



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

July 2021



Once More, Hail to the Graduates!

On the last weekend of June we honored eighth grade, high school and college graduates, the Saint Raphael Parish Class of 2021. Add these eight names to June's impressive group.

West Shore Graduates and Their High Schools

Evan Murphy
Jonathan Law High School (1/2 day)
Bridgeport Regional Vocational
Aquaculture School (1/2 day)

David Santos
Jonathan Law High School
Cameron Upchurch
Jonathan Law High School

High School Graduates, Colleges, Intended Majors

Bridget Bennett
Jonathan Law High School
University of New Haven
Criminal Justice
Abbie Kingkittisack
Jonathan Law High School
Gateway Community College
Biochemistry

Jakub Dabrowski
Jonathan Law High School
Southern Connecticut
State University
Business Management

College Graduates, Schools, Future Plans

Ann Reed
American University
Washington, D.C.
B.A., Political Science and
Justice and Law
Looking for employment in
the field of Public Policy.

Matthew Zancewicz
University of Connecticut
B.A., Political Science and History
Northeastern University
School of Law
Boston

A bright future beckons, graduates. Congratulations! Be assured that our prayers and best wishes go with you.

Caring for the Sick - Eucharistic Visits for the Homebound

The parish has resumed our ministry of Eucharistic visits for the homebound, continuing the Church's ancient pastoral practice of visiting the sick.



Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion regularly bring Eucharist to the elderly, the sick, the infirm, parishioners who are unable to attend Mass because of illness or injury. These visits are available on a short-term basis, during rehab or recovery from illness, for example, or long-term, for more chronic conditions or for the elderly.

Because of the pandemic, visits to parishioners in health care facilities, an important part of our Care of the Sick program, will be decided on a case-by-case basis, according to current guidelines from the various facilities.

To arrange for a Eucharistic visit for yourself or a loved one, please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).



HomeFront Day Is Saturday, September 11

Participation in HomeFront Day, a one-day repair blitz for a local family in need, is a long-standing parish tradition. On Saturday, September 11, our parish team will make repairs to a family's home and improve the quality of life for the homeowner.

John Marmolejo, Richard Wheeling and Carrie Jayne Nocerino, who lead our dauntless team, have issued a call for volunteers at all levels - from folks who can handle basic tasks to skilled tradespeople - who are willing to spend a September Saturday on this very worthwhile project. If you can help, please contact Carrie at 203-878-5566 or carriejayne@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Tasty Ways to Support Our HomeFront Team

Roast Pork Dinner: Sunday, July 18, Saint Gabriel's Hall
Appetizers at 3:30, Dinner at 4:30 (BYOB)
Tickets: \$10 for adults, \$3 for children under 12



Make your reservations after weekend Masses at both churches or call 203-378-5508. Enjoy Rose Marie Marmolejo's traditional roast pork dinner. Take a few chances - perhaps you'll go home with a great raffle prize.



The No Fat, No Calories Bakeless Bake Sale

Purchase unlimited quantities of virtual desserts. (It's called making a donation.) Cupcakes, cookies, brownies, Napoleons, tiramisu and more are available on our virtual menu. The Bakeless Bake Sale works beautifully with any diet plan and, like the roast pork dinner, supports our HomeFront efforts. Look for donation forms at the doors of both churches. Questions? Ask Maria (as above).

Sunday Mass Scripture Review

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 P.M., Saint Ann Children's Chapel

The Scriptures proclaimed at Mass can be beautiful and inspiring but challenging and often difficult. Sheep, sycamores, synagogue officials - what do they mean to us today? The Sunday Mass Scripture Review group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7 in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Guided by facilitator Pat Pavlucik they read the passages for the upcoming weekend Mass and engage in lively and fruitful discussions of their meaning and significance. If you'd like to look more deeply into God's Word, and how it applies to our 21st century lives, bring your Bible and join the group! Call or text Amanda (203-868-2377) for more information.

A Social Justice Meditation

All historical experience demonstrates the following: Our earth cannot be changed unless in the not too distant future an alteration in the consciousness of individuals is achieved.

Hans Küng



Hans Küng

Hans Küng, who passed away in April at the age of 93, was a controversial Swiss Roman Catholic theologian and priest who worked to find commonalities in the ethics of all religions as a means toward peace. His brilliant disputatious, lucidly expressed thoughts and countless speeches advanced ecumenism and greater democracy within the Church, earning him millions of followers among liberal Catholics. They also provoked the Vatican, under Pope John Paul II, to censure him in 1979, in particular for his questioning of the concept of papal infallibility.

Later on, Küng developed a mutually respectful relationship with Pope Benedict XVI. Benedict applauded Küng's efforts to revive the dialogue between faith and the natural sciences while Küng praised the pope for reaching out to other religions.

Küng was an adviser to the Second Vatican Council, appointed by Pope John XIII. There, he earned the distinction of having all of his documents accepted, although some in modified form. He was critical of Church governance, and of its positions on issues such as birth control, priestly celibacy, the ordination of women, mixed marriages and other matters.



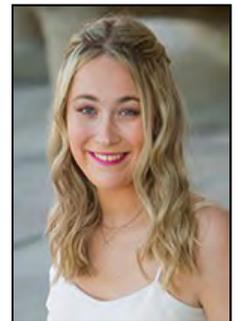
Forward with Faith

Father John has received a \$17,000 check from Forward with Faith, the first of what will be regular receipts of 50% of what has been paid, not pledged, to this capital campaign for the Archdiocese of Hartford. Thank you for your generosity.

Jesse Greene, Cantor and Proud Salve Regina Alum with a Passion for Nursing

Her lovely face is familiar, but most parishioners know Jesse Greene as the young cantor with the beautiful voice. Here's some of what we learned about her in a recent interview.

The daughter of John and Deborah Greene, Jesse has fond memories of growing up near Laurel Beach. A Saint Gabriel School alum, she "began singing in the Children's Choir in first grade" and was a fifth grader when then music director John Swingler "gave me the wonderful opportunity to begin my ministry as a cantor." That ministry has continued, for 13 years at Saint Raphael's and through her years at Salve Regina University in Newport, RI, where she cantors at Our Lady of Mercy Chapel. As a cantor she has "the opportunity to express my faith in a special and sacred way during Mass" and to "invite all members of our faith community to join together in song." She plans to continue singing in Salve's University Chorus when she can (and "at a few more Salve Christmas concerts!") and to continue taking voice lessons with her vocal instructor.



Jesse Greene

Music, though, was Jesse's minor at Salve. She was drawn to the university "primarily for its well-respected nursing program" and graduated *summa cum laude* in May with a B.S. in nursing. Through a beloved aunt's grave illness while Jesse was at Lauralton Hall she was able to see first-hand the "dedication, love and compassion" that are "characteristic of nursing," a "beautiful profession with a far-reaching impact on the lives of the vulnerable." Her "many experiences taking care of patients during my time at Salve Regina have solidified my passion for nursing, and I am honored and excited to begin my service after passing my nursing boards." She'll be taking boards this month, and will begin her career as an R.N. on a Medical-Surgical Telemetry unit at Saint Anne's Hospital in Fall River, MA. Future goals: A Masters in Nursing, as a Family Nurse Practitioner, and, ultimately, nursing in a Neonatal ICU.

Jesse enjoys family walks at Eisenhower Park with Arby, the Greene's Rhodesian Ridgeback, sailing, yoga classes and "going to the beach in Newport!" She hopes to "come home each month" to sing with us. (We hope so, too!)

Jesse closed the interview with thanks for "the wonderful opportunity to be a part of the parish's liturgical ministries, truly grateful for the people I have met and the music I have the privilege of sharing. I am so glad that congregational singing is once again allowed —my favorite part of being a cantor is hearing and seeing the faith community singing with me — especially without masks ☺ !" Thank you, Jesse. May your future be as bright as your smile. God bless.

MYTHS VS FACTS

ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

An ongoing series from the the Pastoral Council's Human Concerns and Social Justice Committee, intended to educate parishioners and help them protect their children.

Myth: Victims will be desperate to escape their trafficker and ask for help when they need it.

Fact: Trafficking victims may not readily seek help due to a number of factors, including shame, self-blame, fear or even specific instructions from their traffickers on how to behave when interacting with others. Victims don't always self-identify and may not realize that they have rights.

Social service agencies, law enforcement and families need to take time to look below the surface and build trust with individuals who may be experiencing trafficking before making judgments about their situation.

If you need assistance or additional information call the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

A Preview of GIFT for 2021/2022

GIFT

July is for planning, and our dedicated GIFT team is finalizing plans for the year ahead. GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) is the highly regarded Saint Raphael faith formation program for people of all ages and our sacramental program - First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation. Because all of us are called to continue to learn about our faith, to grow in faith and to live our faith, GIFT is designed for both adults and young people. The monthly sessions bring us together for prayer, for learning, for discussion, for celebration. This year's theme will be *Prayer Life*, with a focus on forms of prayer, Catholic prayers and devotions, the Mass, and how we can continue to develop our prayer life throughout our lives.

Here's a peek at GIFT for Fall: In-person classes will be our standard, and we'll follow current health and safety protocols with special consideration for children under 12. Virtual programming will be our backup if necessary, for local health emergencies, for example, or inclement weather. The GIFT team "can't wait to meet and connect with all our families *in person* this year. We've missed you!"

The traditional large group gathering in the Parish Center Hall remains on hold for the immediate future. Once the team determines from a health and safety perspective that it's the right time to gather again, we'll be able to have our light dinner, opening prayer and song, Deacon George's theme-setting overview and an opening activity. (Yes!)

During the week of August 2 or August 9, all registered families with young people ages 5 through 15 will receive our GIFT program mailing and sacramental information as appropriate. Singles and couples of all ages interested in participating in our monthly sessions will find GIFT program information at the doors of both churches.

Questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).



All Aboard!! Final Call for Summer's VBS Rocky Railway!

Campers will head to the Rockies for a week of crafts, Bible adventures, snacks and more while they discover that Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through! In-person sessions for campers ages 4 through 10 run Monday, July 26 - Friday, July 30, 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at our 501 Naugatuck Avenue campus (25 camper maximum). The take-home camp option with one evening Zoom event runs the week of July 26 for ages 3 through 10. Have questions? Need registration details? Contact Maria, as above.

Two First Communion Saturdays

Saint Raphael Parish was blessed this year with two First Communion Saturdays, May 22 at Saint Gabriel Church and June 19 at Saint Ann's. Congratulations to all the First Communicants. May you always remember your First Communion day and the great love Jesus has for you, and may God bless you always.

May 22

First Communicants

Jay Barretto, Jr.
Jocelyn Brennan
Lily Buglione
Nora Burns
Matteo Kenworthy
Viktoria Kmiecik
Thomas Marter
Molly Maziarz
Bryce Tuba
Gian Venditti



June 19

First Communicants

Samuel DiMartino
Seth Empric
Philip Fiordelisi
Pierce Gildea
Connor Heinmiller
Lena Rivera
Ryan Rivera
Cristian Salamanca
Franco Savastano

First Reconciliation June 14

Pierce Gildea met Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, June 14. Congratulations, Pierce! May you always find comfort in the loving forgiveness of the Good Shepherd, who seeks out the lost.

Confirmation Program and RCIA

The parish's Adult Confirmation program for Catholics 18 or older who have not yet been confirmed begins next month.

Our parish RCIA program, through which interested adults have the opportunity to explore and discuss what it means to be Catholic, begins in September.

To register or for additional information please contact Maria Tomasetti, as above.

We're Collecting Backpacks & School Supplies for Milford Students in Need - Can You Help?

Saint Raphael's will be collecting backpacks and supplies to support the program sponsored by Milford Youth & Family Services. In the box at left: Supplies for a complete backpack. **Bolded items** are always needed. Please bring what you can to weekend Masses in July. Contact Maria (as above) for details, and thank you very much.

Fill a Backpack With:

Pens, **Mechanical Pencils**, Pencil Case
Eraser Tops, Highlighters
5 large 1-subject spiral notebooks with pocket (college-ruled)
2 1-1/2" binders
College-ruled filler paper, **7 folders**,
Sets of subject tabs for binders
3"x5" index cards

Help Wanted: Small Plot Gardener

The Saint Gabriel Meditation Garden looks great, thanks to Matt Salomone and his crew, but we need someone to plant and take care of flowers in the strip in front of the garden, next to the sidewalk.

If your green thumb is itching for a small but significant project this season, please call Manfred (203-444-2991).

Thank you, and God bless you for your willingness to help.

More Grads, First Communions, A Special Profile, Word of the Month

This month we continue to honor the Class of 2021 and profile a member of that class, the talented young cantor Jesse Greene. We also highlight nineteen First Communicants from May and June.

Our staff has selected a first-ever Word of the Month - *resume* - acknowledging the

**Resume:
to go on with
again after
interruption**

fact that so much of parish life is “going on again after interruption.” And isn’t that great?!

Look for details on July’s HomeFront fundraisers and read about the GIFT team’s plans for fall. (Hint: in-person sessions will . . . *resume*!)

Celebrate the 4th with thanksgiving for our freedoms and with praise for the God from whom all blessings flow.

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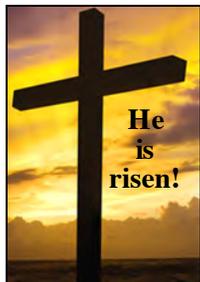
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In Memoriam



St. Raphael’s mourns the recent loss of

C. Robert Vargo William Wing
Robert Blake Patricia Bloszko
Catherine Michaud-Streeto
Salvatore “Sam” Edo
Carol Horvat Santalucia
Patrick Parlee

May they rest in God’s eternal peace.

Bereavement Support Sessions Resume on Sunday, July 11



Our Bereavement Support group will resume its regular schedule of monthly meetings beginning Sunday afternoon, July 11, at 2 o’clock in the Saint Ann Children’s Chapel.

The fifteen months since our last meeting have been a time of uncertainty and isolation, of life-threatening illness and, for some, unbearable loss.

If you are struggling because of the loss of someone you love we invite you to join us. In the prayerful quiet of a Sunday afternoon, tell your story, share your feelings. Let us walk with you a little while on the difficult road from grief to healing. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you would like additional information.

*The Lord is close to the brokenhearted,
and those who are crushed in spirit he saves.
(Psalm 34:19)*

Love and Best Wishes



as you begin your married life together. . .
Steven and Jordan (Melotto) Mendelsshon
who were married at Saint Gabriel Church
on Sunday, May 30. May God bless you abundantly
through a long and beautiful marriage.

Blue Mantle Ministry’s New Meeting Schedule

The schedule is new, but the focus of the Blue Mantle ministry remains the same: Knitting and crocheting items that bring physical and spiritual comfort to those in need.

From novices to experts, all are welcome to join this special group at the Saint Gabriel Ministry Center on Mondays from 1-3 p.m. (except on second Mondays of the month, when they gather from 6-8 p.m.) Supplies are available and all finished items are donated to local charities, veterans’ groups and health care facilities.

If you have questions or would like further information call Katharina Weirether at 203-283-3548.

Parish Press Info Due by Bastille Day, July 14!

News and notes for the August newsletter are due in our editorial offices by Wednesday, July 14. Send them to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you. (Play *La Marseillaise*!)

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