



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

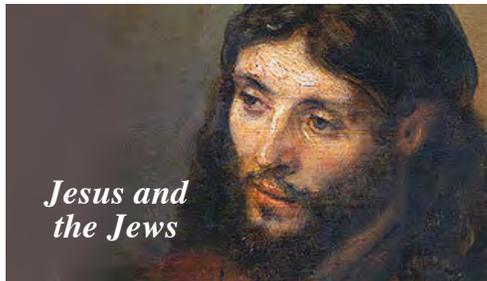
March 2020



Lent - A Journey of Opportunities

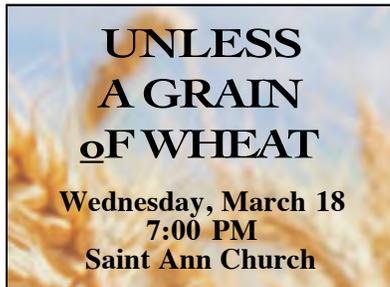
We are on our way. Marked with ashes and encouraged to “repent and believe in the Gospel” we’ve set out on a journey of prayer, reflection, fasting, almsgiving. Lent is a season and a gift, a special time to look more deeply into ourselves and to turn our hearts and minds to the Lord. In the introduction to his booklet *Lenten Blessings Await* - available at the church doors - Father Joe Sica encourages us to “live, learn, grow, and rejoice” as we make the journey. The parish offers us a variety of opportunities to do just that.

During Stations of the Cross we can walk with Jesus from his condemnation to his crucifixion. The schedule for this traditional devotion appears at right. *Spring Into Scripture* offers a different perspective on Our Lord this month. Amy Ekeh and the Saint Ann Choir will present a Wednesday evening of music and reflection.



Weren't “the Jews” among the crowd on Good Friday who had shouted “Crucify him!?” And what about the role of “the Jews” in the death of Jesus?

Be with us for *Spring Into Scripture* as Mary Lee Frisbie looks into the fascinating, controversial and deeply layered topic, *Jesus and the Jews*. No previous Biblical study required, simply a desire to learn more about God’s Word.



An Evening of Music & Reflection for Lent Here’s Your Special Invitation:

Let’s come together as a parish family during the rich season of Lent for a prayerful, peaceful evening of music and meditation. Join us on Wednesday, March 18 at 7 pm at Saint Ann Church for a Saint Raphael Lenten Evening: *Unless a Grain of Wheat* with Peter DeMarco, the Saint Ann Choir and writer and retreat director Amy Ekeh (find out more about Amy at amyek.com). Settle into this sacred season as we ponder the Gospel stories of the death of Jesus and what they mean for the way we live our lives. All are welcome!

Pray the Rosary During Lent

The Rosary seems particularly appropriate for our Lenten journey. Mary’s beautiful prayer is portable: you can pray it in church, in your room, around the dinner table, when you’re stuck in traffic or waiting in line; by yourself, with your family or with other parishioners. Pressed for time? Pray a single decade - perhaps one of the Sorrowful Mysteries. You are invited to pray the Rosary before 8 am morning Mass at Saint Ann’s on Monday and Friday, after 8 am morning Mass at Saint Gabriel’s on Tuesday and Thursday and at noon on Tuesdays in the Saint Ann Children’s Chapel.

Lively Scripture Discussion Thursday Mornings

Looking for a better understanding of the readings at weekend Masses? Visit the Children’s Chapel on Thursday morning (9:30-11) for some lively, in-depth discussion of the upcoming Sunday Scriptures. Led by a facilitator, the group uses Biblical resources, considers the history and culture of the times and shares questions and ideas to enrich their understanding. A wonderful opportunity, for Lent or any season.

Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings
7:00 PM

March 6

Stations for Peace
Saint Gabriel Church

March 13

Praying the Stations
with Children (Teen led)
Saint Ann Church

March 20

On the Way of the
Cross with Saint Paul
Saint Gabriel Church

March 27

Way of the Cross Toward
Justice and Peace
Saint Ann Church

April 3

Mary’s Way of the Cross
Saint Gabriel Church

First Sunday of Lent GIFT Session

March 1, 12 Noon - 1:30 PM
Saint Ann Parish Center Hall

On the first day of the first full week of Lent GIFT families will come together to learn more about the season and to think about how to prepare for Easter through prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

GIFT invites all parishioners to be part of this special gathering.

Come and share pizza (a GIFT favorite) then check out the various activity centers. You’ll find helpful suggestions and interesting information for all ages - children, preteens, teens and adults. Please plan to stop by.

A Social Justice Meditation

“If you want to cultivate peace, protect creation.” *Pope Benedict XVI*

Like his predecessor Saint John Paul II and his successor, Pope Francis, Pope Benedict XVI accepted the reality of human-caused climate change and recognized it as a moral issue. He was known as “The Green Pope” and during his pontificate the Vatican became the world’s first sovereign state to become carbon-neutral: all of the small country’s greenhouse gas emissions are offset by renewable energies and carbon credits. He also addressed the phenomenon of “environmental refugees” several years before others noted the environment’s contribution to the current refugee crisis.

In his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate* (2009), Pope Benedict wrote, “*The environment is God’s gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. The Church has a responsibility towards creation, and she considers it her duty to exercise that responsibility in public life, in order to protect earth, water and air as gifts of God the Creator meant for everyone.*”

A Delicious Way to Support HomeFront: Reserve Your Spot for the April 19 Pork Roast Dinner

Two terrific reasons to reserve early for the Pork Roast Dinner: It’s a fundraiser for a worthy cause (HomeFront 2020, the May 2 one-day home repair blitz that helps a local homeowner in need) *and* the mouthwatering meal that Rose Marie Marmolejo creates, using her own brand of kitchen wizardry.

Appetizer hour, 3:30 on Sunday, April 19 at Saint Gabriel Hall, blends seamlessly into dinner at 4:30. Tickets: \$10 (\$3 for children under 10). Rose Marie and Michele will take reservations starting March 1 after Masses at Saint Gabriel; Maria Tomasetti will be the ticket agent at Saint Ann. If you can donate something “new” for the raffle table or help with dessert, call Rose Marie at 203-378-5508. Great cause, great meal. Thanks. See you there.

Congratulations to Siobhan Ekeh, Award-Winning Young Artist



Siobhan Ekeh

Congratulations to Siobhan Ekeh whose self-portrait *She Saw Herself from a Great Distance* received an Honorable Mention in the painting category at the 2020 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards. The painting, an imposing 4’ x 3.5’ in acrylics, was on display with other award winning pieces at the Hartford Art School’s Silpe Gallery through the end of January.

Scholastic Art Awards of CT is a juried program which recognizes the work of talented artists in Grades 7 to 12. Panelists for the program look for works “that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.”

Siobhan, a junior at Sacred Heart Academy in Hamden, told our reporter that the work wasn’t part of an assignment. In fact, she’s not taking any art classes in school right now. “I just enjoy painting and decided to try a self-portrait.” She has, though, been “taking some lessons from Nathan Lewis,” Professor of Art at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield. “I started this painting at his studio and finished it in the art room at my school.” The Academy’s art teacher, Teresa DelVecchio, who had told Siobhan about the Scholastic Awards, “entered the piece for me and supported me throughout the process. I wasn’t sure what to expect, and was happy to win an award.”

Siobhan’s future is bright with promise and possibilities. Art school is one, but she’s exploring other options. “I have a lot of different interests,” she offered modestly. They include art, writing, music - she plays saxophone, piano and guitar - and running. Plus, she works at Trader Joe’s on weekends. For fun? “The hobbies I mentioned and spending time with my family and friends.”

The daughter of Amy and Ono Ekeh, Siobhan has a sister, Reya (18), also a student at Sacred Heart Academy, and two brothers Julian (9) and Eli (7), students at Pumpkin Delight School in Milford. You have been blessed with incredible talents, Siobhan. We, too, feel blessed to have a true renaissance woman in the Saint Raphael Parish family.

Lenten Monday Confessions

Saint Ann’s	Saint Gabriel’s
March 9	March 2
March 23	March 16
April 6	March 30

Monday confessions will be heard from 6 until 6:30 pm.

Saturday Confession Schedule

Please note: the regular schedule (confessions on Saturday at 3:00 pm) will continue:

1st, 3rd, 5th Saturdays at Saint Ann’s
2nd, 4th Saturdays at Saint Gabriel’s

Coffee Klatches in March

Coffee And

Saturday and Sunday
March 7/8

Saint Ann Parish Center
after Masses at Saint Ann’s
Sip, Snack, Socialize!
Scrip, Card & Gift Shop, too.

Coffee And Conversation

Sunday, March 22
Saint Gabriel Parish Hall
after the 8 and 11 o’clock Masses.
Add *great* - the name says it all!



*She Saw Herself
from a Great Distance*



GIFT for March: New Life in Christ Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, Easter Season

The resurrection of Jesus is central to our Catholic faith. "I am the resurrection and the life," Jesus tells Martha in John's Gospel (11:25) and everything we believe is based on his triumph over death.

When we gather to "grow in faith together" at GIFT this month we'll discuss the significance and the importance of Jesus' resurrection.

We'll see the many ways in which we can live the experience of the risen Christ. These include prayer, the sacraments, service to those in need and the example of a Catholic life. We'll also look more closely at the beautiful liturgy of the Easter Vigil and discover why the season of our Easter Alleluias extends for 50 days, until Pentecost.

Friday, March 27
6:00 - 8:30 pm

Sunday, March 29
12 noon - 2:30 pm

Saint Ann
Parish Center Hall

This uplifting and informative GIFT session is required for both First Communion children and Confirmation candidates with a parent or guardian. Please be with us on either Friday or Sunday. We can tell from the Gospel stories that Jesus always enjoyed dining with friends. GIFT continues that tradition: every session begins with a catered meal.

GIFT Sacramental Program Schedule

First Communion, Session #2
Saturday, March 7, 10 am - 12 noon
Saint Ann Parish Center Hall
Required for First Communion
children w/parent or guardian

First Communion, Session #3
Saturday, March 21, 10 am - 12 noon
Session includes church/sacristy tour
and review of Communion Rite
Saint Ann Children's Chapel

Confirmation
Sunday, March 8, 12 noon - 2:00 pm
Sacred Art & Music
includes church/sacristy tour
Required for candidates.
Saint Ann Children's Chapel

First Sunday of Lent GIFT Session

March 1, 12 Noon - 1:30 PM, Saint Ann Parish Center Hall

On the first day of the first full week of Lent GIFT families will come together to learn more about the season and to think about how to prepare for Easter through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. GIFT invites all parishioners to be part of this special gathering.

Come and share pizza (a GIFT favorite) then check out the various activity centers. You'll find helpful suggestions and interesting information for all ages - children, preteens, teens and adults. Please plan to stop by.

Summer VBS Campers to Explore the Rainforest July 20-24

This year's Summer VBS campers (ages 4-10) will head out in July to explore the rainforest. It's a wild place! To make it through such an unknown world safely, you'll need a guide who can keep you on the right path. At Rainforest Explorers kids will learn how Jesus is our ultimate guide in the rainforest, and throughout our lives. We might feel lost, but he'll never leave us.

This exciting adventure runs Monday through Friday, July 20-24, at the Saint Ann campus. Suggested donation is \$30 per child (\$6 per day) with a family maximum of \$80. Have questions? Want to reserve a spot? Contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 (cell phone) or atomasetti@snet.net.

Eira Rodriguez, a Record-Setting Runner on a Record-Setting Team

The photo jumped off the sports page - 4 beaming young women in Law track jerseys holding a baton. The Jonathan Law girls' 4x800 relay team, including parishioner Eira Rodriguez, had broken the school record during a meet on January 10. Hold that thought. Another meet, another record, this time on January 29. During that meet Eira set a school record of her own in the 600 meter run. Wow!

Eira's been running track since 6th grade, when she went to all the meets at West Shore Middle School. She is "competitive, enjoys the thrill of competing" and discovered that she "wanted to be first." She signed up at Law, where her times in events qualified this freshman for the varsity. Everything about the team experience has been "very nice, the travel, all of it." The challenges? "Keeping up your speed as part of a team effort, keeping yourself motivated."

Eira's favorite subjects are living earth (science) and history. For fun? "A good book and drawing, the thrill" of seeing things come to life on the page. One of her hobbies, no surprise here, "taking practice runs around the neighborhood." Eira's family: her proud parents Irania and Jose Alberto, sister Alina (12) who's at West Shore, and brother Adrian (10) a student at JFK. Well done, Eira! The Saint Raphael Parish family wishes you all the best. Run, girl, run!



Law's Record-setting 4x800 Relay Team: L-R, Alexis Voytek, Hannah Rascoll, Emma Savoie, Eira Rodriguez

March Highlights

Welcome to capricious, be-prepared-for-anything March and its three seasons: Lent, winter and spring. Crocuses will bloom, Daylight Saving Time returns (on the 8th) and we celebrate Saint Patrick, the Roman bishop who is the patron saint of Ireland.

Stations of the Cross, Scriptural reading, music and reflection are among the ways to deepen your Lenten experience, and all are featured on the March calendar. Pray the



Rosary, gather with GIFT, and note the schedule for confessions on Mondays, additional opportunities to make this a fruitful Lenten journey.

You'll enjoy meeting two talented young parishioners who have set records and garnered awards in 2020. Now that's great parish news! Happy March!

The Parish Press

A Publication of Saint Raphael Parish
Milford, Connecticut
Editor: Ann K. Eden
Production Staff: Lou Eden, Nancy Vai
Printing: Graphic Image, Milford, CT

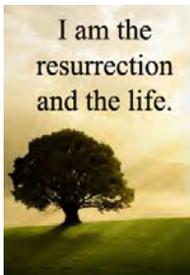
SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH
Saint Ann Church Saint Gabriel Church
501 Naugatuck Ave.
Milford, CT 06460-5048

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILFORD, CT
PERMIT NO. 362

In Memoriam

Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Hilda Brannigan
Bernard McMahon
Rev. Francis X. Callahan
Mary Baker
Frank Pacelli, Jr.
Alfonso Affinito
Raymond Abed



May they rest forever in God's abiding love and may their families find comfort in their wonderful memories.

Bereavement Support Sunday, March 8 ***A Lenten Journey Through Grief***



Lent is a series of passages. We begin in the darkness of ashes but move slowly toward the light, passing from loss to gain, sorrow to joy, from death to life. Grief, too, is a journey. We begin in the ashes of loss and know deep anguish on the way to hope and healing.

If you are on that difficult road, allow our Bereavement Support group to walk with you for a while. We will be meeting in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel on Sunday, March 8 at 2:00 pm. Please be with us. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

April Parish Press Information **Due Tuesday, March 10**

Send your news, notes, photos, comments and suggestions to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks.

Holy Week Reflections from Fr. Stephen Krugel

From Crying "Hosanna" to Crying "Crucify Him"

Wednesday, April 1, 7:00 PM
Saint Ann Church

Father Stephen Krugel will help us prepare for Holy Week as he traces Christ's fall from triumph to treachery to the cross. You'll want to be with us as Father shares his poignant reflections on Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 pm at Saint Ann's.



After serving 6 years in the United States Navy Father Krugel entered religious life with the Priests of the Sacred Heart. In 1984 he left the Religious Community to join the Archdiocese of Hartford and was ordained a priest on February 13, 1988.

Father has served at Saint Matthew parish in the Forestville section of Bristol, Saint Peter in Torrington, Yale-New Haven Hospital, Saint Francis and then Saint Bernadette in New Haven. For 13 years he was a prison chaplain, serving in various prisons throughout the State of Connecticut. In 2013 Father was named pastor of Holy Rosary and Saint Anthony parishes in Ansonia and in 2018 was granted "senior status."

As a "senior priest" Father Krugel helps out in various parishes, allowing priests to take their days off or to have a much needed vacation. As he noted with a wry smile, "I just go in, hear Confessions, lead the people in the Mass and I get out." Father Krugel resides here in Milford.