



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

March 2019



Ash Wednesday March 6

Mass and Ashes

8:00 AM
and

12:00 Noon

Saint Gabriel Church

7:00 PM

Saint Ann Church

Ash Wednesday Marks the Beginning of Lent

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6. Since earliest times the Church has set aside these forty days as a period for prayer, penance, sacrifice and almsgiving, a time of preparation for the great celebration of Easter.

The Lord speaks through the prophet Joel in the first reading on Ash Wednesday, *Render your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord your God.* As Lent approaches we are about to embark on a spiritual journey to a closer relationship with God.

We are pleased to provide the *Magnificat Lenten Companion*, a collection of daily reflections and prayers intended to make your journey more fruitful. Copies are available at the church doors.

The schedule for Ash Wednesday Masses and the distribution of ashes appears at left. On the right is the March schedule for Stations of the Cross, a traditional Lenten devotion that follows the path of Christ from Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb.

March Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings
7:00 PM

March 8

Stations for Peace
Saint Ann Church

March 15

Stations with
Father Michael Clay
Saint Gabriel Church

March 22

Praying the Stations
with Pope John Paul II
Saint Ann Church

March 29

Praying the Stations
with Children
Saint Gabriel Church

You may draw closer to the Lord at Eucharistic Adoration, offered on Mondays at 7 PM. In the quiet of early evening spend an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.



At the Foot of The Cross - Two Opportunities for Music and Reflection

The theme will be *At the Foot of the Cross* when the Saint Ann Choir, under the direction of Peter DeMarco, presents An Afternoon of Music and Reflection for Lent on **Sunday, March 10 at 4:00 PM** at Saint Ann Church. Deacon Tom Cabeen will offer the reflections.

At the Foot of the Cross is also the theme for a Lenten Mission on **Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 PM** at Mount Sacred Heart Chapel, on the property of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 259 Benham Street in Hamden. Peter and the Saint Ann Choir will provide the music for this special evening, with meditations by Amy Ekeh, Deacon Art Miller and Sr. Virginia Herbers, ASCJ. (You may recall that this event was canceled last year because of snow. Snow date for this year: Friday, March 15.)

Lenten Reflection - Saint Joseph's Place in the Earthly Trinity

The Men of Saint Joseph invite all parishioners to join them on **Tuesday, March 19 at 7:00 PM** at Saint Gabriel Church for a timely Lenten reflection by Aaron Joseph. On this, the Feast of Saint Joseph, Aaron will reflect on the patron of the Church and of our Archdiocese. What place does Saint Joseph have in our devotional lives? How are we to understand his universal place alongside Jesus and Mary? You'll want to hear Aaron's thoughts on *Saint Joseph's Place in the Earthly Trinity*.

Aaron has made private perpetual vows to live as a consecrated disciple of Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Joseph and Mary and has begun a lay apostolate to promote Saint Joseph's universal patronage. Parishioners and friends, men and women, adults and young people are invited to this Lenten presentation.



Care for the Most Vulnerable Through CRS Rice Bowl



Encounter Jesus through others this Lent by using that simple cardboard box, the CRS Rice Bowl. When you put your dimes, quarters and dollars into the boxes you are giving alms, putting your faith into action and helping Catholic Relief Services provide assistance to the neediest people in some 45 countries around the world. 25% of your donations stay in the

Archdiocese of Hartford, supporting local efforts to end hunger and poverty.

You'll find Rice Bowls at the doors of both churches and at our March GIFT sessions. Please take one. Each box comes with a calendar that features activities, reflections and stories to guide you through the 40 days of Lent.

Come one, Come all!
Don't Miss Saint Raphael's First-Ever Ministry Fair
March 30 and 31 After All Weekend Masses

A Ministry Fair - a wonderful opportunity to meet and mingle with the many Saint Raphael parishioners involved in more than 30 ministries in our parish. Some of the ministries had been active and in place before the parish merger. Now we are stronger and better than ever! Come see.

Stop in to the Parish Hall (at the Saint Gabriel or Saint Ann campus) after any Mass on Saturday, March 30 or Sunday, March 31. Enjoy tasty baked goods and fresh-brewed coffee. See some old friends, and make some new ones. Not all the faces will be familiar, but they'll all be welcoming.

Don't miss the displays and the information stations. They'll be staffed by ministry representatives anxious to let you know what makes their ministries so special. Think about the gifts and talents you've received, blessings from the Holy Spirit, and how you can share those gifts with others.

Find a ministry that speaks to your heart and sign on. Sign-up sheets will be available. Please use a sign-up sheet even if you're already part of a ministry. That helps us keep good records.

It promises to be a great weekend. According to the renowned Ministry Weather Service, the forecast for March 30/31 is "FAIR, as in Ministry Fair." See you there!



Support Our HomeFront Ministry
Virtual Desserts and a Real, Delicious Pork Roast Dinner

HomeFront, the one-day first Saturday of May repair blitz that assists a local homeowner in need, is part of the fabric of Saint Raphael Parish ministry. Some participate by wielding hammers, saws and paintbrushes. Others, not so blessed with talents in the trades, support the ministry by raising funds to cover the sponsorship fee and to purchase materials, supplies and insurance coverage.



You can help our HomeFront team by purchasing virtual desserts through our popular Bakeless Bake Sale. Look for forms online (saintraphaelmilford.org) and at the church doors. Order dozens of no-calorie, imagination only pies, cakes, eclairs, cookies. Please order by March 31.

Another HomeFront fundraiser is Rose Marie Marmolejo's annual (and delicious) Pork Roast Dinner, scheduled for Sunday, April 7 in the Saint Gabriel Parish Hall. Appetizers will be served starting at 3:30 PM, dinner at 4:30. \$10 for adults, \$3 for children under 12. Rose Marie will be taking reservations starting March 3 after the 11 o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel's or you may call her at 203-378-5508. If you are able to donate a raffle prize, please let her know. Thanks very much.

Celebration of the Easter Triduum

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum—from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day, unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery.

The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil, celebrated this year on Saturday, April 20 at 8:00 PM at Saint Gabriel Church.

Free Bus Shuttle to Saint Gabriel Church

Due to the anticipated attendance at Mass on this most sacred night and because of limited parking, the parish is providing a free shuttle service by Durham Bus Company from the Walnut Beach parking area to Saint Gabriel's from 7 to 11 PM.

If you would like to take advantage of this free bus service, please call Monica Pang, Administrative Assistant, at 203-874-0634.

Taste of the Fair
Starting March 16/17

Special events usually begin with a buzz. *Have you heard? Did you know?* For movie releases there's a trailer. For city-wide events sometimes a sky ad or aerial banner.

For this 1st-ever Saint Raphael Ministry Fair the Pastoral Council has recruited a team of speakers who will create that pre-Fair buzz by sharing a taste of their ministries at weekend Masses beginning March 16/17.

No further details had been released at press time. (All the names had apparently been placed in hermetically sealed jars. That alone should create a buzz!)

Watch and, more importantly, listen as the speakers explain what it means to share their time and talents by serving others through ministry.

Health, Wellness
and Information Fair

Saturday, April 13
10 AM - 1 PM
Parish Center,
Saint Ann Campus

"Early Bird" Vendors:

Alzheimer's Association
Connecticut Chapter

CapTel Captioned Phones

Connecticut Council
of Problem Gambling

Connecticut Dept. of Tourism

NAMI Connecticut

New England Smart Energy

Sunset Shores

Adult Day Health Center

We're expecting approximately 30 vendors and two speakers.

Stop by for a few minutes to visit a specific vendor, or plan to spend additional time and learn more in a wide variety of areas.

The fair is free for everyone. Light refreshments will be served.

For questions contact Maria, Tomasetti (as on page 3).

The Nicene Creed

The Church
Friday, March 22
6:00 - 8:30 PM

Sunday, March 24
12:00 Noon - 2:30 PM

Begin with a catered dinner.
Parish Center Hall
501 Naugatuck Ave. Campus

GIFT's March Topic: The Church

During this month's program we will learn more about our belief in "one, holy, catholic and apostolic" Church. We will explore:

These four Marks of the Church

Images of the Church
(People of God, Sacrament and Body of Christ)

Ministries and Mission of the Church

We will learn more about how the Church today lives the mission of Jesus and the early Church. And we'll review practical ways for Church members to live their baptismal call as active participants in the Catholic community.

Come share a meal with the parish family on Friday or on Sunday. Therese LeFever (stgabrielmilfordformation@gmail.com) or Maria Tomasetti (203-988-8598 or atomasetti@snet.net) will be happy to answer any questions you have about the GIFT program.

GIFT Lenten Activities, Sunday, March 10

The First Sunday of Lent is the perfect time to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving as we prepare ourselves for Jesus' resurrection and the joy of the Easter season. Be with us in the Parish Center Hall (501 Naugatuck Ave. Campus) from noon until 1:30 for pizza and preparation.

T4S

Meets Monday, March 11, 6:30-7:30 PM



T4S members, join us for pizza and creativity at the 501 Naugatuck Ave campus on Monday, March 11. We'll be assembling Rosary Beads for the parish's First Communion children, a project that takes time, so we'd be grateful for a big turnout.

Winter Family Fun Night lived up to its billing. The proof: Michael's big smile in the photo at left. And what a great team we had for the Souper Bowl of Caring! With your help and the generosity of the parish family we had lots of donations for Beth-El's shelter and soup kitchen ministries.

Michael Lam with his sock snowman, Winter Family Fun Night, 2/9. T4S is open teens in Grades 7-12. Questions? Contact Mrs. LeFever or Maria Tomasetti, as above.

Following up on Peter's Great Australian Adventure

What does a music director do when he visits a good friend in Australia? Why, he has an adventure! Peter DeMarco's whirlwind adventure began in Brisbane, where he was whisked from the airport to perform with Father Rob Galea for a biannual gathering of over 500 enthusiastic Vietnamese young people. Next day, on to Queensland and lunch with Father Rod Ward, medical doctor and pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, a cluster of 5 churches with one pastor.

Next, a ferry ride to Magnetic Island, where scooters are the preferred method of transportation. Peter cites the island's Horseshoe Bay as a favorite place - scenic beach, warm ocean water and restaurants with "delicious fresh fish."

Then on to Melbourne and visits to koalas, pythons, kangaroos, kookaburras and such at the animal parks.

To no one's surprise, Peter and Father Rob spent some time writing new music before flying back to Los Angeles together. After a day in Santa Monica Peter headed home, while Father Rob went to Panama, where he sang for the Vigil Prayer Service with Pope Francis, part of World Youth Day. Peter's already planning to return, maybe this time with tickets for the Australian Open.



GIFT Sacramental Program Schedule

First Communion Learning Session #2

Saturday, March 2
10 AM - 12 Noon
Parish Center Hall
501 Naugatuck Ave. Campus
Required for First Communion
Children w/parent or guardian

Confirmation

Sunday, March 3

Noon - 1:30 PM
Sacred Art and Music
including church and sacristy tour
Saint Ann Children's Chapel
Begin with Pizza
Required for candidates.

Spring Into Scripture Revelation Redux



Seals Trumpets Plagues

Saturday, March 9, 10 AM
Thursday, March 14, 7 PM
Saint Ann Parish Center

Revisit Revelation during this month's *Spring Into Scripture* sessions. Mary Lee Frisbie will look at more 7s - the seals, trumpets and plagues - and the interludes - of Chapters 6-16. A fascinating examination of the most challenging book of the Bible. All are welcome.



March Highlights: Lenten Focus, Ministry Fair

Welcome to March and its change of seasons. Before winter melts into spring on March 20 we will move from Ordinary Time into the season of Lent. As you will see, most of our parish activities this month have a Lenten focus, opportunities for us to pause, pray and reflect as we prepare for Easter.

Lent We are to give alms during Lent, to share God's gifts with others. We can make donations to worthy causes like CRS Rice Bowl. In addition, we can give of our time and talents by sharing them with others. Our first-ever Saint Raphael Parish Ministry Fair will be held March 30/31, a great way to give alms through service.

And let's not forget another March highlight: Have a happy St. Patrick's Day!

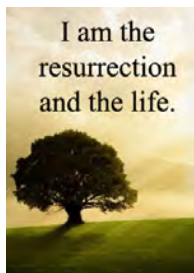
The Parish Press

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In Memoriam



I am the
resurrection
and the life.

Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Veronica Soloman Kenneth J. Neeley
Joseph Wheeling Frank Rakoczy
Rachel White-Reilly Anthony Capuano
Lawrence Shallenberger

May they know eternal peace and joy in the heavenly kingdom

Welcome!

to the newest members of our parish family,

Logan J. Rivera
Maeve Meehan
Mack August Berlingo

Logan was baptized on Sunday, January 20 at Saint Ann Church. Maeve received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, February 3 at Saint Gabriel's. Mack received the gift of new life in Baptism on Sunday, February 17 at Saint Ann's.

God bless you, Logan, Maeve and Mack. May you walk always in the light of His love.



Bereavement Support Meets Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 PM



If you are struggling because of the death of someone you love we invite you to meet with the parish's Bereavement Support Group on Sunday afternoon, March 10 at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

In this confidential setting you may find comfort as you share the pain that often follows loss. For additional information please call Joanne (203-877-4020).

Beth-El Pizza Dinners this Month

Wednesday evening pizza dinners will be served at Beth-El on March 13 and March 27, starting at 5:30.

Like to be part of this cheesy, saucy ministry? Have questions? Please call Liz, our hardworking pizza dinner ministry chair, at 203-874-6225.

April Parish Press Info Due March 11

Got news for April's *Parish Press*? Please send it to parishpress06460@gmail.com by Monday, March 11 or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you.

Spring Ahead! Adjust Your Clocks! Daylight Savings Time Begins on March 10

Coffee And, Gift Shop, Scrip A 3-Fer March 9 and 10

It's the last *CoffeeAnd* of winter so be sure to stop in to the Parish Center after Masses at Saint Ann's. Pick up Scrip cards, see what's new at the Card & Gift Shop. We look forward to seeing you. Don't be confused by the time change.

