



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

June 2021



## Graduation Celebration Weekend June 26/27

A little Pomp and Circumstance, please, as we prepare to honor the parish's eighth grade, high school and college graduates the weekend of June 26/27. Members of the Class of 2021 and their families are invited to attend any of the weekend Masses at Saint Ann's or Saint Gabriel's. The entire parish will thank God for all his many blessings and pray for all the

graduates as they begin new chapters in their lives.

The festivities will conclude with a special celebration for the graduates and their families on Sunday, June 27 beginning at 12:30 p.m. in the Parish Center Hall (Saint Ann Campus). After recognizing all the participating graduates we plan to provide a light dinner for each family table, or to offer dinner to go. Graduates should register in advance with Maria - [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

This annual celebration provides an opportunity to remind the graduates that they are an important part of the Saint Raphael Parish Family. We wish them joy and success in the future and ask God to shower them with his many blessings.

As we went to press we had received information from some of the grads about their plans for the year ahead. (More will be coming, we're sure, and we'll publish that next month.) An impressive group! Congratulations!

## Popular Farmers Markets Have a Parish Connection

Business will soon be booming at Milford's farmers markets, where the key word is *local* - the vegetables, eggs and baked goods, the artisans and entertainers and yes, even the Market Master. MaryJo Downs, long-time Saint Raphael parishioner, parish Tag Sale/Christmas Fair wizard, and lifetime beach kid, will be Market Master for both venues this season, her first with Downtown Milford, third with Walnut Beach.

"I had been the Catering Events Manager at Walnut Beach Creamery and was asked to handle the market at Walnut Beach," MaryJo told our reporter. Talk about a good fit! This beach kid grew up with sand in her shoes, groceries and marketing in her DNA. In the mid 1960's her family owned the Beachhead Restaurant, between Nichols and Myrtle Avenues. When redevelopment forced a move the family opened Andy & Rae's Market, a grocery store and "wonderful Italian deli" at 274 Broadway, not far from MaryJo's home on Wildwood. "I could smell my grandma's meatballs down the street." And young as she was, it was "there that I learned about marketing and sales." (She learned how to cook like Grandma, too - a pinch of this, a handful of that, no measuring, and no written recipes for her daughters



MaryJo Downs  
Market Master

Anna and Amanda to follow!) She discovered that she "really enjoys working with the public" and was taught to "treat others with love and respect and you'll get it back tenfold."

As Market Master, MaryJo is responsible for "finding local fresh products to be sold at the market every week! All vendors offer homemade and freshly grown products." Working with the local health department means that "everyone is inspected and meets the guidelines, keeping our community safe."  
*(Story continues on Page 3)*

## A Partial List of Our Honored Grads (Look for more in the July issue.)

### West Shore Graduates and Their High Schools

Bianca Armellino  
Trumbull High School  
Agriscience Program

Emilio Contreras  
Platt Technical High School

Adrianna Piccirillo  
Jonathan Law High School (morning)  
Bridgeport Regional Vocational  
Aquaculture School (afternoon)

### High School Graduates, Colleges, Intended Majors

Siobhan Ekeh  
Jonathan Law High School and  
Educational Center for the Arts (NH)  
Pratt Institute, New York City

Hunter Fonck  
Jonathan Law High School  
Eastern Connecticut State University  
New Media Studies

Jenna Hanson  
Jonathan Law High School  
Fairfield University  
Chemistry

Misai Lam  
Joseph A. Foran High School  
University of Connecticut  
Animal Science

Jack Lippard  
Jonathan Law High School  
Gateway Community College, then  
transfer to a four-year college

Zachary Yazdzik  
Saint Joseph High School  
Coastal Carolina University (S.C.)  
National Intelligence

### College Graduates, Schools, Future Plans

Jesse Greene  
Salve Regina University  
B.S. in Nursing  
Minor in Music, (Vocal Performance)  
Once she has passed her Nursing Boards:  
R.N., St. Anne's Hospital, Fall River, MA  
Medical-Surgical Telemetry Floor

Olivia Steiner  
Tufts University  
B.S. in Chemistry  
Incoming Ph.D. Candidate  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

## A Social Justice Meditation

*We must learn to see the great events of world history from below, from the perspective of the outcasts, the suspects, the maltreated — in short, from the perspective of those who suffer. Mere waiting and looking on is not Christian behavior. Christians are called to compassion and to action.*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945) was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential, and his book *The Cost of Discipleship* has been described as a modern classic.

Apart from his theological writings, Bonhoeffer was known for his staunch resistance to the Nazi dictatorship, including vocal opposition to Hitler's euthanasia program and genocidal persecution of the Jews.

He was arrested in 1943 and while in prison was accused of being associated with the famous unsuccessful plot to kill Hitler in July 1944. He was court-martialed and sentenced to die. While in prison Bonhoeffer acted as a counselor and pastor to prisoners of all denominations. He was hanged at Flossenberg on April 9, 1945, only days before the American liberation of the POW camp and three weeks before Hitler's suicide.



## Forward with Faith: Investing in the Church's Future

Saint Raphael Parish is approaching the public phase of Forward with Faith, the Archdiocese of Hartford's first-ever archdiocesan-wide capital campaign. Its mission: investing in the Church's future needs by strengthening its parishes, schools, faith formation programs and social service ministries. 50% of the monies raised will meet needs throughout the Archdiocese; the remaining 50% goes back to the parish.

The campaign was launched with great success by a group of 7 pilot parishes in 2018, followed by a group of 15 parishes (Block 1) in 2019. Block 2 parishes, including Saint Raphael, were to start their campaigns in the summer of 2020. Not great timing for Block 2 (!), but through the Advance Gifts phase we have received pledges for close to 48% of our \$555,000 goal. The monies that remain in the parish will be used for capital projects like Saint Ann kitchen renovations; renovations to Saint Gabriel Hall; live-streaming; a parking lot behind Saint Gabriel Church. Some of these initiatives have been completed or are in progress. Money taken out of parish savings to pay for them can be replenished from what we receive from Forward with Faith.

Separate from the Archbishop's Annual Appeal - in which the money collected each year is distributed to the ministries of the Archdiocese to support them one year at a time - Forward with Faith makes strategic long-term investments in local parish communities, Catholic social service providers and innovative Catholic education programs for schools and parishes.

Forward with Faith is managed by The Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF), an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the mission of the Archdiocese of Hartford. To learn more about HBF and Forward with Faith please visit <https://forwardwithfaith.hartfordbishopsfoundation.org>.

## HomeFront Day Returns Saturday, September 11 Support the Project with Tasty Fundraisers

Thanks to Covid-19, parish HomeFront volunteers had no project in 2020, but the one-day repair blitz for a local family in need returns September 11. Two tasty ways for you to help:

### June's Bakeless Bake Sale

No-calories, deliciously satisfying

Look for forms at the church doors and in the bulletin.

Questions? Contact Maria (as on Page 3)

### July 18 Traditional Pork Roast Dinner

Make your reservations after Masses this month.

Need details? Call Rose Marie (203-378-5508).

Donations help cover our parish sponsorship fee, which enables HomeFront to purchase materials, supplies, insurance coverage.

## MYTHS VS FACTS

### ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

This is the second in our ongoing series from the the Pastoral Council's Human Concerns and Social Justice Committee. The columns are intended to educate parishioners and help them to protect their children.

**Myth:** Only women and girls are victims and survivors of sex trafficking.

**Fact:** One study estimates that as many as half of sex trafficking victims are male. Advocates believe the percentage may be higher, but that male victims are far less likely to be identified. LGBTQ boys and young men are considered particularly vulnerable to trafficking.

For more information or for help call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888.

**Archdiocese of Hartford Catholic Biblical School**

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## **GIFT - Growing In Faith Together June Classes for Confirmation**

*Faith in Action  
Choosing to Live a Life Close to God  
Becoming Our Best Self*

In-Person:

Sunday, June 6, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.  
Parish Center Classroom, Saint Ann Campus

Virtual:

Tuesday, June 15, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Zoom link to follow

*Confirmation Review Session*

In-Person:

Monday, June 28, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Parish Center Classroom, Saint Ann Campus

Virtual:

Wednesday, June 30, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.  
Zoom link to follow



## **Adult Confirmation Program Begins in Mid-August**

Adults age 18 or older who made their First Communion in the Catholic Church but have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation are invited to participate in the parish's Adult Confirmation Program. The program, a series of six 2-hour evening sessions, will begin in mid-August. Those who complete the program will be able to receive the sacrament of Confirmation this fall. To register or for additional information please contact Maria Tomasetti at [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

## **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Program Begins in September**

Are you thinking about or interested in becoming Catholic? Is someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Are you an adult Catholic who has never received the sacraments of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation? Are you the parent/guardian of a child over the age of reason or a teen who has not yet received the sacrament of Baptism and wants to become Catholic?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, it might be time for you (or someone in your family) to take the next step on your journey of faith. We are hoping to start an RCIA program beginning this fall that will guide you on that journey. An adapted version will also be offered for children above the age of reason or teens who have not been baptized. If you have questions about either program please contact Maria Tomasetti, as above.

## **First Reconciliation May 15**

Congratulations to Franco Savastano, who came to Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, May 15. Always remember how much God loves you, Franco, and how Jesus calls you to follow Him.



## **Registration Ongoing for Summer's VBS Rocky Railway Adventure!**

**When: Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

**Where: Saint Raphael Parish Center, 501 Naugatuck Avenue**

**What's the fare: Suggested donation is \$25 for the week (\$5.00 per day)**

Kids can roar through the Rockies this summer and have a mountain of fun at Rocky Railway VBS. While enjoying this faith-filled adventure they'll discover that trusting Jesus pulls them through life's ups and downs. Two options are available.

**Option 1:** An in-person adventure for a maximum of 20 campers ages 4 through 10. Staggered arrival times (9:00 - 9:30 a.m.), safe distancing, face masks. Games, snacks, Bible adventures and more!

**Option 2:** Includes a take-home camp bag for campers ages 3 through 10 with one evening ZOOM gathering during the week of July 26.

Questions? Need a registration form? Contact Maria, as above. Camp scholarships are available on request.

**(Market Master, from Page 1)** The Walnut Beach Farmers Market is held under the pavilion every Thursday 4-7 p.m., June 10 through September 9 and features weekly themes. For opening day it's *Cruise into our market with vintage cars*. There will also be an opening day tag sale. (\$20 per spot to sell your treasures from the back of your car). The Downtown Milford Farmers Market at Wasson Field starts June 12 and runs every Saturday through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (8:30 a.m. early opening for Seniors and expectant mothers.)

When you visit, the Market Master tells us, "You'll find a variety of fresh vegetables, breads, local eggs, local artisans with their crafts, jewelry, pottery and so much more! Whether you visit at the beach and get a walk in, or sit and watch a baseball game at downtown there will be something to capture your interest. Plus, we offer music every week. So bring your lawn chair and sit and listen for a while."

Best thing about being the Market Master? "The joy that I feel by bringing fresh products and knowing that I'm serving the community." That you are, MaryJo. Grandma would be so proud!

## **A Warm Saint Raphael Welcome to Parishioners from Christ the Redeemer**

To any parishioners from Christ the Redeemer Parish who have joined us since Christ the Redeemer's June first merger with Precious Blood Parish, welcome to the Saint Raphael Parish family!

The merger, part of the 2017 pastoral plan for the Archdiocese, had been scheduled to take place upon the retirement of Christ the Redeemer's beloved pastor Father Cyriac Maliekal, who retired in May. We wish Father Cyriac joy in his retirement.

## **Pastoral Council Meeting Monday, June 7 Saint Gabriel's Hall**

If you have ideas, suggestions, questions or comments for the Council please send them to [pcsaintraphael@gmail.com](mailto:pcsaintraphael@gmail.com). Thank you.

## Grads, Markets, the Love of the Lord

Highlights for the month: a celebration in honor of the Class of 2021, a parish connection to Milford's Market Master, and the June 6th Feast of Corpus Christi,



when we rejoice in the love of the Lord that nourishes us in the Eucharist. The Feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary fall only days later.

Confirmation classes and our RCIA program are available for adults who want to continue their journey of faith. VBS campers, on a journey of another kind, should reserve their spots for summer's Rocky Railway adventure.

Happy Father's Day to all parish fathers, stepfathers, foster fathers, godfathers - all the men who love, protect, strengthen and inspire the children in their care.

### ***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

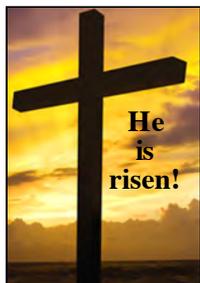
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# *Happy Father's Day!*

### **In Memoriam**



St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of  
Peter Lanier Margaret Iacozza  
Marion D'Alessandro Frances Pettinella  
Gene Mieczkowski Roseanne Serino  
Joseph Seiger James P. Rutledge  
Finley Maguire Susan Bero  
Matthew John Kealy, Jr.

May the Lord welcome them into the joy of his eternal presence.

### **Seek Bereavement Support by Phone In-Person Sessions to Resume July 11**



Our Bereavement Support Group remains available by phone to offer consolation to anyone who is grieving. If you need a listening ear please call us at 203-877-4020.

Our regular monthly in-person sessions will resume on Sunday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. In that quiet and confidential setting we will walk a while with those who are making the difficult journey from grief to healing. Please plan to be with us.

### **Submit Parish Press Info by June 9**

Information for the July newsletter is due by Wednesday, June 9. Please call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) or send your news and notes to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com).

**Saint Raphael Parish Website**  
<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

### **We Welcome With Love . . .**

the newest members of our parish family,  
Joseph Warren Worthington V  
Luke Joseph Smaldone

who were baptized on Sunday, May 16, at Saint Ann Church. May God bless you, Joseph and Luke, and keep you always close to his heart.



### **Parish 2021 Mayor's Youth Award Nominees**

Fourteen young parishioners were among the extraordinary group of nominees for the 33rd Annual Mayor's Youth Awards. All nominees were recognized for their outstanding service in the Milford community.

During the May 19th Awards Ceremony at the Milford Academy Upper Field, Mayor Benjamin G. Blake and Milford Youth and Family Services thanked the young people for "believing in tomorrow, today!"

The parish thanks you, too, for your love and concern for others and for making the world a better place during this very challenging year!

Bianca Armellino  
Abigail Candelora  
Michael Deveny  
Hunter Fonck  
Jenna Hanson  
Misai Lam  
Allyza Moral  
Arthur Moral  
Evan Murphy  
Alina Rodriguez  
Eira Rodriguez  
(Nominated by Saint Raphael Parish)  
Lissette Soto  
(Nominated by Boys & Girls Club of Milford)  
Catherine Barth  
Gabrielle Ciuci  
(Nominated as part of Girl Scout Troop #38323)