

“I’ve been at the home for almost two-and-a-half years,” Jeanne says.

The land is leased from St. Gabriel’s, and all the operating costs are paid for through private donations.

“We’re a Catholic apostolate that can serve nine to 10 women in our home,” Jeanne says. “We’re not just a shelter. Women are provided room and board, but the idea is we’re helping them change directions, be independent, able to support themselves and their new baby.”

The house takes women of any age and stage of pregnancy.

“They live in the home free of expense from the time they’re pregnant until the baby is eight months,” Jeanne says. “The goal is to be able to move into low-income housing — a safe place to live. The entire time, we’re walking with them. They have a mentor mom assigned, one-on-one. They meet weekly to discuss their path to independence.”

Each woman has a different story.

“It starts with getting either a Colorado ID or driver’s license,” Jeanne says. “Sometimes, it’s



*Tom and Jeanne Barta,
Executive Director Couple*



Mater Filius Directors — (front) Deborah Washington; (from left) Jeanneen Schimmel, Michele Mason, Jeanne Barta, Janet Campbell, and Kathy Shearon

getting their birth certificate. We start from square one, getting all the paperwork needed to either finish school or obtain employment. ‘Where’s the best place for you? Moving back home? We need to repair relationships or find safe housing away from domestic violence.’”

This house has served 29 moms since opening in March 2024, and 10 babies have been born.

“We’ve served nine other toddlers because we take women with other children as long as the children are 5 and under,” Jeanne says.

When children are older, the focus shifts — this makes helping the mother more difficult.

“The real focus isn’t just the baby’s life, but also the mom and showing her how loved she is, that her life is important to the life of her child,” Jeanne says. “The overall goal is getting these women out of generational poverty. We’ll take

minors as long as we can prove they’ve been emancipated. We have to be careful we’re not homing a runaway or somebody who’s kidnapped or trafficked.”

The women each have their own bedroom, are assigned a shared bathroom, and a time to use the laundry room. In addition to required meetings with their mentor, they meet once a week with Jeanne.

“Some women sadly haven’t had a parent sit down and walk through homework or teach them how to make a phone call,” she says. “We do those things. We provide transportation to

Brighter Futures

and from appointments and work. Three nights a week, we have workshops after dinner.”

One night is for group counseling, to help with and foster communal living. Another is for spirituality.

“They don’t have to be Catholic,” Jeanne says. “The spirituality session is general. It’s run by a Catholic director. Spirituality is a very important part of grounding people and getting them through difficulties. They’re encouraged to go to the church of their choice, but because we are on the campus of a Catholic church, it’s easy to walk across the parking lot.”

The third workshop rotates topics such as parenting, finances and budgeting, safe boundaries and healthy relationships, and newborn education.

“The seeds we’re planting aren’t immediate — you’re going to see them five, 10 years down the road,” Jeanne says. “To be a graduate, you’ve had your baby in our home, and you left, moving into independent housing that we helped you obtain.”

Many times, women move in and relationships are healed, or they move back with their parents. Thus, they don’t end up having their baby at Mater Filius. Some women choose not to stay or aren’t a good fit.

“They don’t want to live with rules and structure,” Jeanne says. “Unfortunately, they end up faulting out. We have a faulting system — they’re allowed nine faults. They’re given an abundance of grace.”

The house currently has five graduates.

“It’s transformative,” Jeanne says. “Two got their high school diplomas. All of them found work. They’re all either moved home with healthy families or they’ve moved into low-income housing on their own.”

They also provide childcare. Children of



Mater Filius House

graduates can attend the child enrichment program.

“It’s a Montessori preschool and childcare,” Jeanne says. “They’re allowed to use that for five years free, fully preparing children for kindergarten.”

There are just over 50 volunteers and five paid staff, house mothers, who cover shifts around the clock.

“The church supports us in lots of ways, but the program funding, which is quite expensive, comes from private donors,” Jeanne says.

Volunteer positions include making dinner, providing childcare, doulas, shoppers who pick up food pantry orders, landscaping, drivers, and prayer warriors.

“We have a prayer warrior team and we’re trying to get a prayer warrior for each mom,” Jeanne says. “We have parishioners from at least eight parishes. That’s a beautiful thing, to see support from the entire community. All seven directors, who work 25 to 40 hours a week, are volunteers, including myself. The impact is seeing these women and their babies thrive in the home.”

The home is always looking for more volunteers and donations.

“We’d love to see more St. Gabe’s parishioners,” Jeanne says. “Anyone who wants to support us can do that, either via a digital transfer on our website, or they can mail in a check.”

To donate, visit materfilius.org or mail checks to 8773 Scarborough Drive, Colorado Springs, Colo. 80920. To volunteer, contact Jeanne Barta at 719-629-7183 or execdirector@materfiliuscs.org.



HALLOWEEN AND THE CATHOLIC FAITH:

Embracing the Rich Origins of This Beloved Holiday

As the autumn leaves fall and the air turns crisp, the familiar sights of pumpkins, costumes, and spooky decorations signal the arrival of Halloween. For many, Halloween is a time of fun, candy, and creative costumes, but few may realize the deep and rich connections between this festive occasion and the Catholic faith. Let's explore the Catholic origins of Halloween and how Catholic families can authentically celebrate this beloved holiday while staying true to their faith.

Contrary to popular belief, Halloween has its roots deeply embedded in Catholic tradition. The word "Halloween" itself is a contraction of "All Hallows' Eve," the evening before the Catholic feast of All Saints' Day, celebrated on Nov. 1. All Saints' Day is a solemn occasion dedicated to honoring all the saints, known and unknown, who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven.

Halloween's connection to All Saints' Day is more than mere coincidence. The origins of Halloween can be traced back to ancient Christian traditions. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III established All Saints' Day as a way to honor the saints and martyrs who had dedicated their lives to the Christian faith. The evening before, All Hallows' Eve, became a time for preparation and reflection, laying the foundation for the Halloween we know today.

At the heart of Halloween lies the profound Catholic belief in the Communion of Saints. During this time, Catholics reflect on the spiritual bond between the Church Militant (those on Earth), the Church Suffering (those in Purgatory), and the Church Triumphant (those in Heaven). Halloween becomes an opportunity to celebrate this interconnectedness and to remember and honor loved ones who have passed away.

Catholic families can infuse Halloween celebrations with a deeper meaning by incorporating their faith into the festivities. Here are some ways to celebrate Halloween authentically:



All Saints' Day Costumes: Instead of traditional spooky costumes, encourage children to dress up as their favorite saints. This not only aligns with the theme of All Saints' Day but also educates children about the lives of these holy men and women.

Family Prayers: Take a moment to gather as a family and offer prayers for the departed. Reflect on the lives of saints and loved ones who have passed away, fostering a sense of connection with the Communion of Saints.

Create a Home Altar: Designate a small space in your home as a Halloween altar. Decorate it with images of saints, candles, and symbols of the season, creating a sacred space for reflection and remembrance.

Attend All Saints' Day Mass: Participate in the liturgical celebration of All Saints' Day by attending Mass as a family. It's an opportunity to receive spiritual nourishment and reinforce the significance of this feast day.

Share the Faith Through Treats: When handing out treats, consider attaching small cards with brief descriptions of saints or prayers. This not only adds a personal touch to your Halloween treats but also shares the beauty of the Catholic faith with others.

In celebrating Halloween, Catholics have the chance to embrace their rich heritage and deepen their connection to the Communion of Saints. By infusing this festive occasion with the teachings of the Church, families can create traditions that are both fun and spiritually meaningful. Halloween becomes more than just a night for costumes and candy; it becomes a celebration of faith, community, and the enduring bond that unites the living and the departed in the embrace of God's love.

THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY

How We Can All Engage in This Powerful Devotion

Oct. 7 marks the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, but the entire month of October is commonly dedicated to the powerful and beautiful prayer of the Rosary. St. Gabriel parishioners gather before every Mass to pray the Rosary together, which can be a great addition to your Rosary devotion or an introduction if regularly praying the Rosary is new to you.

Ted Dibble coordinates the volunteers who lead the Rosary before each Mass. He finds that the repetition and mysteries of the Rosary make it a great way to prepare for the Mass.

“When you attend the Rosary before Mass, it helps center you and still your heart and mind,” Ted says. “Instead of rushing in at the last minute, looking for a seat, you have time to pray and meditate. You’re not as scattered, and it really strengthens the whole Mass by getting there early.”

The Rosary can be prayed daily as an individual or a family. It can be prayed all at once or one decade at a time throughout the day. Ted suggests stopping when you have the impulse to simply scroll on your phone and try praying a decade of the Rosary instead.

“It’s a very easy, powerful prayer that anyone can do at any time of day,” he says. “Take a break and recite a decade or a whole Rosary. Pray it to settle at night, or if you wake up at night and can’t get back to sleep. It’s an easy way to calm your mind and get your heart back on Jesus.”

When Ted converted to the Catholic faith, he didn’t know how or why to pray the Rosary for many years. He decided to learn it with his family.

“The way I learned is just the easiest way for anyone — we found a very simple five-minute cartoon on FORMED and watched it as a family, then all prayed it afterwards,” Ted says. “Since we didn’t know all the words, we pulled up the Rosary on the Hallow app and recited along with



Ted Dibble and his family pray the Rosary together.

it. A kids’ show puts it very simply and doesn’t overcomplicate how to do the prayers.”

Praying the Rosary with our parish family is another way to unite our prayers before Jesus.

“Jesus said, ‘Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them,’” Ted says. “Coming together and mediating on the mysteries just seems more powerful as a group. Anytime you pray as a group, your prayers seem to be magnified.”

The month of the Rosary is an invitation for all of us to draw closer to Jesus through the eyes of Mary in the Rosary. Join us as a parish half an hour before each Mass or on Wednesday nights in the Adoration chapel following Evening Prayer at 6 p.m.

“Jesus said, ‘Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.’ Coming together and mediating on the mysteries just seems more powerful as a group. Anytime you pray as a group, your prayers seem to be magnified.” — Ted Dibble

To sign up to lead the Rosary, contact Ted Dibble at 719-629-8287 or tadibble@gmail.com, or reach out to the parish office.



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WELCOMING FR. FRANCISCO QUEZADA AS OUR NEW PASTOR

continued from front cover

robust parish with a wonderful classical academy and a vibrant Hispanic ministry in place.

"I am fully bilingual and the product of Catholic schools," Fr. Quezada says. "I am very excited about St. Gabriel and about opening people's hearts to stewardship. I now understand on even a deeper level that stewardship is a way of life, and people are hungering for stewardship."

In his free time, Fr. Quezada likes to read and take long drives in the car. Currently, he enjoys watching *Word on Fire* videos by Bishop Robert Barron.

"One of my favorite sayings is from St. Ignatius of Loyola, who wrote that we 'were created to praise, reverence, and serve God our Lord, and by this means to save their souls,'" Fr. Quezada says. "This is very simple but very essential for us today in a world that wants to dismiss the Lord."

Fr. Quezada looks forward to getting to know each parishioner and to praising, reverencing, and serving God together as the faith community of St. Gabriel.

"I am praying every day for the grace to come to love you as my own and to answer the will of God about why me, why St. Gabriel, and why now," he says.



Fr. Quezada became the new pastor at St. Gabriel on July 1.

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 12 noon (Spanish)

Daily Mass: Monday – Friday: 8 a.m. | **Adoration:** Monday – Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Confession: Saturday: 2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. and Mercy Wednesdays (See bulletin for dates) 7:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.