

# ST. GABRIEL CHURCH

2559 40TH AVENUE, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116  
Phone: 415-731-6161 Fax: 415-731-1270 www.sgparish.org



**Office Hours:**  
Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm  
Fri-Sat 9am-12pm  
Closed Daily for Lunch  
from 12-1pm

**Pastoral Staff:** Rev. Ian Quito, Pastor; Rev. Mr. John Hurst, Deacon; Mrs. Gina Beal, School Principal

**In Residence:** Rev. Paul Zirimenya

**Religious Education Coordinator:** Diane Lawrence

**OCIA Coordinator:** Rev. Mr. John Hurst, Deacon

**Confirmation Coordinator:** Edgar Estonina

**Parish Center Support Staff:** Mrs. Cheryl Bailey, Bookkeeper; Mrs. Marie Dimapasoc-Arima, Payroll; Ms. Luana Letele, Secretary.

**Liturgical Support:** Mr. Rob Grant, Music Minister; Rev. Mr. John Hurst, Music Minister; Mr. David Lorentz, Music Minister; Ms. Kristine Sinajon, Music Minister; Mr. Mark Davis, Music Minister; Mrs. Nancy Porter, Wedding Rehearsal Coordinator.

## MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend  
Saturday—5pm (Vigil Mass)  
Sunday—8am, 10am & 5:30pm

Weekday  
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri—8:30am

## RECONCILIATION

Every first Saturday at 3:30pm in the Church with individual confession and absolution

For information on Baptism, Marriage, Sunday School, Anointing of the Sick, Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) or Confirmation, please call the Parish Center.

## OUR MISSION

As a worshipping, believing, and caring community, St. Gabriel Parish participates in the mission of Jesus Christ, remembered most intensely at Sunday Assembly through proclamation of The Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic Meal. This Community, so nourished, lives its faith in prayer, education and outreach.

## September 14, 2025 *The Exaltation of the Holy Cross*

**Today's Readings:** Nm 21: 4b-9; Ps 78: 1bc-2, 34-38; Phil 2: 6-11; Jn 3:13-17



*Photo by Aaron Burden  
on Unsplash*

One of the aspects of our stewardship should be a desire to understand and appreciate the significance of many of the celebrations, feasts, and solemnities we as Catholics observe and experience. Today's Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by St. Helena; the construction and dedication of churches by Helena's son the Emperor Constantine on the site of Mt. Calvary where Christ was crucified; and the return of the Cross to Jerusalem by the Emperor Heraclius II.

As Catholics, we need to remember the Cross every time we make the Sign of the Cross. We make that sign often and almost always at the beginning and the end of our prayers. However, that sign in itself is a prayer. Sometimes we do it automatically without really considering its meaning and importance. Rather than a hurried sign, we should make the Sign of the Cross with reverence, respect, and the constant reflection of how vital the Cross is to our salvation. Stewardship invites us to practice our faith with this deference and appreciation to the Lord, truly in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

## EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (John 3:16)

### **Question of the Week**

**Adults:** *What is something you can give up this week to make more time for prayer or service?*

**Kids:** *Have you ever had to give something up (sacrifice)? Was it hard?*

## ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Are you interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or considering becoming Catholic? The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is a welcoming and supportive process designed for those who wish to explore and deepen their understanding of Catholicism. The process begins with a period of inquiry. You will find an open space to ask questions about the faith and meet others who strive to learn more about the gospel values. An initial meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, September 28th at 11:00 AM** at the Parish Center. Know that your initial inquiry does not mean you are committed to initiate...just come and see if it's right for you. For questions please email Dcn. John Hurst at [hurst39@gmail.com](mailto:hurst39@gmail.com).

**MASS INTENTIONS**  
**SEPTEMBER 15 - 21, 2025**

Mon.	8:30 am	Tony Oropesa
Tues.	8:30 am	Rogelio R. Marania
Wed.	8:30 am	No Service
Thurs.	8:30 am	Luisito Barron
Fri.	8:30 am	Vilma Soares
Sat.	5:00 pm	Joseph Byrne
Sun.	8:00 am	Collective Mass
	10:00 am	Nita Calagui
	5:30 pm	For the Parishioners

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

In the coming week we ask for your prayers for the following: Joan Aragone, Denise Foley, Virginia Fox, Debbie Gaffney, Lottie Gonzales, Emo Lieu, and Colleen Wood.

**WEEKLY OFFERTORY**

**September 6 - 7, 2025**

**Envelopes: \$3,761**

**Online Giving: \$2,926**

**Loose: \$1,049**

**Total Offertory: \$7,736**



**GIVE ONLINE AT:**  
**www.sgparish.org**

Click the "Donate" tab on the upper right corner of the homepage to get started. Or just scan the code!

**JOIN US ON FLOCKNOTE!**

Visit our church at [Flocknote.com/StGabrielChurch](https://Flocknote.com/StGabrielChurch)  
OR

Text sgc to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.

*Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. Text HELP for help. There is no charge for this service, but your carrier message and data rates may apply. View privacy policy and conditions at [www.flocknote.com/txt](https://www.flocknote.com/txt).*

**ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY**  
**SERVICES THANKS YOU!**

Thank you to all who contributed to the National Collection for the AMS last week. Thank you for supporting the men and women, and their families, who serve and protect this great nation, and who defend the freedoms we hold dear. We, as a parish family, were able to raise **\$974** for this important collection. Please pray for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and military chaplaincy.

**PRIEST RETIREMENT FUND**  
**COLLECTION NEXT WEEK!**

Next weekend, **September 21st**, we invite you to support the Priest's Retirement Fund. Your generous donations help provide care, housing, and medical assistance for the priests who have dedicated their lives to serving our parishes. They were there for us—now let us be there for them. There will be envelopes in the vestibule for your consideration.

**BAPTISM**

*Let us welcome into our parish family*  
**NICO JOSEPH CRISWELL**  
*Who was recently baptized*

*For in one Spirit, we were  
all baptized into one body.*

**CONFIRMATION 2025/2026**  
**REGISTRATION**

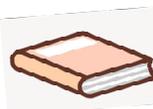


Our Confirmation Program for high school students begins today! Information and registration can be accessed via our website at [www.sgparish.org](https://www.sgparish.org) under the "Sacrament" tab, then scroll to "Confirmation". If you have questions, please contact the Confirmation Coordinator, Edgar Estonina, at [eestonina@sgparish.org](mailto:eestonina@sgparish.org).

**THE LADIES SODALITY OF THE**  
**MIRACULOUS MEDAL**



The Ladies Sodality will hold their first meeting of the year on **Sunday, October 5th**. Please invite a friend, sister, daughter, niece, or neighbor to join us at the 10:00 AM Mass and then head directly to the Parish Center afterwards for our General meeting. **What is Sodality?** Sodality is a spirited group of ladies focused on prayerful devotion to Mary, the liturgical needs of the parish, and a prayerful, playful camaraderie. If you want more information about this wonderful group of women, please call Moyra Trigueiro at 415-203-7191 or Barbra Paul-Elzer at 415-731-9947.



**LECTOR WORKBOOKS**  
**ARE HERE!**

The 2026 Year A Workbook for Lectors is here! If you are one of our lectors, kindly come to the Parish Center and pick up your book. Thank you for all that you do for St. Gabriel!

**ALLOWING TIME FOR GRIEF -**  
**LIVING TODAY**

Reflection on what to expect, do, rely on, pray for, HOPE. All are welcome to attend on **September 19th from 10:00 AM—1:00 PM** at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Flanagan Center, 3300 Lawton St. This session is hosted by Valerie Toy and facilitated by Sr. Toni Lynn, RSM. To RSVP and for more information email [tgallagher@sistersofmercy.org](mailto:tgallagher@sistersofmercy.org) or [parish@holynamesf.org](mailto:parish@holynamesf.org). Refreshments will be provided.

*Just for Laughs*



Q: *What's a missionary's favorite type of car?*

A: *A convertible!*

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

*My dear brothers and sisters in Christ...Peace in the Merciful Christ!*



I am Fr. Ian Quito, your new priest and your new friend here at St. Gabriel's and in the Sunset.

I am sorry for taking a while to write and formally introduce myself to you, our parishioners.

I have lived in the peninsula over the past ten years (five years as a seminarian at St. Patrick's

Seminary in Menlo Park and another five years as an associate priest at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Redwood City). Time flies so fast. I feel that I was just ordained last month!

When people ask me, "When did your vocation to the priesthood start?" I always respond, "I do not know when exactly. I feel like it was given to me." I realize that priesthood is a gift not just to me but to everyone. Pope John Paul II, in his 2003 Chrism Mass homily said, "Every vocation to the priestly ministry is an extraordinary gift of God's love." I am blessed and grateful for this gift, though I do not have merits of my own.

Looking back when I was younger, there were evident religious inklings in me. When I was ten, when school classes were cancelled due to typhoons in the Philippines, I would invite my cousins to go to our house not to eat and play but to pray! I would light two candles at the altar, and we would all kneel and pray the Stations of the Cross. I would grab 'The Way of the Cross According to the Method of St. Francis of Assisi' that was leaning on the Santo Nino Statue (Infant Jesus), and I would act as the prayer leader. Who would have thought that eleven years later, I would be serving the Archdiocese named after this great saint! Also, when I was in high school, I became a member of the Franciscan Youth in our parish in Pampanga (a province in the Philippines) for almost three years. Always grateful to those young people who helped shape me to be the person I am today.

When I was in elementary school, my mom

would ask me to accompany her to a religious procession in our town. The patroness, Our Lady of Remedies, usually visits all the towns in the province. In my town, people hung garlands of white paper flowers to welcome the Virgin. My mom and I would stand right behind the statue of the Virgin before the procession started. We would arrive early to secure good spots. I vividly remember looking up at the blue mantle of the Blessed Mother thinking that she was covering and protecting me and my mother. That experience had a lasting impact on me. Perhaps, that also cultivated my devotion to the Mother of Christ. Thanks to my mother and to the Mother of Jesus!

Fast forward, it was January of 2009 when a poster at our school bulletin board caught my attention. There was a poster of a hand selecting a 'career' among three choices: Engineering, Medicine, or Priesthood. Of course, since it was a vocation poster, the hand pointed at the priesthood box. Then, a discernment clicked! Priesthood wasn't a popular path, so I decided to take the entrance exam in secret.

Let me share my seminary entrance exam story:

Because I was keeping my plan under wraps, I had two problems: First, the seminary examinations were held only on Saturdays of January. I had to come up with a reason to skip the mandatory school military orientation, community service, and public safety training which was held every Saturday as well. Second, and probably the most daunting, was figuring out how to take the exams without my parents' knowledge. I sensed that they were expecting me to take psychology, nursing, or philosophy at a Catholic University in our province or in Manila (in the capital) as that was brought up during one of the family discussions in previous months. I was scared to disappoint them.

Facing these obstacles, I had to make a good plan... And so, I did!

On the day of the exam, I prepared and dressed up for the school training. My dad dropped me off, and I asked him to wait for my text message first before picking me up (this was unusual because he would usually pick me up

exactly after three hours). As planned, I skipped the training, snuck out of school and rode a 'jeepney' (a mode of transportation in the Philippines). I arrived at Mother of Good Counsel Seminary after an hour-long ride. As soon as I entered the seminary, I was met with suspicious eyes. Rightfully so, because I was wearing a military uniform. I shrugged it off and thought to myself, "I have to do great things for God!" A month later, my dad received a letter of acceptance from the seminary. My parents were surprised and hesitant (especially my mom), but eventually, they gave their full support.

After five years of Philosophy studies, I thought I would finish my priesthood in Pampanga and be a diocesan priest there, but the Lord had a different plan for me.

My whole family immigrated to the United States in 2014 where I continued my journey to priesthood. I am blessed to be with my parents and my sister's young family of four. They live in the East Bay. I visit them during my days off to play with my niece and nephew.

I was ordained during the pandemic on the Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguori, August 1, 2020. Since then, I have been supported by many prayers from family and friends. I am particularly grateful for the spiritual support of two of my great spiritual heroes: St. Therese of the Child Jesus and Servant of God Takashi Paul Nagai. I have read most of their writings and have been inspired by their examples of holy lives.

I love travelling solo. The famous French philosopher Gabriel Marcel once said that we are all "Homo Viator" which means 'man en route' or 'man the journeyer.' My friends would tease me if I could work as a travel agent on the side be-

cause I enjoy preparing their travel itinerary sometimes. I have been to many places, but Japan is dear to my heart. It was one of the Asian countries where Saint Francis Xavier first preached the Gospel, and where Saint Lorenzo Ruiz (the first Filipino saint) was martyred. If you do not see me at the parish, I'm probably in Japan enjoying a bowl of ramen and a hot matcha tea.

I see my life in the lens of a traveler. I am sent among you, wonderful people of St. Gabriel's. Your welcoming embrace, sincere love, and insistent prayers are very much appreciated. I am sent among you here to the great city of St. Francis. I still have a lot to learn in parish life and particularly about myself. Life is a process. It is a never-ending process, and I trust and believe in the process. There is no need to rush. Let us all be patient.

Lastly, I would like to invite all of you on September 21<sup>st</sup> at our 10:00 AM Mass. Archbishop Cordileone will be installing me as your pastor and there will be a reception at the Bedford Hall afterwards. I would love to share food with you. I hope someone from the Filipino community would bring lechon (roasted pork). Just kidding!

As a priest, I impart God's blessings to you. And as a friend, I walk with you side by side. Please pray for me as I pray for you.

I always ask the Blessed Virgin Mary to pray for you and your families. Before the Mass, at the sacristy, I face the image of Our Lady of Fatima and bring all your intentions to her Immaculate Heart.

Your priest and friend,

*Fr. Ian*



## INSTALLATION MASS FOR FR. IAN QUITO

Fr. Ian will be installed as pastor by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone on Sunday, September 21st, at the 10:00 AM Mass. A welcome and congratulatory reception will be held in Bedford Hall directly following the Mass and we would be honored to have you there as we welcome and prayer for our new spiritual leader. Your presence is a powerful way to show our support as a community united in faith. All are welcome!!

If you are interested in helping out with this special day, please email [parishcouncil@sgparish.org](mailto:parishcouncil@sgparish.org) or call the Parish Center at 415-731-6161