

The background is a vibrant stained glass window. At the center is a large eagle with its wings spread, perched on a globe. The eagle is rendered in shades of blue and white, with a yellow and white breast. The surrounding glass is a mosaic of various colors including deep blue, red, green, and gold, with intricate patterns and designs. The Latin text is inscribed in gold lettering on a dark background at the bottom of the window.

# Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church Parish Profile

BLESSED ARE

THE PURE

IN HEART

FOR THEY SHALL

SEE GOD



# A Message of Welcome

Welcome to Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church! We are a parish located on the beautiful Southcoast of Massachusetts, and we are looking for a new rector following the retirement of our rector of 11 plus years and his wife, our former music director. Our search committee, with the help of the vestry and other committed parishioners, has prepared this profile to introduce you to our parish family.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this document. We believe it captures the essence of Saint Gabriel's—yesterday, today, and our hopes for tomorrow.

Warm Regards,

The Saint Gabriel's Search Committee

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Richard Laine, Co-Chair

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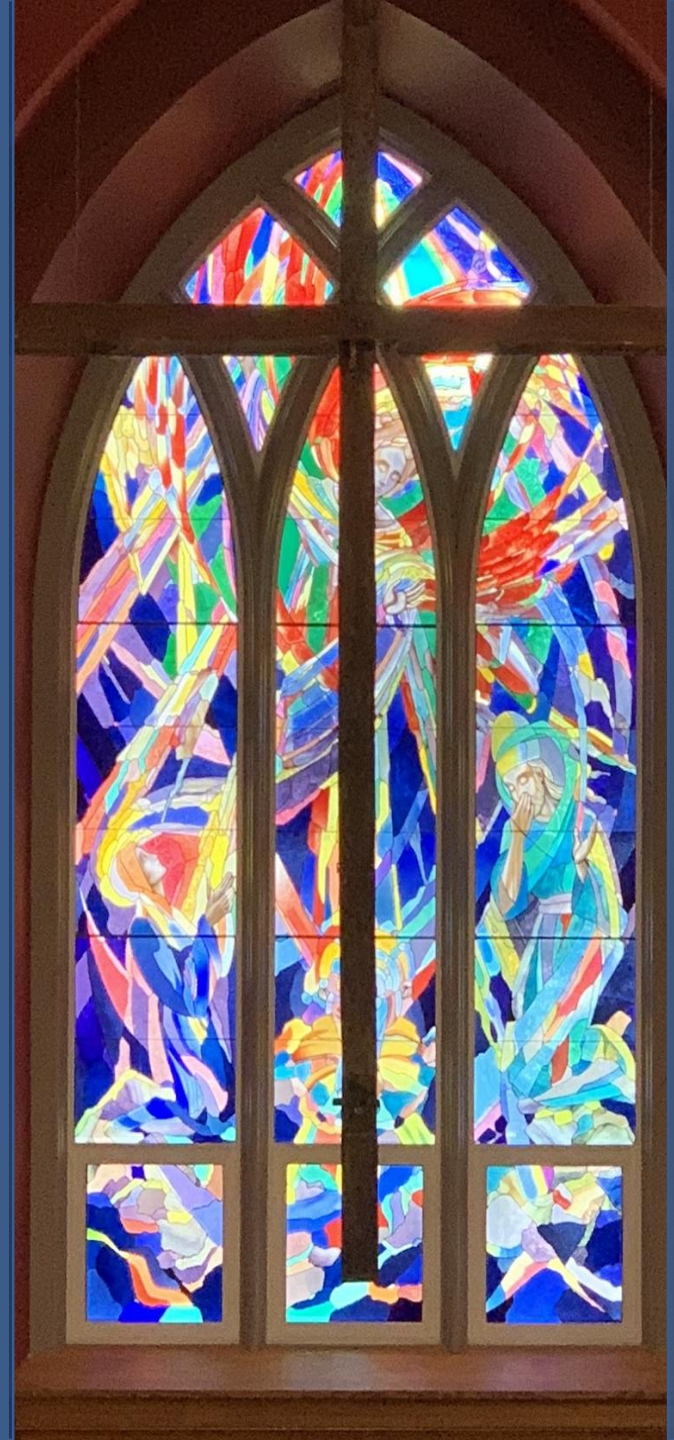
Richard Poyant

Kathleen Reed

Susan Titus



# | Mission Statement & Core Values





# Mission Statement

Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church is a community of faith celebrating and sharing Christ's love.



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*Saint Gabriel's on a Sunday morning is a cherished place to feel welcomed no matter if you are a regular or can only attend once in awhile. The sermons are pertinent, kids are welcomed, the music is beautiful, and the community is special.*

– Anna Ward

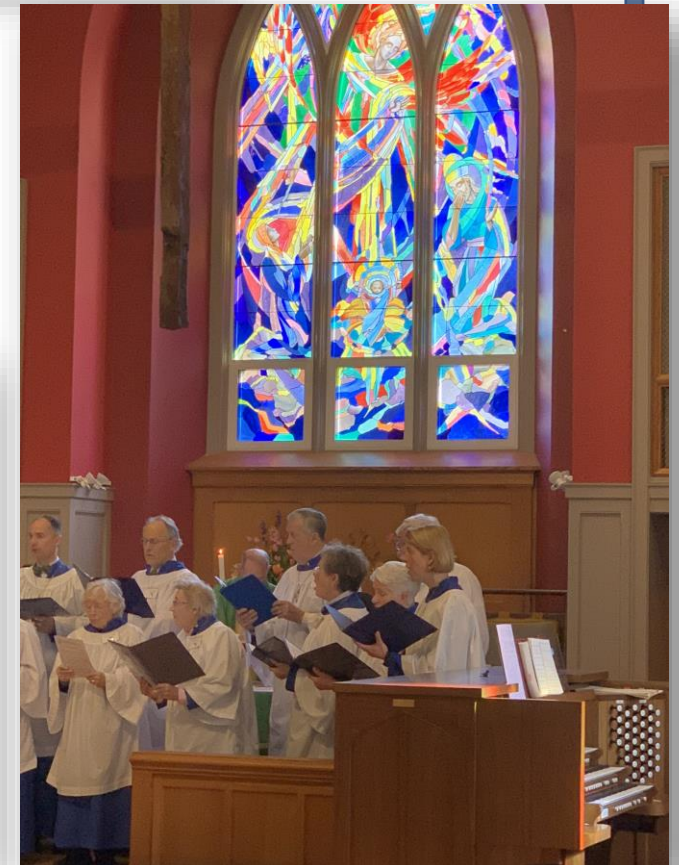


# Core Values

Two years ago, the congregation met in small groups for what were termed *Strategic Vision Listening Sessions* and responded to and discussed five questions regarding the future direction of Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church. From the responses and discussions, three core values were developed. Those core values helped us define our parish and provide the foundation for our goals and aspirations.

Our core values are:

- ⊕ Worship
- ⊕ Outreach
- ⊕ Community of Faith



# Core Values: Worship

✦ **Worship:** *To engage all in a deeper communion with God and Christ together in prayer and praise.*

**Worship** as a community experience develops our sense of church family, an attribute shared by all. **Worship together** strengthens our individual and corporate faith.





# Core Values: Outreach

✦ **Outreach:** *To identify and respond to the needs of our community, both spiritual and secular, individually or in partnership.*

At Saint Gabriel's we strive to listen to and identify spiritual and physical needs within our greater community, to build partnerships, and to translate our faith into action. We act in collaboration with other churches, faith-based organizations, and schools in order to become the hands and feet of Christ in the world. We recognize that our outreach to others benefits ourselves, too, as it helps us grow in empathy and compassion.





# Core Values: Community of Faith

⌘ **Community of Faith:** *To be a church community where all are invited, welcomed, and supported in their lives and faith-journey in Christ.*

What this means for us is that we, as individuals, take the responsibility to truly welcome all who come to us. We are enriched by those who join us, and we pray that we support their faith development.





# Core Values: Summary

For each of the core values, the vestry works with the congregation to develop specific goals on an annual basis. Through the ongoing search for our new rector, the need for flexibility and the willingness to change or modify goals is recognized. The transition provides the opportunity for growth with prayerful consideration of our choices.



*Prayer kneelers  
needlepointed by parishioners*





# Our Ministries

At Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church, we invite you to explore the range of our various ministries, to develop your gifts, and to discover forms of service that will bring you joy and bless others.

The majority of our ministries are clergy-supported and led by lay members of the parish.



# Feeding Ministries

Saint Gabriel's is passionate about feeding our community: both body and soul. Two of our thriving feeding ministries include ***Friendship Tables*** and ***Damien's Food Pantry***.





# Feeding Ministries: Friendship Tables

***Friendship Tables*** meets at Saint Gabriel's Parish Hall the first Thursday of every month and serves a delicious full course dinner at 5:00 pm. There are many helping hands. Most evenings we serve about 60 guests, at times even many more. This is a collaborative ministry with the neighboring Marion Congregational Church, who alternates with Saint Gabriel's in providing monthly meals.



# Feeding Ministries: Damien's Food Pantry

***Damien's Food Pantry*** serves the wider Southcoast Community and is located in Wareham. The second Thursday of each month, a dedicated team of Saint Gabriel volunteers meets at Damien's Food Pantry in Wareham to serve those who are food insecure in our area.





*In 2013, new to Marion and with a 1-year-old in tow, Heather and I began our search for a faith community to call home. Saint Gabriel's was the third or fourth local church that we tried.*

*The very first Sunday we attended, we tentatively left Evann in the nursery and tried to hide in the back, as newcomers do. We were struck by the warmth radiated by Geoff Piper, the number of people who were excited to see a new family in coffee hour, and the comforting feeling that our search for our family's faith community was over!*

*In the years since, our two little boys were baptized, and our oldest son joined the youth group, was confirmed into the faith as an adult, and participated in an amazing missionary experience. We have been blessed by these ministries especially: music, our excellent choir, Moveable Feasts, Shrove Tuesday and its family pancake supper, coffee hour, and services at Silvershell Beach with our brethren from the Congregational Church. Being a part of Saint Gabriel's community of amazing people who love Christ and each other has been a bedrock for our family. It has strengthened us as we've grown, experienced joy, and experienced tragedy. We pray that a rector is called who will exude love and help us expand the blessings of this parish to more young families and our community at large.*

– Scott and Heather Bienz

# Fellowship Ministries

One of the growing strengths of Saint Gabriel's is its welcoming congregation. The church works very hard at this, and every parishioner understands that he or she is an integral part of the welcoming ministry of the church. It is a growing part of our church culture to reach out to anyone we see, particularly those whom we don't yet know, and introduce ourselves both during the service and afterwards.

Our Fellowship Ministries include ***Coffee Angels*** and ***Moveable Feasts***.



*A cast of Saint Gabriel  
brought from Italy by a  
parishioner*



# Fellowship Ministries: Coffee Angels

Our **Coffee Angels** ministry and online scheduling allows parishioners to participate in turns to provide simple foods and great coffee to share after the service. Coffee hour, led by our angels, is a popular gathering after the 10:00 service and is a wonderful way to welcome newcomers and connect with old friends.



# Fellowship Ministries: Moveable Feasts

Our ***Moveable Feasts*** ministry has been an enjoyable, popular fellowship ministry at Saint Gabriel's for well over 20 years. Parishioners are assigned to small groups to allow them to get to know others better over a simple meal during the winter and spring months.





# Choir & Music

***Sing to the Lord a New Song...*** or even a very old one, or the songs of six centuries in between! Saint Gabriel's choir sings them all and in many languages. The choir has grown in seven decades from less than a dozen singers to more than twice that number and, though few are professionally trained, the ensemble is of amazing quality for a church of our size.

The choir is arguably the most faithful organization in the church and beloved by the congregation. David Burnham, our new director and very talented organist, has already won the respect and affection of the choir—no small accomplishment in the short time since the retirement of our beloved music director, Leslie Piper. Saint Gabriel's is passionate about its music!



# Children & Youth Ministries

Saint Gabriel's delights in inviting and including children and youth in all aspects of our parish life. We host a nursery, as well as lower-elementary, upper-elementary, and junior high groups, including acolytes and confirmation classes. During the summer, we have summer fun days that include offerings by parishioners that have included cooking, painting, arts, and crafts, and even meeting some local baby goats!

We hope to continue to attract young families with children, both as a ministry to parents and as a grounding in faith, allowing children to develop and explore their relationship with God and one another in a safe and nurturing environment.





# Children & Youth Ministries: Cub Scouts

When Marion Cub Scout Pack 32 needed a new charter organization, Saint Gabriel's parish stepped up. We saw commonality in shared values and our ability and desire to fill this need in our community. Since 2018, Saint Gabriel's has supported the pack, its leaders, and its programs, including the annual scout Sunday service and soap box derby.

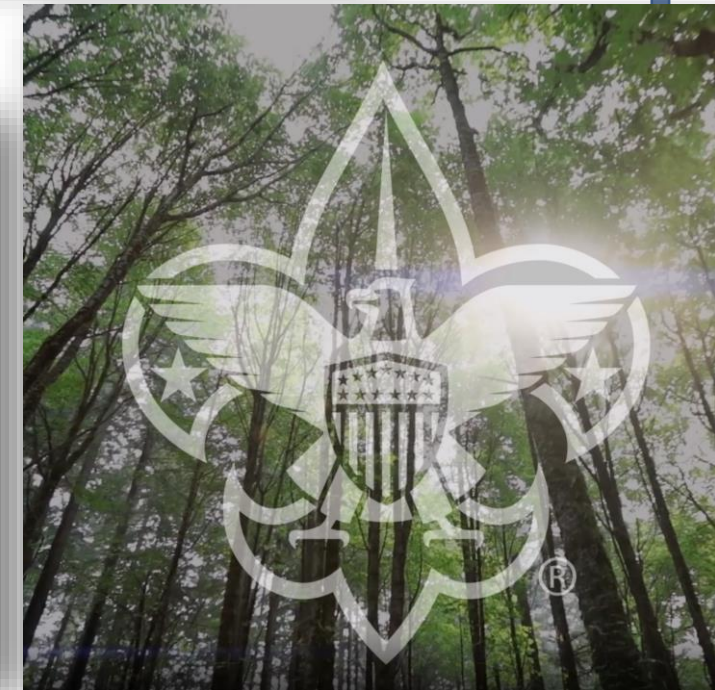


## The Foundation of Scouting

**Scout Oath:** On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight.

**Scout Law:** A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

**Scout Mission:** The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.



*Being a part of Saint Gabriel's has given me the opportunity to go outside my comfort zone, with people I know, and in a familiar setting. Reading for the children's service and being an acolyte have helped me gain confidence. I am more comfortable speaking with adults and volunteering at my old elementary school. These two things would never have happened without the loving, caring, supportive family at Saint Gabriel's.*

— Clara Bonney, Age 12



# Healing Prayer Ministry

For a decade and a half, 15 to 20 parishioners have participated in the Saint Gabriel's Healing Prayer Ministry. This ministry, which includes individual laying-on of hands, anointing, and prayer, is conducted during the Eucharist on Sundays.

Parishioners may choose to receive general blessings and prayers at the altar rail or private, individual prayers just outside the sanctuary.



# Local Outreach & Global Mission

Saint Gabriel's parishioners engage in a variety of local outreach and global mission ministries. The church has sent youth and adult teams to El Salvador, Ecuador, Haiti, and Puerto Rico, as well as domestic missions to Montana, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. We have an active outreach and mission committee. Members of the committee discern and allocate funds to a variety of local, national, and international efforts, providing support to our brothers and sisters in need of a helping hand. We have a particular interest with the local schools and other children's programs in support of our surrounding community.

Last year the church school children sponsored a local animal shelter and this year we will create care packages for the military.

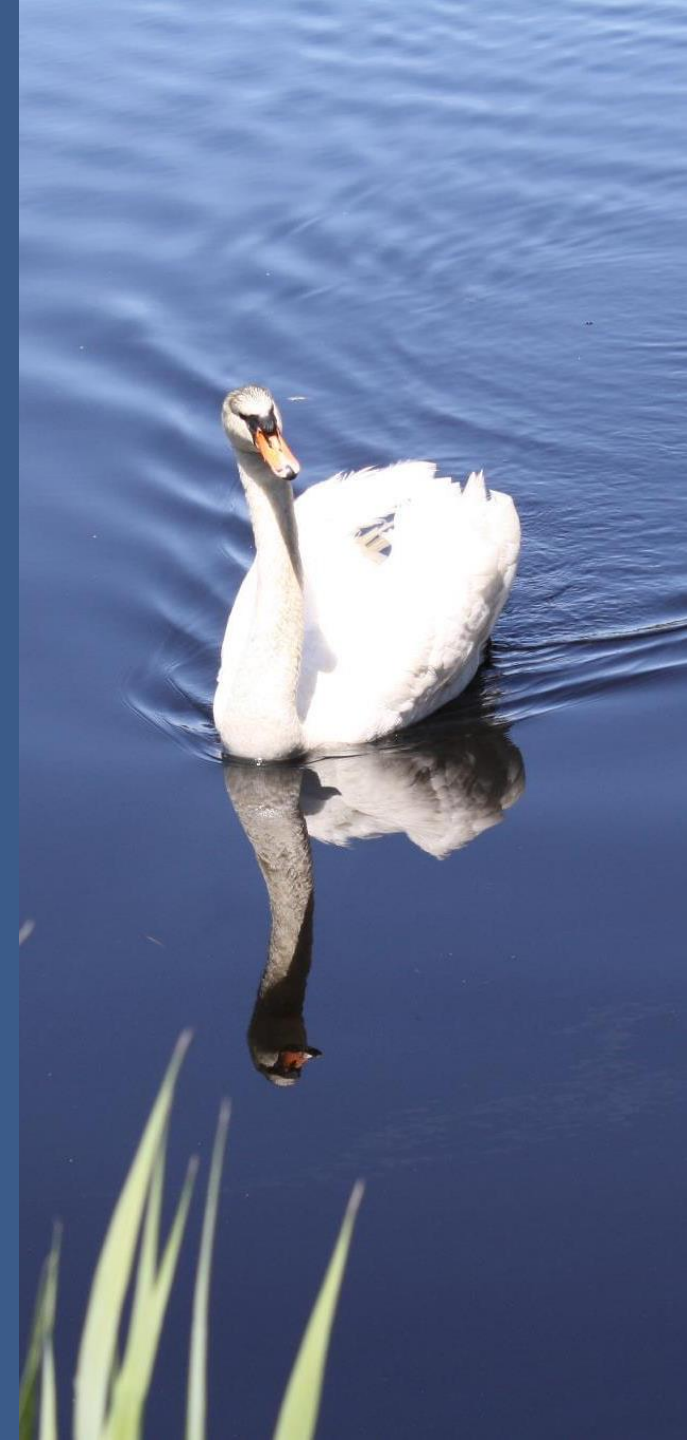
Traditionally, parishioners of all ages physically and financially support the local Habitat for Humanity.



*Parishioner Scott Bienz, a pilot, flew the youth to a mission in West Virginia*



# | Our Settings



# Our History: Our Founding

Wishing to worship locally in the Episcopal tradition, summer visitors to Marion began to meet together in 1871 for morning prayer, sometimes at Silver Shell Beach, at the Bay View Hotel, or at the home of their leader, Rear Admiral Andrew Allen Harwood. Eventually they rented space in the Sippican Seminary.

Parish folklore tells the tale of the admiral who, in peril in a storm at sea, vowed that as a thank offering for his safe return he would build a proper church in Marion and name it for the Archangel Gabriel. A mission was formed in 1873 and the following year the leadership purchased the seminary building, now our beautiful chapel. By 1896, year-round services were offered and the building was consecrated in 1900. The Episcopal Theological School sent priests to lead our worship and in 1920, we formally became Saint Gabriel's. The mid-century saw the congregation vigorously expand and so too did the campus, adding a parish hall and a Sunday school building. By 1950, we were able to support a full-time priest.





# Our History: Our People

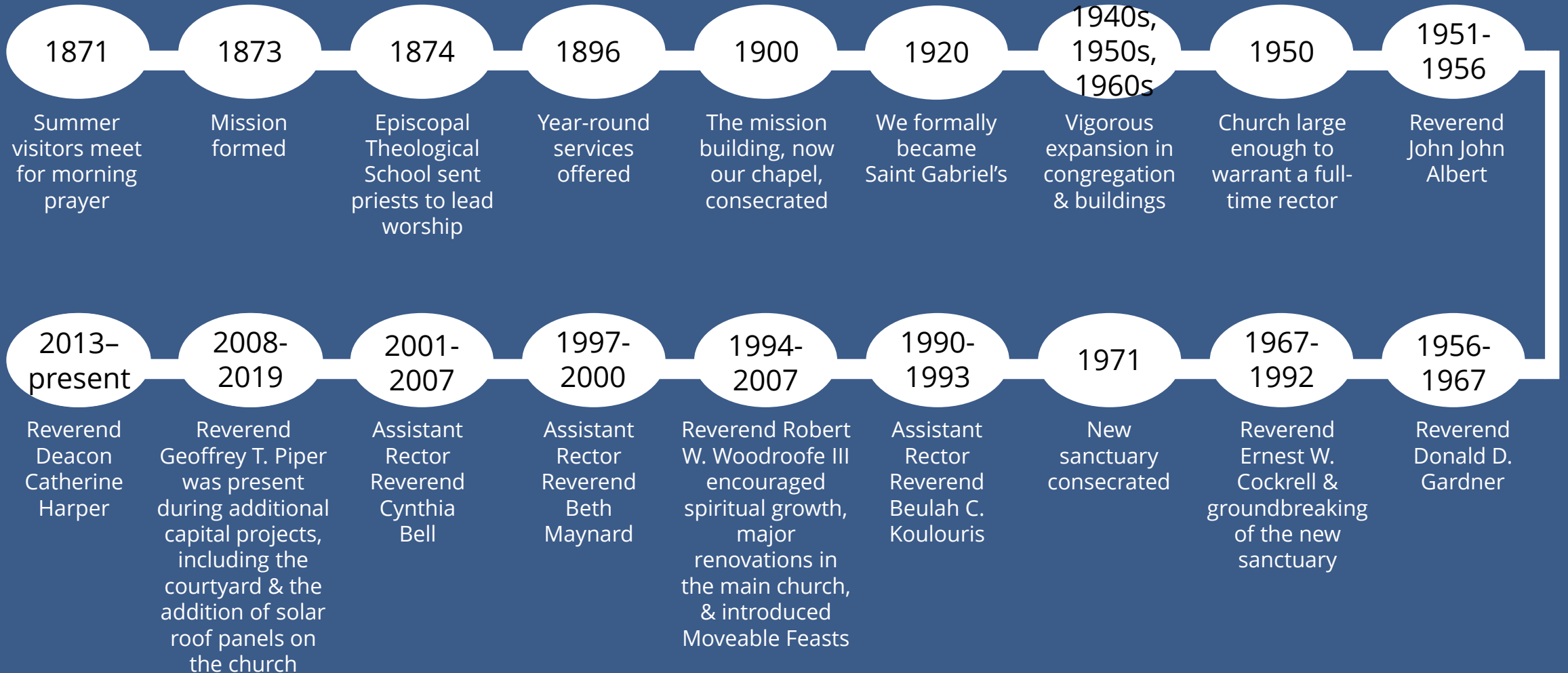
In the century and a half since our founding, we have had five rectors, three assistant priests, and one deacon, who serves today. Saint Gabriel's continues to see healthy growth with some 300 family units at present.

The parish opens its doors to the local community, and many non-parochial organizations call our campus home—a variety of 12-step programs, scouts, a community supper initiative, and a pre-school are just a few.

As we approach our 150th year, we continue to joyously broadcast glad tidings, as did our patron Gabriel.



# Parish Timeline





# Parish Demographics

Our community is located in the small seaside town of Marion, Massachusetts and its parish family resides primarily in the villages of the tri-town: Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester, stretching along the shores of beautiful Buzzards Bay. When the area began to be settled in 1638, a mere 18 years after the founding of the Plymouth Colony, the three towns were one and the area was named Sippican for its local tribe of Native Americans. Although the communities became independent of one another, they continue to be closely tied by regional and municipal interests.



*Marion village center*



*Mattapoisett's Ned's Point  
Lighthouse*

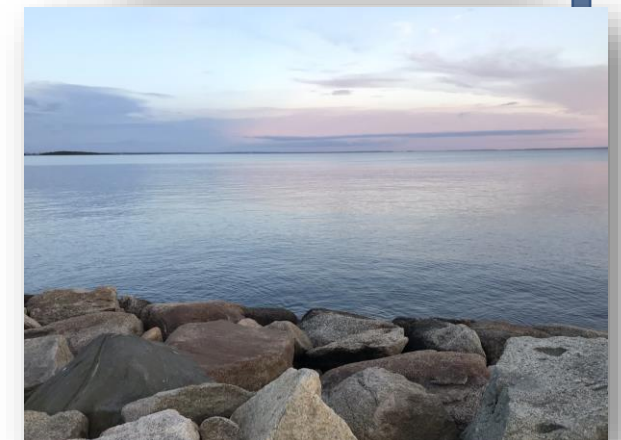


*Rochester cranberry bog*

# Parish Demographics, continued

Our parish demographics reflect that of our communities, which tend to be affluent and well-educated. Socially and politically, our parish is primarily made up of a majority of parishioners who identify themselves as moderate, a quarter are progressive or liberal-leaning, and a small number of parishioners identify themselves as conservative-leaning. Many of our parish families are multigenerational, and although a large portion of our parishioners are over fifty, we celebrate the fact that we have a good number of younger families as well. We are committed to becoming a more diverse church community, reaching out to those in need of a safe and inviting parish home where together we can build relationships and find God.

Marion and Mattapoissett are known as highly desirable residential and sailing communities and inland Rochester is an attractive rural/residential town, designated as a Right to Farm community. While these three towns are the bedrock of our church, we also have parishioners from Wareham in the east, Fairhaven in the west, and to the north the inland communities of Lakeville and Freetown. This speaks to the outreaching and welcoming nature of our parish.





# | Mutual Expectations



# Characteristics We Seek in Our Next Rector

In preparing this profile, the search committee surveyed the parish about what they would value most in our new rector. Most results were to be expected, a few were less so. The vast majority of responses favored a warm, welcoming, and approachable priest, with a sense of humor and a love for children. The hope is for a strong communicator able to express deep personal faith in challenging and inspiring sermons that motivate us to be our best selves. But even as we looked inward, we found a desire to reach outward to engage new young families and address the spiritual and physical needs of the community around us, with a particular eye to being more inclusive wherever possible. As one parishioner put it, "We should all want to go to church because it's inspiring, welcoming, and even fun! Saint Gabriel's needs a rector who inspires us to come. Being 'relevant' matters, and the new rector should have the charisma to serve *all* enthusiastically." But be assured, we anticipate a humble human being as our next rector, not a miracle worker.





# Support for the New Rector

The new rector can expect the enthusiastic support of an energized and skilled laity committed to working collaboratively toward common purposes. Our experienced and competent vestry is eager to work with the rector in crafting and implementing a roadmap for our future. In the congregation are a number of professionals who contribute leadership skills to a variety of ministries. Many parish groups, including bible studies and adult education, are currently lay-led.

The parish is eager to welcome and engage positively with our new rector and to assist in new roles and new initiatives. We will strive to make the rector feel at home as quickly as possible in both the church and the community.



*A tapestry titled  
Benedicite Omnia Opera Domina  
(a morning canticle) was donated by a  
long-time parishioner and hangs in the  
Parish Hall*

*So why does our family pledge and why do we belong to Saint Gabriel's? We pledge because this community has power. I want my children to feel rooted here and to feel that they belong. I want them to grow up and remember the Mrs. Tituses, Dildines, Fredericks, Pierces—these ladies who I still can't call by their first names and who look exactly the same as they did when I was 10. They have not aged! We love that Cathy, Geoff, Leslie, and everyone at Saint Gabriel's are teaching our children, reminding us to be good citizens, and to give in real and powerful ways to others. Where else can you find a supportive community like this right now? You won't find it on the internet or the soccer field. It's here, in our church.*

*The Quakers have this saying "holding you in the light." It means they are sending you prayers and love especially during hard times. We feel you at Saint Gabriel's—holding our family in the light through your kind words, warm handshakes, hugs, listening ears, and encouragement. Why do we belong to and pledge to Saint Gabriel's? We give to Saint Gabriel's because we love this community.*

*—Amy Casi*



# Compensation & Benefits

In accordance with the Diocese of Massachusetts guidelines, Saint Gabriel's Episcopal Church will offer a very competitive compensation package that includes a base salary, a generous housing and utilities allowance, pension contributions, medical, life and disability insurance, matching social security (SECA) payments, automobile expense reimbursement, continuing education, and a rector discretionary fund. In recognition of local real estate values, the parish also offers our new rector housing purchase assistance.



# | Appendix





# Financial: Endowment & Annual Budget

As a small community church, Saint Gabriel's is very blessed with the generous financial support of our parishioners. Not only has our annual budget been able to support a number of administrative and parish activities, Saint Gabriel's has also made a positive contribution to a number of local community outreach organizations. Our church has an increasing endowment that has grown substantially over the years not only from our Admiral Harwood Society program and the diocesan 2012 Together Now Campaign, but also through superior investment returns in both the stock and bond markets.

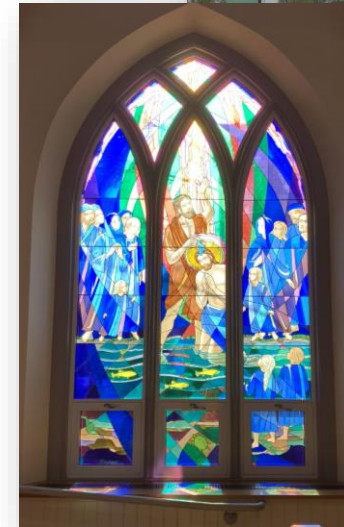
Our annual budget is funded with pledges from our members. Any shortfalls are covered with funds taken from our endowment. Our vestry's policy is to not utilize more than 4% of the average year end endowment balance as calculated over the previous five years. In the past five years, the use of the endowment funds has varied between 1.3% to 2.4% of the endowment value.



# Financial: Infrastructure, Maintenance, & Volunteerism

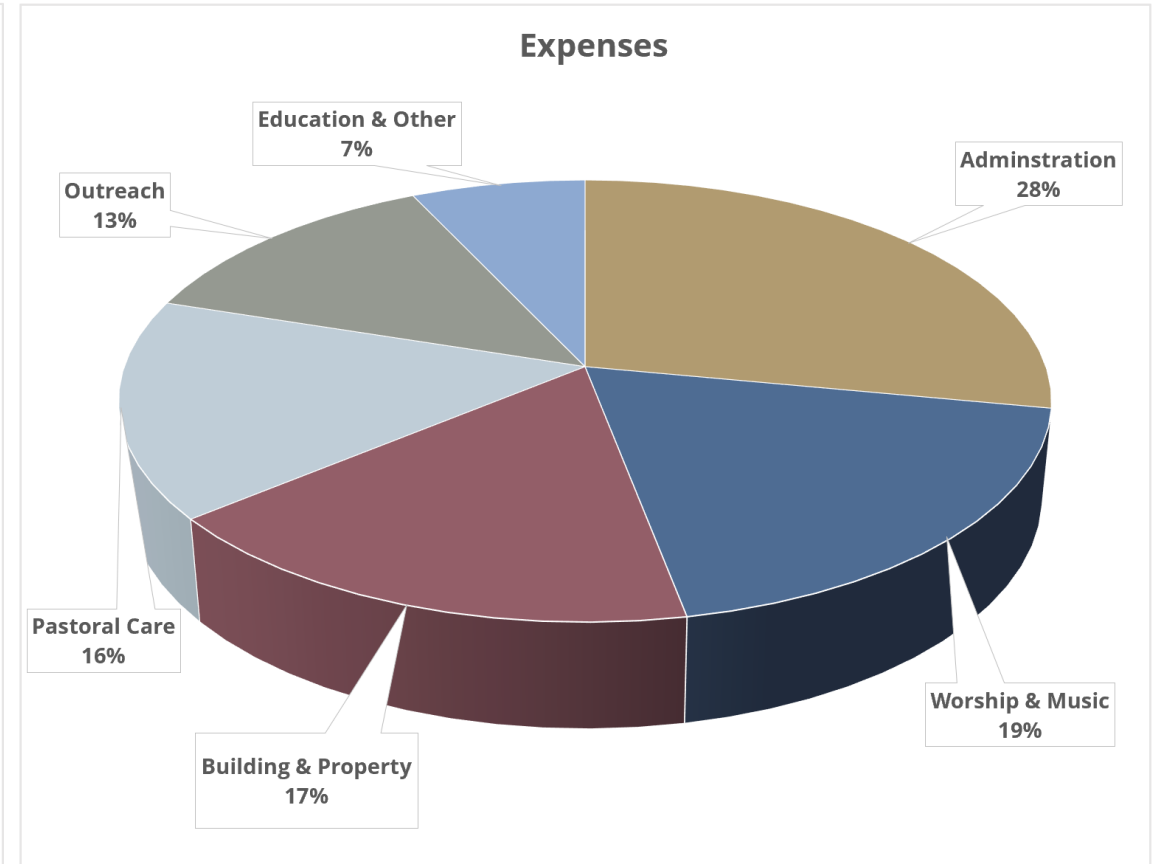
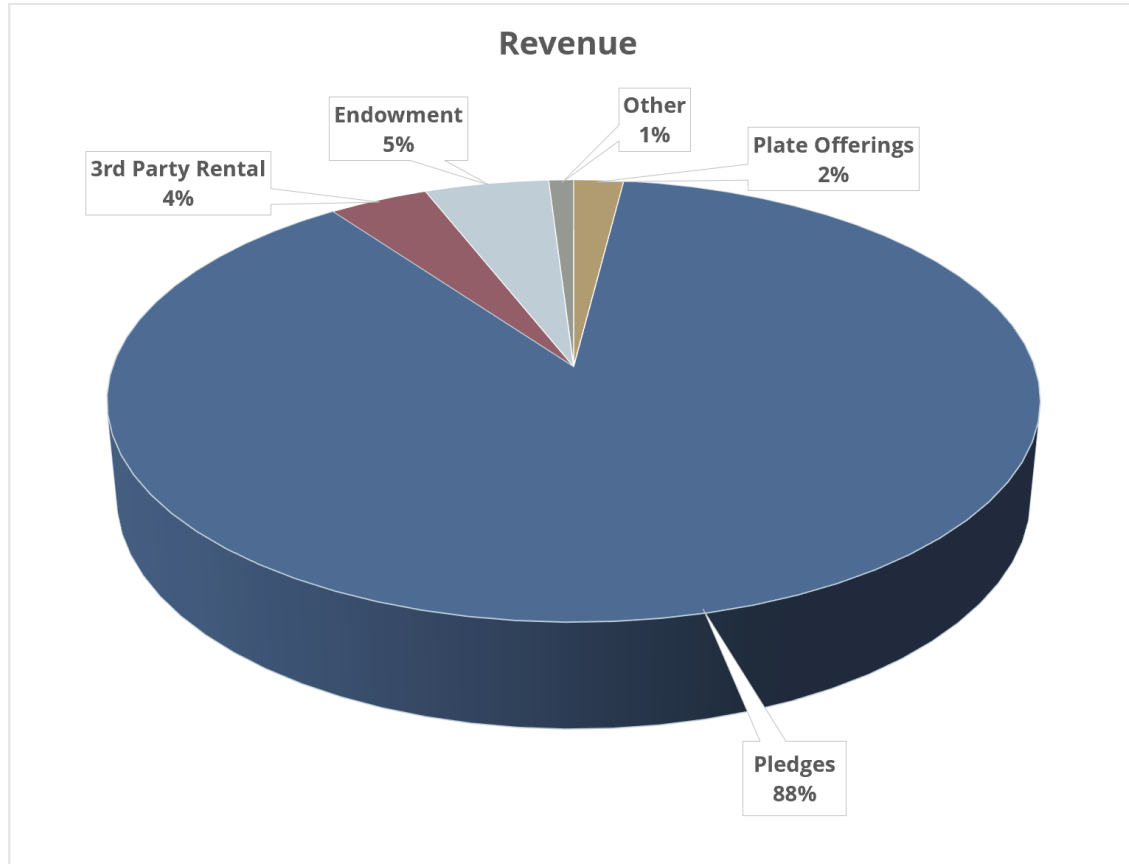
Numerous facility infrastructure improvement and maintenance projects have been fully funded by off-budget capital campaigns. These include recently installed solar panels that have reduced our electrical expense by approximately 72%, installation of two new stained glass windows in the main church, complete renovation of our courtyard and approaches to the church with granite walkways and curbing, replacement and/or refurbishment of the clapboard siding throughout the church buildings, and a chapel bell tower overhaul. The security and fire alarm systems are presently being upgraded.

Saint Gabriel's is also blessed with a very strong sense of volunteerism that accomplishes numerous parish activities and goals with no corresponding stress on the annual budget. Our new rector will enjoy the benefit of working with the many individuals who make Saint Gabriel's a sustainable parish community.









# Financial: Revenue & Expenses



# Community Demographics: Marion

Saint Gabriel's is located in the heart of Marion's quaint village within steps of beautiful Sippican Harbor. Marion is conveniently located just one hour from Boston (also close to the MBTA commuter rail into the city), 40 minutes from Providence, Rhode Island, and 40 minutes from Hyannis. Also, the ferries to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard are just 15 minutes away in New Bedford. We have all of the attractions of Cape Cod, but without the tourists and traffic! In addition to its deep-water harbor, which is favored by sailors and boating enthusiasts, Marion offers sheltered beaches, golf and tennis facilities, a yacht club, and boutique shopping and dining. Marion is a town where small town values, civic duty, and the tradition of neighbor helping neighbor are still alive.

-  **Population:** 5,123 residents
-  **Land Area:** 14.6 square miles
-  **Median Home Price:** \$427,500
-  **Pre-School:** The Loft School, Project Grow, Children's Academy
- Elementary School:** Sippican School (grades K-6) 447 students, 13 to 1 student/teacher ratio
- Middle School:** Old Rochester Junior High (grades 7 & 8) 437 students, 12.9 to 1 student/teacher ratio
- High School:** Old Rochester High School (grades 9-12). 775 students, 14.5 to 1 student/teacher ratio
- Tabor Academy** (grades 9-12): Known as the *School by the Sea*, Tabor is a private preparatory boarding and day school, home to students from all over the world, offering accelerated academics, competitive sports, and an enriched educational experience. Tabor also offers one of the most popular summer programs in New England, for children ages 6 and up.



# Community Demographics: Mattapoisett

Mattapoisett is a pleasant New England coastal town, with a large harbor on Buzzards Bay. The town offers a wide range of living conditions varying from waterfront residences and colonial village homes to unique suburban developments and farm residences. Mattapoisett is also conveniently located just one hour from Boston, 40 minutes from Providence, Rhode Island, and 40 minutes from Hyannis. Mattapoisett has something to offer all ages: sailing, tennis, golf, art, beautiful beaches, gift shops, and restaurants.



**Population:** 6,268



**Land Area:** 16.5 square miles



**Median Home Price:** \$475,000



**Pre-Schools:** The Loft School, Shining Tides, Project Grow, Little People's College

**Elementary:** Old Hammondtown (grades K-3), 192 students, 11.7 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**Center School:** (grades 4-6) 249 students, 11.9 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**Middle School:** Old Rochester Junior High (grades 7 & 8) 437 students, 12.9 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**High School:** Old Rochester High School (grades 9-12). 775 students, 14.5 to 1 student/teacher ratio

# Community Demographics: Rochester

From the wide expanses of farmland to the winding roads bordered by tall grasses and cranberry bogs, Rochester offers a rural-residential community atmosphere. Rochester is a Right to Farm community, which supports agricultural initiatives and protects farmlands within the Town of Rochester.



**Population:** 5,232



**Land Area:** 36.4 square miles



**Median Home Price:** \$419,425



**Pre-Schools:** Project Grow, The Loft School, Countryside

**Elementary:** Rochester Memorial (grades PK-6) 511 students, 13.1 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**Middle School:** Old Rochester Junior High (grades 7 & 8) 437 students, 12.9 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**High School:** Old Rochester High School (grades 9-12). 775 students, 14.5 to 1 student/teacher ratio



# Community Demographics: Fairhaven

Fairhaven is a lovely seaside community on the shore of Buzzards Bay, directly across the harbor from the famed whaling port of New Bedford. It is located approximately 50 miles south of Boston, Massachusetts and 35 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island.



**Population:** 25,065



**Land Area:** 14.1 square miles



**Median Home Price:** \$301,667



**Pre-Schools:** Little People's College, Learning House Pre-School, Walnut Grove School House

**Elementary:** East Fairhaven (grades PK-5) 412 students, 15.2 to 1 student/ teacher ratio, Leroy Wood (grades PK-5) 476 students, 16.5 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**Middle School:** Hastings (grades 7 & 8) 476 students, 13.6 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**High School:** Fairhaven High School (grades 9-12). 661 students, 13.4 to 1 student/teacher ratio

# Community Demographics: Wareham

Located at the head of Buzzards Bay, Wareham calls itself *The Gateway to Cape Cod*. It includes the villages of Onset, East Wareham, and West Wareham. Wareham is home to the Gateman, one of the teams in the Cape Cod Baseball League—a 100-year-old summer league that feeds many players to the major leagues.



**Population:** 21,822



**Land Area:** 46.3 square miles



**Median Home Price:** \$298,300



**Pre-Schools:** Little People's College, Best Friends Pre-School

**Elementary:** John William Decas (grades PK-2) 603 students, 12.7 to 1 student/teacher ratio, Minot Forest (grades 3-4) 358 students, 14.7 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**Middle School:** Wareham Middle (grades 5-7) 517 students, 13.5 to 1 student/teacher ratio

**High School:** Wareham Senior High School (grades 8-12). 590 students, 8.5 to 1 student/teacher ratio  
Wareham Cooperative Alternative School (grades 9-12) 58 students, 20.1 to 1 student/teacher ratio



# We Welcome You to Apply to Saint Gabriel's

To be considered, please submit a cover letter, resume or CV, OTM Profile, and sermon samples electronically to the email address listed below. Call Rick or Bill with questions.

## Contact Information:

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