



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

April 2021



April and the Beauty of the Easter Triduum

As April begins this year we enter into the beauty of the Triduum, the high point of the Liturgical Year. Three days, but a single celebration, the Triduum begins the evening of Holy Thursday with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. Lent is over and we celebrate with joy - white vestments, sustained ringing of the bells. There will be no "Go in peace" because the celebration has not ended but will continue.

Friday marks the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, the ignominy and glory of the Cross, the instrument of Christ's death and our salvation. Again, we leave in silence, until we gather in Saturday's darkness to keep vigil for the Lord.

On the holy night of the Easter Vigil we keep watch, as we celebrate Our Lord's resurrection, and await his return in glory. It is "the Passover of the new covenant," Christ's passage from death to life. The Lord is risen. We sing *Alleluia*, this night and throughout the 50 days of Easter. Easter Sunday's morning Masses will be offered at Saint Gabriel's at 8 and 11 and at Saint Ann's at 9:30.

Easter Triduum

April 1
Holy Thursday
Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 pm

April 2
Good Friday
Celebration of
the Lord's Passion
3:00 pm

April 3
Holy Saturday
The Easter Vigil
8:00 pm

Again this year, the COVID-19 pandemic will affect how we celebrate Holy Week. I am certain you remember that last year Deacon George and I celebrated Holy Week privately. Many of you were able to watch from home by way of Zoom (thank you Michael and Terri Deveny). Although limited attendance is permitted this year, many of the familiar rites will be altered.

On Palm Sunday there will be no blessing of palm or procession with palm. Palm will be blessed ahead of time and will be available for pickup throughout the day at both churches.

On Holy Thursday we will not have the washing of the feet, nor will there be the traditional procession with the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose followed by public adoration.

On Good Friday, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion, Deacon George will proclaim the entire Passion according to Saint John. The Passion will not be read in parts. During the Adoration of the Holy Cross there will be no individual veneration. Those in attendance will make their veneration from their places in the assembly.

There will be no preparation or lighting of a fire at the Easter Vigil. The Paschal Candle, prepared in advance, will simply be lit to begin the liturgy. There will be no procession with the candle. After the paschal candle has been lit the Easter Proclamation (*Exsultet*) will be sung. Since we have no catechumens or candidates this year, we will not be celebrating the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*.

Because of the availability of live streaming, the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil will be celebrated at Saint Ann Church.

I hope that you and your families are safe and invite you to join us for Holy Week either in person or online. It is my prayer that each of you enjoy a happy and holy Easter.

Father John

Notes About the Paschal Candle

The preparation and lighting of the Paschal Candle is one of the beautiful traditions of the Easter Vigil. The candle, which must be new and made of wax, represents Christ himself, the light of the world.

The celebrant inscribes the candle as shown: first with a cross, then with the Alpha and Omega, then with the numerals of the current year, saying, "Christ yesterday and today, the Beginning and the End, the Alpha and the Omega. All time belongs to him and all the ages. To him be glory and power through every age and for ever. Amen." He places five grains of incense into the candle in the form of a cross, saying "By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ the Lord guard us and protect us. Amen." (This year, as Father John has noted, the candle will be prepared in advance.)



Can't Get to Confession? Go to God Directly Says the Pope

Pope Francis has allayed the concerns of people who want to go to confession, to "make peace with the Lord," but are homebound due to COVID concerns or serious illness. Speaking at a Lenten Mass, the Holy Father said, "Do what the Catechism says. It is very clear: If you cannot find a priest, speak directly with God, your father, and tell him the truth. 'Lord, I did this, this, this. Forgive me,' and ask for pardon with all your heart." [Make an act of contrition and promise God], "I will go to confession afterward, but forgive me now." And immediately you will return to a state of grace with God."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1452): When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called 'perfect' — contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins *if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible.*"

A Social Justice Meditation

Often in my desire to work for others I find my hands tied, something hinders my charitable designs, some hostile influence renders me powerless. My prayers seem to avail nothing, my kind acts are rejected, I seem to do wrong things when I am trying to do my best. In such cases I must not grieve. I am only treading in my Master's steps.

Saint Katharine Drexel



Katharine Drexel
Heiress

Saint Katharine Drexel (1858-1955) was an American heiress who learned from her devoutly Catholic parents that wealth is to be shared with those in need. As a young adult Katharine felt called to a religious vocation. In 1889 she became a Sister of Mercy, then went on to found an order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, dedicated to serving the impoverished Blacks and Native American populations in the United States.



Mother Katharine
Drexel, SBS

Using her portion of the \$15.5 million inheritance she shared with her sisters, Mother Katharine spent the next 60 years and an estimated additional \$20 million building missions, schools and churches for Native Americans and Blacks, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the nation's only Historically Black and Catholic University.

The second American-born saint, after Elizabeth Ann Seton, Katharine Drexel is the patron saint of racial and social justice and philanthropists.

Congratulations . . .

Frida Aragon and Keyla Ramirez

who came to Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, March 15. May you always remember how much Jesus loves you.

T4S Hosting Another Drive-Thru Saturday! April 24: Diaper Drive for Local Families in Need 10 a.m. - 12 Noon, Saint Ann Parish Center



Drive-thru *pickup* is all the rage - for snacks, for meals, for coffee and more. Our Saint Raphael T4S group, in their ongoing effort to serve, has put the focus on drive-thru *drop-off*, an easy, contactless way for parishioners to provide for those in need.

This month the teens are hosting a diaper drive on behalf of the United Way of Milford and Team, Inc. of Derby. T4S will be stationed in the parking lot adjacent to the Parish Center at 501 Naugatuck Avenue. Disposable diapers and pull-ups of all brands and sizes - baby wipes, too! - will be gratefully accepted and all items collected will be used to help local families in need.

If you'd like to donate, please drive up to the Parish Center doors between 10 a.m. and noon on Saturday, April 24. Pop your trunk and the teens will move your donations inside. Questions? Contact Maria (as on Pg. 3).

Thank you in advance for your generous support of local families with infants and toddlers!

Change in the Wording of the Collect - Have You Noticed?

There has been a change in the wording of the Collect, the short prayer the priest says just before the First Reading at Mass. You may have picked it up: Have you heard Father conclude the prayer by saying "God, for ever and ever," instead of "One God, for ever and ever?" That is the change, which took effect on Ash Wednesday 2021, per the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) and applies to all liturgical books, including the Roman Missal.

Until now the Latin "Deus, per omnia saecula saeculorum" had been translated in English as "one God, for ever and ever." But, as the USCCB's Committee on Divine Worship notes, "there is no mention of 'one' in the Latin, and 'Deus' in the Latin text refers to Christ." Any new editions of the Missal and of publications like participation aids for the faithful will begin to carry the new text as soon as possible. Because many of these are printed well in advance, however, it will take some time for the change to appear. Meanwhile, kudos to those whose discerning ears caught the change. Well done!



Need knows no season and week after week, month after month the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry has been meeting the needs of those in our community who are hungry.

The Pantry welcomes donations of non-perishable food items (pasta and pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, tuna and cereal, for example), hygiene products (like hand soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent) and gift cards, too.

Thursday morning food distribution, which begins at 10, is by appointment only.

To make a donation or to schedule an appointment call 203-878-3075.

Saint Raphael Parish Website

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

Find the weekly bulletin, schedule of Masses/intentions, the link to live streaming and much more.

Special Need
for these sizes:
Diapers :
Newborn, 1, 5, 6 and 7
Pull-ups:
3T, 4T and 5T
We need
baby wipes, too!

*Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which
Christ looks compassion on the world.
Yours are the feet with which
Christ walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with
which he blesses his people.*



-St. Teresa of Avila

GIFT: Living the Moral Life Mercy and Forgiveness

Scourged and crowned with thorns, as he hung on the cross on Good Friday Jesus showed mercy to those who crucified him: "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

During April's GIFT session we will consider the role of Christ-like forgiveness and compassion in moral living. At the heart of all moral decision making are the love, compassion and forgiveness of God. Making moral

decisions is all about listening to our conscience and choosing actions that are of God. The session includes the presentation of a five-step process for moral decision making and challenges participants to live lives of compassion and forgiveness modeled on the compassion of Jesus. We will also review the Sacrament of Reconciliation - the sacrament of God's forgiveness.

The in-person schedule at right is for those who have already registered. To request a date change or to change from in-person to virtual classes (or vice-versa), please reach out to Maria (atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598, voice/text) well in advance of the scheduled session.

GIFT Sacramental Program Schedule

First Communion

Praying the Rosary

In-Person:

Monday, April 12
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Parish Center Classrooms
Saint Ann Campus

Virtual:

Tuesday, April 13
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Zoom link to follow

Maria will send the Zoom links to registered GIFT families for the family and teen sessions and to any adults interested in this month's adult session with Deacon George.

Registered families/participants should receive a YouTube video of the welcome, the opening prayer and song, and Deacon George's presentation prior to April's sessions.

Thank You for Participating in CRS Rice Bowl

Your generous donations to our CRS Rice Bowl Lenten project mean so much and help provide lifesaving support to more than 159 million people in more than 100 countries. 75% of what you give supports CRS work around the world, while 25% remains in the Archdiocese of Hartford. Thank you.



Here are ways to return your donations: *During April's in-person GIFT sessions. *In the collection baskets at Mass (in a Rice Bowl or labeled envelope). *At the parish office

during M-F regular office hours. *Through the CRS Rice Bowl website: https://support.crs.org/donate/change-life-lent-0?ms=orbric1821rb100gen00&_ga=2.221632152.1030624981.1609962493-1525284028.1603976821 Questions? Contact Maria (as above).

SPRING Family Fun Night A T4S Production!

Friday, April 30
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Inspired by their recent string of successes, our T4S (Teens for Service) group has decided to branch out. February's traditional Winter Family Night, heavy snow forecast notwithstanding, was so much fun, for the young people and the families who participated, that the group has come up with a version for spring.

Spring Virtual Family Fun Night, presented via Zoom, will include Easter and spring-themed arts and crafts, children's books, fun at-home games and some surprises, too!

Children ages 3-10 are invited to this free event. (And they may bring their parents as their guests!) Sounds like fun, doesn't it?! Please contact Maria (as above) for the Zoom link.



Rocky Railway: Full Steam Ahead! Summer VBS Camp: July 26-30

The dates are set, health and safety modifications are in place, and it's full steam ahead on the Rocky Railway! Campers ages 4-10 are invited to sign on and climb aboard for some great activities!

You'll enjoy Bible adventures, crafts, Imagination Station, KidVid cinema, Rocky Railway dance, and packaged snacks (what would camp be without snacks?!). Join us and learn how Jesus' power pulls us through life's many ups and downs.

Families can choose: **In-person** camp for approximately 20 campers. (We are still finalizing our morning camp hours.) *or* **At-home** camp activity bags, with one virtual summer fun night.

Registration materials will be available early this month and will be emailed to GIFT families and to the families of previous summer campers.

Register early to save your space! Have questions? Contact Maria (as above) and prepare for a week on the rails!

In-Person Schedule:

Friday, April 16
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 18
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 20
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Saint Ann
Parish Center Hall

No walk-ins permitted.

Virtual Schedule:

Adult Session
with Deacon George
Monday, April 19
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Family Session
Wednesday, March 24
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Teen Session
Thursday, March 25
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Joyous April

April and the joy of Easter - what a very special way for a month to begin! We have come out of March's Lenten desert into the Triduum and Easter's *alleluia*.



Some well-loved rites of Holy Week have been affected by the coronavirus, as Father John points out in his message on Page 1. But we are an Easter people, Christ is risen and we are overcome with joy.

T4S continues to make news in April with a drive-thru Diaper Drive on the 24th and a first-ever Spring Family Fun Night on the 30th. Look for details inside.

Read about Katharine Drexel, an American saint for our times, remember to turn in your CRS Rice Bowl, and savor all the joys of the Easter season. Happy April!

The Parish Press

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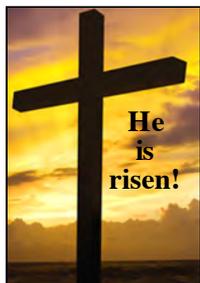
Alleluia! The Lord is risen!

In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Helen LaBelle	Laurent Richard
Sheila Dean	Shirley Whelan
Judy Leeman	Georgia Connors
Mark Thibault	Anthony Bonacci
Gerald "Jerry" Sheehan	

May they rest in God's eternal peace.



Please Reach Out for Bereavement Support



If you are struggling because of the loss of a loved one we encourage you to reach out to our Bereavement Support Group. Although we cannot yet meet in person we are simply a phone call away.

Ease your burden by telling your story. Our sympathy and concern may bring you comfort. You can reach us at 203-877-4020. We encourage you to call.

Help Decorate Saint Ann's for Easter! Saturday, April 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Come tiptoe through the tulips (or the lilies, or perhaps the daffodils) and help decorate Saint Ann's for Easter.

Please meet in the church at 9 a.m. on Holy Saturday as we work to make the church reflect the joy and beauty of the season. No experience required. All are welcome. Thank you!



We Welcome With Love . . .

the newest members of our parish family

Jackson Canavan
Michaela Frances Barrett
Genevieve Marie Brazeau



Jackson was baptized on Saturday, February 20, at Saint Gabriel Church. Michaela and Genevieve received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, February 21 at Saint Ann Church. May God bless and protect you, little ones, all the days of your life.

Parish Press Info Due April 15

April 15 is *not* the deadline date for filing your taxes this year. Both the IRS and the State of Connecticut have extended the filing deadline to May 17. Your news, notes, photos and comments for the May newsletter, *however*, are due in our office by Thursday, April 15. (No need to enclose payment!). Please send them to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks.

Creative Hands Is Meeting Again

The crafty, clever members of the Creative Hands group have resumed their Thursday evening get-togethers. You'll find them in the Saint Ann library from 6-8 p.m., busy making prayer shawls and lap robes, gifts for the ill and infirm and for people in health care facilities.

If you have yarn or finished items to donate please call Val Yergeau at 203-687-9568. She will be happy to come and pick them up.