



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

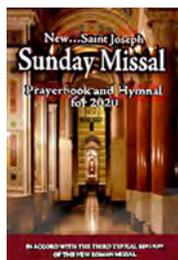
August 2020



I would like to thank all the Pastoral Council members and other volunteers who participated in the recent parish telephone call outreach. The results were incredibly positive. Through the efforts of this small army of demon dialers we discovered that many of our parishioners have disconnect from fixed-line telephone service. This prevented us from reaching them. But those parishioners we were able to contact were pleased that someone from the parish reached out to them during the pandemic. We collected many prayer requests which we remember at each Weekend Mass in our two churches. In addition, in many cases we were able to update the census information we have on file, including missing or erroneous email addresses. Thanks for all the help.



The live streaming of our 9:30 Sunday Mass was very well received for the 13 weeks we had it since Palm Sunday. In our telephone call campaign, we received many requests to continue to offer it after public Masses resumed. We consulted with our all-star Zoom team and they agreed to continue for the time being. Meanwhile we are in the process of installing necessary equipment in Saint Ann Church so that we can offer live streaming with high quality audio and video in the very near future. I am quite sure that will be completed by the next issue of *The Parish Press*.



Since we cannot have communal missals in the churches at the present time, we have obtained a small supply of 2020 personal Sunday Missals available for purchase. (The price is \$3.50.) These missals contain all the prayers and readings for each of the Sunday Masses until Advent. They are small (about 4" x 6") and can easily fit in a pocket or a purse.

If you would like to obtain one, please call the parish office (203.874.0634).

Trumpet Update



As we went to press, Fr. Joseph Son Van Trinh was headed home to Vietnam, Chris Judge's gift trumpet in hand (or luggage!), ready for delivery. Kudos on your Master's Degree, Father, and thank you for being part of our "mission of musical mercy."



July 4/5 A Banner Weekend!

July 4th and 5th, a holiday weekend across the country, was a banner weekend for Catholics in the Archdiocese of Hartford: After fifteen weeks - more than 3 months - we were able to attend Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. A banner weekend for sure - and we had the banners to prove it!

Bright, bold *Welcome Home* banners hung over the doors of both Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel churches. Parishioners smiled behind their masks, rejoicing that they could come together again for worship in the house of the Lord.

Our crack investigative team discovered that the idea for the banners originated with Cathy Coda and we persuaded her to share her story, from concept to completion.

"When the announcement was made about reopening for weekend liturgies I thought *Welcome Home* would just be such a positive message after such a long time away from our churches. We'd been on a journey of sorts and what better acknowledgment of a journey completed than a sincere *Welcome Home*."

With Father's OK I conferred with Lou Servideo, who had used Fast Signs for the Ministry Fair banners and Coffee And poster boards. The folks at the company were so helpful - and FAST! I ordered on Monday and picked up on Thursday. Weather delayed the hanging until July 4th, split second timing for Saturday Mass, but with Manfred Mohring's expertise (and climbing capabilities!) we accomplished the task at both churches in record time."

Thank you, Cathy. Great idea, great work, great assistant.

Feast of the Assumption

On August 15 the Church celebrates the Feast of the Assumption, the oldest Marian feast on the Church calendar. First commemorated in the 6th century as the Feast of the Dormition (falling asleep), the assumption was defined as an article of faith by Pope Pius XII in 1950.



"The Immaculate Virgin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things." (*Lumen Gentium* 59).

Because the Feast falls on a Saturday in 2020, the Assumption is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year.

**For the Class of 2020:
Deep Pride, Real Joy, Virtual Celebration
Graduates, Families, Friends, Please Join Us on August 16**

Saint Raphael Class of 2020, you are cordially invited to participate in a unique, never-been-done-here-before graduation celebration, an apt reflection of your special year. Because of gathering limits and safe distancing requirements our traditional Graduation Mass and reception will be transformed into a virtual event via Zoom.

This Prayer and Recognition Service, scheduled for Sunday, August 16 at 1:00 p.m., is open to all 8th grade, high school and college graduates of any level, and to their families, extended family and friends. (Just think - your grandparents in Florida, aunts and uncles in Seattle, cousins in Kokomo and Lucinda, your college roommate, can join us!)

During the service we'll recognize every graduate who is able to participate. We will also thank God for the many gifts and blessings he has bestowed on our graduates, and pray for all the members of the Class of 2020 as they begin a new chapter in their lives. We'll remember, too, that learning is a lifelong journey, especially learning about God and growing in faith.



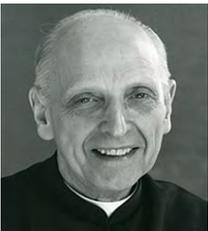
You'll be getting mail, graduates: an information sheet, prayers for graduates and a special surprise to acknowledge your accomplishments. Photos will be an important part of this virtual service. If you haven't done so already, please submit one (with or without cap and gown) and RSVP to Maria Tomasetti (as on page 3).

We hope as many graduates and guests as possible will be able to join us on August 16. The service should run from 30-45 minutes, depending the number of participants. Congratulations, Class of 2020. You make the parish proud!

A Social Justice Meditation

“To be just, it is not enough to refrain from injustice. One must go further and refuse to play its game, substituting love for self-interest as the driving force of society.”

Pedro Arrupe, S.J.



Pedro Arrupe, S.J. (Pedro de Arrupe y Gondra) (1907–1991) was a Spanish Basque Jesuit priest who served as the twenty-eighth Superior General of the Society of Jesus from 1965 to 1983. He is considered the second founder of the Society, after Saint Ignatius of Loyola. He led the Jesuits in the implementation of the Second Vatican Council, especially with regard to a faith that does justice and preferential option for the poor.

Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Stationed as novice master outside Hiroshima in 1945, he witnessed the dropping of the atomic bomb on that city. He used his medical background as a first responder to help the victims. A controversial figure in his day, Father Arrupe was criticized by some for being “too liberal, too ideological.” His defenders, however, considered him a man of God, with, as one put it “a character too big to be measured by ideology.” In 1983 paralysis from a stroke caused him to resign from office; he lived on until 1991 in the infirmary. His cause for sainthood is currently under active investigation by the Vatican.

Add these names to last month's Class of 2020 honorees. Their plans for programs, schools and majors appear in italics.

Eighth Grade Graduates

Danielle D'Avignon
Saint Mary School
Amity Regional HS, Orange

Gauge Forget
Saint Mary School
*Platt Technical HS
Milford*

High School Graduates

Jonathan Law
Jacob Ciolkosz
*Central CT State University
Finance*

Hailey Cupole
*Southern CT State University
Marketing or Accounting*

Felicia Fanning
*Southern CT State University
History and
Secondary Education*

Andrew Hertzog
*Curry College
Milton, Massachusetts*

Bruno Sequera
*Kalamazoo College
Michigan
International Business
Sacred Heart Academy*

Reya Ekeh
*The Catholic University of
America, Washington, DC
Philosophy-Pre-Law
program*

College Graduate

Eric Fanning
Bachelor of Science
Electrical Engineering
University of New Haven

Saint Raphael Parish

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

Confessions

Saturday, 3:00 p.m.
Currently at Saint Ann Church only



Archdiocese of Hartford

**Catholic Biblical
School**

**Day and Evening Classes in Connecticut
Classes held virtually until it is safe to meet in groups.
Open to adults - Need not be Catholic to enroll**

Applications due by August 30.

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



Young Explorers Prepare for a Summer Rainforest Adventure Have Camp Take-Home Kit, Will Travel!

Summer camp for the young set has been part of the fabric of the parish since 2011 - even before we were Saint Raphael Parish! Kids ages 4-10 have frolicked at a Beach Bash, visited SonRise National Park, Kingdom Rock and SonTreasure Island. They've climbed Everest, gone spelunking, been shipwrecked and rescued and adventured on safari. Now, in this landmark year of 2020, it's camp in a kit - and we're off to explore the Rainforest!

It's a wild place. Monkeys howl, mosquitoes buzz, snakes slither around, and did you see a sloth?? To make it through this unknown world safely explorers will need a guide - Jesus, who leads the way. Using Bible stories, craft projects, posters, games, music and more - all tucked into their kits - campers will discover that, even when we feel lost, Jesus will show us the way, in the Rainforest and throughout our lives.

Recipe from the Rainforest

Start with:

1 Take-Home Camp Kit

Add:

1 Eager Young Explorer

Blend well.

Result:

1 Exciting Rainforest Adventure

Each Rainforest Explorers Take-Home Camp Kit includes:

- *A summary of each Bible story with a short video that helps the story come alive
- *A craft kit, with all necessary supplies
- *The Take-Home Point! for each day (to reinforce camp message with at-home campers)
 - *Mini camp posters for campers' rooms
 - *Instructions for camp games, for backyard and neighborhood fun
- *A camp favorite - a CD with all camp songs and a DVD with all song actions (plus some special videos from one of our lively camp music leaders)
 - *Some fun camp giveaways!!



It's been an uncertain and challenging year. Let's keep the Day 3 Take-Home Point! in our hearts:

Leader: Rainforest Explorers! Jesus is with me!

Campers: Jesus is with me! Jesus leads the way!

Questions about Take-Home Camp? Contact Maria Tomasetti atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

GIFT

Saint Raphael Parish Growing In Faith Together Faith Formation for People of All Ages

Because of the health and safety considerations of COVID-19 the parish GIFT team has needed extra time to plan and brainstorm for our 2020-2021 program. Mailings for GIFT and for Sacramental programs should go out the week of August 17.

The team is aware that we will need to modify our usual program format, but we do hope to incorporate both in-person and virtual/take-home options to meet the needs of all families. In recent years, we have offered both a Friday night and a Sunday afternoon GIFT session each month. We are considering the addition of a Wednesday evening session to accommodate the safe distancing guidelines.

Our topic for the upcoming season will be *Living the Moral Life*. We'll focus on the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes and consider what they are and what they mean. More importantly, we will discuss what it means to live them fully in our complex lives, as children, as teens, as adults.

Sacramental Program Notes

The Sacramental Overview sessions for both the Confirmation and First Communion programs will be scheduled as Zoom meetings in mid-September. Confirmation candidates (Grade 9 or older) will attend this required session with at least one parent. The First Communion session is required for a least one First Communion parent, but not for First Communion children.

If you do not receive a GIFT, First Communion or Confirmation program mailing by Monday, August 24, or if you have any questions about our highly regarded parish faith formation program, please reach out to Maria Tomasetti, as above.

First Communion Masses Summer and Fall



Our parish First Communion children are preparing to receive Jesus for the very first time, not on the first weekend of May, as we had planned, but during four special Saturday morning Masses in August, September and October.

Their tour of the church and the sacristy, whether in person or via Zoom meeting, was a great learning experience. They saw the altar, where the priest will consecrate the bread and wine; the hosts that will be consecrated, a large one for Father and the smaller hosts that they will receive; the vestments, the special clothes that the priest wears when he celebrates Mass, and much more.

Each of the special Saturday Masses will be for First Communion families only, limited to immediate family.

- August 22, 11 a.m., Saint Ann Church
- August 29, 11 a.m., Saint Gabriel Church
- September 19, 11 a.m., Saint Ann Church
- October 3, 11 a.m., Saint Gabriel Church

Please pray for these young people, who are excited that they will be receiving the Eucharist, the meal of our Church family, for this first time and every time they go to Mass.

News, Notes, Camp-in-a-Kit

Look inside for news about streaming, notes about GIFT/Sacrament programs and a trumpet blurb that will make you smile. The Class of 2020 list has grown, with plans in place for their celebration.

You, too, could create this Jesus fish in sand art if you were a Rainforest Explorer with a camp take-home kit. Or you could craft an ark like the one on page 3, both part of this summer's virtual VBS camp.

We have updates from Father John about our telephone outreach, the story behind the handsome *Welcome Home* signs and a bit of background on the Feast of the Assumption. And that's not all.

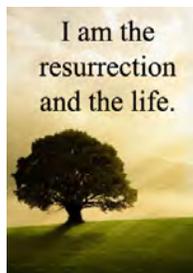
Stay safe and well. Smile through August.

The Parish Press

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In Memoriam

Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Carole Duhaimé Maria DeVellis
Marie Loizzi Patricia Roland
Sharon Rackiewicz Joseph Zullo, Jr.
Daniel Buckley Rev. Paul Merry
Liberato "Mike" DellaGioia
Henry Smidowicz, Jr.
Ray Benichak
All victims of Covid 19

May they rest with the saints and the angels in the loving arms of God.

Assistance from Our Bereavement Support Group



The ongoing public health crisis has kept our Bereavement Support Group from meeting, but we are available by phone to anyone who is grieving. Ease your burden by telling your story. Share your memories and your feelings and let us comfort you in your sorrow.

Please call us at 203-877-4020. Let us be with you on your journey from grief to healing.

Submit *Parish Press* Info by August 10

Got news for September's newsletter? Spread it, share it, let the parish family know what's happening.

Send us an email (parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!

We Welcome With Love . . .

the newest members of our parish family,

Olivia Ann Pawlowski
Kelsey Neeley
Liliana Loschiavo



Olivia received Baptism's life-giving waters on Saturday, June 27 at Saint Gabriel Church. Kelsey and Liliana were baptized at Saint Gabriel's on Sunday, June 28. You have become new creations, little ones, clothed now in Christ. May you walk always as children of the light.

Love and Best Wishes



as you begin your married life together. . .

Charles Jr. and Kristine (Johnson) Jordan
who were united in marriage on Saturday, July 11 at Saint Ann Church.

Congratulations, CJ and Kristine. May you savor warm love, a new day every day and a long life together.

Creative Hands Resumes Regular Meetings

Creative Hands will be meeting regularly on Thursday evenings at 6 o'clock in the Saint Ann Parish library. Participants must wear masks and abide by social distancing requirements. Tables and chairs are sanitized.

Bring your own project to work on or to finish. Just learning to knit or crochet? We can definitely help!