



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

July 2020



Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord! Regular Schedule of Masses Resumes July 4/5

Joyous news! Archbishop Blair has given permission for parishes in the Archdiocese of Hartford to resume weekend Masses beginning July 4 and 5. (Another great reason to celebrate the Fourth!)

All safety protocols remain in place and must be followed. That means attendance is limited to 100 people, including the ministers at Mass. In addition, everyone must wear a face mask and follow social distancing procedures. Once weekend Masses resume we'll go back to our regular parish schedule.

Schedule of Masses

Saint Ann Church

4:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Sunday
8:00 a.m. Monday and Friday

Saint Gabriel Church

8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Sunday
8:00 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday

No morning Mass
on Wednesday or Saturday

Saturday Confessions at Saint Ann Church Only

Because there is no appropriate area at Saint Gabriel Church that can provide for the privacy and social distancing that are required, confessions will be heard for now on Saturdays at 3:00 p.m. at Saint Ann Church only.

Patch Headline Story A Sign of Progress

Patch's June 18 breaking news headline read, *Massive Development Pitched for Former School Site in Milford*. To parishioners who recalled Father John's mid-February announcement about the sale to Metro Star of the Saint Gabriel School building and property, the story that followed meant progress.

Per last year's contract between the parish and the developer, Metro Star was to obtain certain city approvals in order for the sale to go forward. As Patch reported, the Sewer Commission gave its approval and the proposal now moves to the Planning and Zoning Board for discussion. Progress!

Telephone Outreach: We've Been in Touch. Did You Answer Our Call?

Our volunteers were very happy to check in with members of the parish family during the coronavirus crisis. Thanks for being gracious to our phone team and for sharing your prayer requests. Those very special intentions will become part of the Prayer of the Faithful at weekend Masses.



By the way, have you dropped your landline? Gone to cell phone only? *That's* why we couldn't reach you! Unless you notified the office about the change, you may have felt disconnected from our Communication Initiative. And, *that number has been disconnected* was probably the message our volunteers heard when they tried your old landline. Please stay in touch and help us update our files. Call the office (203-874-0634) and give Monica the best number to reach you. Or, drop us an email (pcsaaintraphael@gmail.com) with your name and best number. Thank you.

We asked parishioners . . .

During the week of June 8, when the doors of Saint Ann Church opened again for daily Mass, our staff asked parishioners, *What has it meant to you to be able to go to Mass again?* Our non-scientific, one-question survey elicited some warm, heartfelt responses.

*It is always wonderful to attend Mass and *most of all* to receive the Eucharist, the main event. The first time I received Communion I was so overwhelmed, I cried! We are fortunate to have internet, online, live Mass on TV, but there is nothing like being there in person and sharing in the sacrifice of the Mass.

*Most important is being able to receive the sacrament of communion and participate in the Eucharistic liturgy. Second, being able to share in person the love of our fellow Christians in the presence of Christ's love for us and to give thanks for the health and continued protection of all.

*Mass starts my whole day in an uplifting, positive way. It makes me happy. I wish I could do it every day. It makes me feel great to receive Communion.

*To be able to attend Mass again means that I can receive the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in Holy Communion, the most precious of all gifts, the "pearl of great price." It is with a grateful heart and with praise and thanksgiving that I can join together again with our faith community to worship the Lord and receive Him in Holy Communion.

*I think I felt like I was home again. It was comforting to sit and be free from any distractions and say my prayers.

*To quote Dorothy, "There's no place like home!" And that is what our Saint Raphael parish is, our spiritual home, and sorely missed these last couple of months! I thought of those people throughout the world who are prohibited from gathering together to celebrate Mass. What a challenge it must be for them!



A Trumpet for Vietnam



One of my personal charities is to assist poor families and individuals in Vietnam with medications that they either cannot get in their country or are often counterfeit. In fact, fake medicine has become so problematic there that it is a serious threat to patients. During my January visit to Vietnam I had the opportunity to personally deliver a variety of

pharmaceuticals to one of the families I have been helping for several years. In fact I was honored to share a delicious dinner with the family at their home.

In Vietnam almost every parish has a marching band; it is just part of the culture. They lead processions on important feast days and Masses of special importance. In our conversation at that family dinner I learned that Dad, Tran Quoc Tam, wanted to join the parish band but did not have a trumpet. Upon my return to our parish I put out a request looking for the donation of a trumpet for this family. That very day John and Monica Judge offered to donate the trumpet their son Chris had played for four years as part of the Notre Dame of West Haven marching band. One small problem though - the trumpet had no mouthpiece. A quick call to Peter DeMarco resolved that issue: one of Peter's musician friends had a spare he was willing to part with.



Tran Quoc Tam (right), and his family at the "stone church," Phat Diem Cathedral.

One final hurdle remained – how to get a trumpet (and case) to Thanh Hoa, Vietnam. As luck would have it, one of my friends who studied at Saint John's Seminary in Boston and who was ordained a priest in May 2018 recently completed his Master's Degree and will soon be returning to Vietnam. Fr. Joseph Son Van Trinh agreed to ferry the trumpet across the Pacific Ocean and deliver the trumpet to this family. On June 11 he and a couple of friends came to the parish house bearing Boston lobsters and left the next morning, trumpet in tow. So many people involved in this mission of musical mercy! Saint Raphael Parish now has a part in the ministry of the Thanh Hoa Cathedral Parish.

I have since discovered that Mom, Tran Thi Dau (in print dress, center above) is a saxophone player without an instrument. Hmmm . . .

A Social Justice Meditation

“Do not give to the poor expecting to get their gratitude or so that you can feel good about yourself. Give only if you have something you must give; give only if you are someone for whom giving is its own reward.”

Dorothy Day



Tag Sale and Christmas Fair Canceled This Year



MaryJo and Maureen, coordinators for both of these popular parish fundraisers, have made the difficult decision to cancel both the Tag Sale and the Christmas Fair this year.

Concerned for the health and safety of volunteers, parishioners and the community, they felt that “it would be irresponsible to have them this year in light of everything that is going on.”

Acknowledging that both events are “special traditions for so many,” they thanked parishioners for their support. “We look forward to seeing you all again in 2021.”



Dorothy Day (1897–1980) was a journalist, and radical social activist who, after a bohemian youth, became a Catholic while continuing her activism. In the 1930s, she helped establish the Catholic Worker Movement, a pacifist initiative that combined direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf.

Dorothy Day

Pope Benedict XVI used her conversion as an example of how one could "journey towards faith... in a secularized environment." Her possible canonization is now under active consideration by the Church.

News from Father Patrick in Fort Portal, Uganda

Father John shared Father Patrick's recent news from Uganda: “Nice to hear that you are okay and have started celebrating weekday Masses. For us it is still lockdown, especially for those of us who are in border districts with other countries. [Fort Portal, south of Lake Albert, is located near the border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.] We are not allowed to move through some districts or to use public transport. In Uganda the situation is not bad - about 700 cases, 300 recoveries, but no deaths. The virus is being contained. We hope all will be okay.”

GIFT - Growing In Faith Together

Sessions for GIFT 2020-2021, our Faith Formation program for people of all ages, will begin the third week of September. This year's theme will be Living the Moral Life.

Look for registration materials in the mail after August 15. An additional mailing will go out in mid-August for Sacramental Programs: First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Contact Maria (as on page 3) if you have questions.



Campers Head for the Rainforest the Week of August 10

The July adventure in the rainforest that our VBS planning team had hoped to offer summer campers has become an August adventure. And the team members themselves have become explorers, searching for modifications that will ensure a camp experience that's healthy, safe and lots of fun.



Options for an in-person camp, if possible: Shorter sessions, reduced number of campers. A pep rally style drive-through kickoff celebration to pick up supplies and giveaways. A drive-through closing celebration, staggered to allow each child/family a photo op in front of an outdoor camp decoration. This option would include health and safety measures such as: no assemblies, wrapped/bagged snacks, dancing without singing and daily sanitizing of classrooms

Possible components for a virtual camp: Bible stories, music and dance, and/or arts & crafts demo. A possible family/friend backyard experience: outdoor games.

Regardless of the format, there will be no fee for campers this year. We will ask families, if they can, to make a free will offering to help cover costs. To facilitate planning and to assess interest in this August 2020 Rainforest Explorers experience, we will mail a registration form to families of previous camp participants. Any questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

Hats Off to the Graduates!

Parish Celebration Rescheduled for Sunday, August 16

Congratulations to these members of the very special, unique and *flexible* Class of 2020, who will be honored on Sunday, August 16 at the parish's Graduation Celebration. Look for their names and information below. Their plans for programs, schools and majors appear in italics. May their futures be rich with God's many blessings.

Middle School Graduates Jonathan Law HS Graduates Additional HS Graduates

Julian Sevillano

Harborside
Joseph A Foran HS

Gavin Falcigno

West Shore
*Jonathan Law HS and
the Bridgeport Regional
Aquaculture Program*

Dylan Fedorchak

West Shore
*Fairchild Wheeler
Information Technology
& Software
Engineering School, Bpt.*

Emily Buchino

Nicholas Coleman
Lillian Greenwood
Aiden McKernan
Christopher Rickard
Lissette Soto
West Shore
Jonathan Law HS

Erik Borgersen

*College of Saint Rose, Albany
Speech Language Pathology*

John Brannigan

*Online Computer Science
courses from
Harvard University*

Amelia Mower

*Central CT State University
History*

Isabella Piccirillo

Southern CT State University

Megan Ruzbarsky

*Southern CT State University
Elementary Education*

Thea Ryan

*Salve Regina University
Nursing*

Angelina Wargo

*Sacred Heart University
Exercise Science on a
Physical Therapy track*

Kathryn DePeano

*Bunnell High School
Stratford STRIVE
Vocational Program*

Thomas Acri

*Trumbull High School
Agriscience Program
Cornell University
Biology*



College Graduate

Anna Downs

*Bachelor of Arts
Communication
and Media Studies
University of New Haven*

2020 Graduation Celebration Notes

New Date:
Sunday, August 16
In-person? Virtual?
Will advise.

Begins with 11 a.m.
Mass at Saint Gabriel.

Many grads received a
special delivery balloon
last month,
a gift from the parish.

No balloon? Missed the
"early bird" info
deadline? Look for
your special recognition
this month.

Contact Maria (as above)
with your info by
July 15. Include plans
for next year
and a photo if you can.

Thank you. Play
Pomp and Circumstance.

"What Have You been Doing During Stay Home Stay Safe?" Additional Pastoral Council Notes

Cathy Coda has been computing area and perimeter, plotting number lines and writing fairy tales at "Mimi's homeschool and daycare." She's loaded the car with bikes and snack bags and traveled around to various empty school and church parking lots so her grandchildren - an 8th grader, a 6th grader, a 3rd grader and a 3 year old, "some of her favorite people" - could let off steam. It's been "different," but she "wouldn't trade it for anything."

Some of **Rose Marie Marmolejo's** "zillion things": baking, cooking, crocheting, reading, prayers, yard work and gardening. She and husband John have filled her 4x4 greenhouse, a birthday gift from friends, with herbs and plants that are "perkng their heads up," and her tomato plants have "many blossoms already."

From **Tom Zawislinski's** list: weekly grocery shopping, haircut (1st since January!), crossword and other puzzles, setting up a new laptop, Friday Mass, playing chess with the PC, prayers and assistance for Laura's two ailing sisters.

A Special 4th of July Celebration!

Weekend Masses will resume beginning the 4th of July! Praise Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and celebrate with some virtual fireworks. You'll find details inside.

Sincere thanks to the "mistresses of tulle," Cathy Coda and Elaine Bataille, whose creativity made social distancing a thing of beauty at Saint Ann Church when it opened on June 8 for daily Masses. Nicely done!



Read about our telephone outreach, follow up on Father John's trumpet request, and see what's up with Rainforest VBS camp. We have news from Uganda and a "beat the clock" report from Creative Hands.

Please continue to stay safe and well.

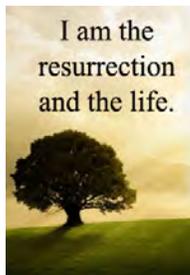
The Parish Press

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



I am the
resurrection
and the life.

Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Patricia Graham Brian Dean
Owen Reynolds Sarah Ann Doyle
George Floyd James Deptula

All those who have succumbed
to the coronavirus

May perpetual light shine upon them and
may they rest in eternal peace.

Support in Your Sorrow - A Phone Call Away



We cannot meet with you in person, but members of our Bereavement Support Group are as close as your telephone. They are available to listen to your story, to offer consolation if you have suffered the loss of someone you love.

Please call us at 203-877-4020. Allow us to walk with you on this very difficult path.



Archdiocese of Hartford

Catholic Biblical School

**Day and Evening Classes in Connecticut
Open to adults - Need not be Catholic to enroll**

**For more information contact BJ at
catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org**

Creative Hands Up For The Challenge

A lively, uplifting report came across the editor's desk from Creative Hands. It read: "COVID 19 may have put a damper on our prayer shawl and lap robe distributions, and it prevented us from coming together physically, but that didn't stop our group.

As part of their effort to Remember Everyone Deployed, Operation Gratitude issued a challenge: "Make as many RED scarves and hats as you can between May 27 and June 12 for the Care Packages we send to deployed Service Members."

Creative Hands answered the call. Talk about nimble fingers! Within the allotted 16 days we sent 11 hats and 20 scarves to Operation Gratitude in Chatsworth, CA. Florence, our favorite California connection, helped us meet the challenge and sent her donations under the Creative Hands umbrella. It was a great project."

Fresh from their successful (and inspiring) RED campaign and following social distancing guidelines, Creative Hands will meet in the Saint Ann Parish Center Library on Thursday, July 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Submit Parish Press Info By Monday, July 13

Information for the August issue of *The Parish Press* is due in our editorial office by Monday, July 13. Please send your news, notes, stories, photos and comments to parishpress06460@gmail.com. Or, you may call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks. very much. We look forward to hearing from you.