



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

August 2021



Our HomeFront Team is Recruiting Volunteers! We Need Your Help on Saturday, September 11th

The parish HomeFront team is gearing up for Saturday, September 11th when they'll launch a one-day home repair blitz to help a Milford family in need.



What a great opportunity to use your time, your gifts and talents to serve others! Are you good with tools? Do you wield a mean paintbrush, know your way around a home improvement project? Why not use those skills to make a real difference in someone's life? You might be paint-spattered and weary at the end of the day, but you'll be sporting a "job well done" smile. And the crew can definitely use your help, even for a few hours on a part-time shift.

Team leaders John Marmolejo, Rich Wheeling and Carrie Jayne Nocerino are recruiting volunteers at all levels, people willing to spend that significant September Saturday on a worthwhile project. Our team has a job to match every skill set, from basic to expert.

Like to help? You can reach Carrie at carrietvl@yahoo.com or 203-878-5566. Come be a part of a terrific team!

HomeFront Support, Tremendously Tasty!

Perhaps no other HomeFront effort has had such tasty support. Reports have surfaced about the incredible virtual desserts that flew off the shelves at the Bakeless Bake Sale - and no one gained an ounce in the process! This year's Roast Pork Dinner was another lively sellout - lots of good food, an array of fun raffle prizes and a much-appreciated, hardworking crew. (Is there a James Beard award in the works for the head chef?!) Sincere thanks to everyone who helped make these efforts so successful.



Feast of the Transfiguration Seeing the Glory of the Lord

Friday, August 6th, is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord when, as we read in Mark's Gospel (9:2-10) Jesus led Peter, James and John up on a high mountain and "was transfigured before them." His clothes

became "dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them." For a short time, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI has written, the disciples saw "the divine glory of Jesus," a brightness more intense than the light of the sun, a glory that "illuminates the whole history of salvation."

In the mystery of the Transfiguration, we gain a foretaste of the Kingdom. The Kontakion of the Transfiguration, a hymn of the Byzantine liturgy, gives beautiful expression to the mystery:

You were transfigured on a mountain. Your disciples contemplated your glory, Christ God, so that when they saw you crucified, they would understand that your passion was freely willed. They would announce to the world that you are truly the splendor of the Father.

The bishops of Connecticut removed the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation as of the Vigil of Pentecost on May 22, 2021. What does this mean? First, if your health puts you at risk generally, you are always excused from the obligation to attend Mass in person. The Church has always recognized and allowed for limitations of age and infirmity that keep some of our members from attending Mass on a regular basis, and we always discourage you from coming to Mass if you are sick and could infect others, not just with Covid, but also with colds, flu, or other communicable illnesses. For this reason, we will continue to offer parishioners who need it the option to join us via live stream. As a reminder, we livestream Saturday's 4:00 p.m. Mass and Sunday's Mass at 9:30 a.m. We also livestream the 8:00 a.m. Mass on Mondays and Fridays.

For healthy adults and families who stopped coming to Mass because the dispensation excused the obligation, it is now time to safely rejoin your fellow parishioners at weekend Mass. Prior to the global pandemic we would normally have about 675 people attending one of the four Masses on an average weekend. When we resumed public Mass one year ago, we had a weekend attendance of about 210. Most recently we have averaged about 525.

We've missed you! And we're eager to reconnect with you and welcome you back to active participation in our parish. Even for those who have already returned to weekly Mass, this is a time of renewal! We've all gone through a difficult time that has challenged our faith in many ways. We may have experienced ill health or cared for loved ones who suffered with Covid or other illnesses throughout this ordeal. Many of our families have suffered employment and financial difficulties. Still others have lost loved ones, and for most of those dearly departed we were not able to mourn together adequately as a community.

Now that the restrictions from gathering as a parish community are lessening, I invite all of us to prepare to return and rediscover the precious gift of our Catholic faith! Welcome home to Saint Raphael Parish.

Father John

A Social Justice Meditation



Joan Chittister

“The symbolic evidence of women’s invisibility in the human race is most clear perhaps in her suppression, her camouflage, her negation even in language. Women are subsumed, excised, erased by male pronouns, by male terminology, by male prayers about brotherhood and brethren, even and always by exclusively male images of God. The tradition that will call God spirit, rock, key door, wind, and bird will never ever call God mother. So much for the creative womb of God; so much for “I am who am.” So much for “Let us make human beings in our own image, male and female, let us make them.” What kind of spirituality is that?

Sister Joan Daugherty Chittister

Joan Chittister is a member of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA, and served as the community's prioress for 12 years. She has dedicated her life to voicing questions that test popularly accepted truths of the day. Her questions to both church and society focus on the empowerment of women, the development of contemporary spirituality, a redefinition and renewal of Benedictine life for seekers today, and justice for the oppressed and marginalized, particularly those in prison.

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: Traffickers always kidnap their victims.

Fact: While this can happen, the number one place traffickers find their victims is online from the comfort of their own living rooms. They build a relationship over the internet with these young, vulnerable children. Most then go willingly to meet their traffickers in person.

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

Goods for the Troops: Kiernan Wilson’s Eagle Scout Project Donations Collected Through August 8



As his Eagle Scout service project Confirmation candidate and rising Jonathan Law sophomore Kiernan Wilson of Milford’s Boy Scout Troop 1, is organizing Goods for the Troops, a drive to collect food and other items for our troops overseas. In order to achieve the prestigious Eagle rank a Scout must, among other requirements, plan, organize, lead and manage a service project that benefits the community. Kiernan is working in partnership with the non-profit organization “Project from the Heart,” which has been supporting our troops since 2002.

Great project, great cause, and you can help! Please select and purchase food and/or hygiene items from the lists below. Drop your donations into the Goods for the Troops boxes in the church vestibules. Don’t delay! The boxes will be available only through Sunday, August 8th. Donations will then be packaged and sent to troops stationed around the world. Prefer to make a Venmo donation? Contact Maria (atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598) for Kiernan's Venmo information. Thank you. Kiernan and the troops are grateful for your support!!

Food Items

Beef Jerky	Individual pack boxes of:
Slim Jims	Oatmeal, Hot Chocolate
Sunflower Seeds	Cereal (small)
Tuna with Crackers	Cookies (small)
Tuna in pouches	Flip top cans of:
Plastic jars of:	Vienna Sausages, 4.6 oz.
Peanut Butter, 18 oz./less	Beans or w/franks, 8.3 oz.
Jelly, 22 oz./less	Fruit/fruit cocktail, 8.5 oz.
Boxes(wrapped stacks):	Protein bars/Energy bars
Crackers	Gum/Hard Candy
Coffee, 11.5 oz. can	Drink Mixes

Hygiene Products

Toothbrushes:	Q-Tips, 180 count/less
Single or 2-4 pack	Nail Clippers
Toothpaste, 6.4 oz./less	Bathroom tissue
Dental Floss	Feminine Hygiene:
Chapstick	Maxi pads,16/fewer
Disposable razors	Tampons. 36 count/fewer
Shave Cream, 10 oz./less	Hypoallergenic
Body Wash, 13.5 oz./less	Baby Wipes:
Stick Deodorant	non- alcohol, soft pack,
Hand sanitizer wipes	80 count/fewer

Love to Garden?

Small plot available, just for you!

The plot in question is the small strip outside the Meditation Garden fence at St. Gabriel’s. (See the photo below.)



Would you like to brighten the space with some colorful flowers? They’ll need care and watering, a tender touch to make them thrive.

Interested? Call Manfred (203-444-2991) and please accept our bouquet of thanks.



Adult Confirmation

Our Adult Confirmation program will begin this month for Catholics 18 or older who have made First Communion as Catholics but who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation.

The program consists of a series of six 2-hour evening sessions leading to Confirmation this fall. Please call Maria, as above. to register or for further information,

The Holy Father’s

Prayer Intention for August

Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Saint Raphael Parish Website

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>



Our "Family" Faith Formation Program

The team was finalizing details for GIFT 2021/2022 as we went to press. Here's what we do know.

Prayer Life

Friday, October 22
Sunday, October 24
Wednesday, October 27
 (Session times to be determined.)

This year's theme will be *Prayer Life* and we will discuss a specific prayer topic at each month's sessions. Beginning in October we will offer three monthly in-person date options: Friday evening, Sunday afternoon, and one weekday evening. The three

date options will allow for safe distancing. We will follow CDC/local guidelines as to the use of face masks indoors.

We hope to be able to offer an "individual table" pizza dinner and/or a short opening program for some of our 2021/2022 GIFT sessions. If other GIFT families are in your family's cohort, please let Maria know for planning purposes. The community aspect of our GIFT program is so very important! At the same time, we will continue to pay close attention to CDC/local guidelines before adding these components to the program.

Singles, couples, families with children, families with teens, young adults, middle-aged adults and seniors - *all* parishioners can register and participate in our GIFT "family" faith formation program, and we hope you will!

Parish families with children and teens, please check your mailboxes this month for GIFT program registration materials. GIFT registration is required for anyone who participates in our First Communion and Confirmation programs. The registration materials will also be available at the doors of both churches by mid-month. Questions? Please contact Maria, as at right.

K of C Tinto Council 47 Scholarships for 2021

Congratulations to Hunter Fonck, Jenna Hanson and Misai Lam, members of Jonathan Law's Class of 2021 and this year's recipients of the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council 47 Scholarships.

Among them, Hunter, Jenna and Misai have an impressive resumé of parish service, including VBS Summer Camp, Winter Family Fun Night, altar server, Thanksgiving Basket Brigade, and Giving Vines. College is on the horizon this fall: Eastern CT State University for Hunter, Fairfield University for Jenna and the University of Connecticut for Misai. We thank them for their generous service to Saint Raphael's and wish them happiness and great success in all that lies ahead.

It's Not Too Late to Donate Backpacks and School Supplies to Middle and High School Students in Need!

Milford Youth & Family Services understands that it is costly to fill a backpack. What's listed in the green box below will fill a single backpack and are the supplies the schools have requested. Items in bold print are always needed. Please purchase what your budget allows or consider sharing with a friend. Kindly bring any backpacks or supplies to either church by Sunday, August 8th. Thank you for your generosity.

Backpacks
5 large 1-subject spiral notebooks with pocket (college-ruled)

Pens, **Mechanical Pencils**, Pencil Case
 Eraser Tops, Highlighters
 3"x5" index cards

2 1-1/2" binders
 College-ruled filler paper, **7 folders**,
 Sets of subject tabs for binders

Sacramental Program Notes

Sacramental program information is in the mail! By mid-month all registered families with young people eligible to prepare for Sacraments this year should be able to mark their calendars for September's overview meetings.

These in-person meetings will be held in the Parish Center at our 501 Naugatuck Avenue campus.

Confirmation

Choose:

Wednesday, September 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. OR
Thursday, September 23, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

For teens in Grade 9 or older who are entering our Confirmation program - with a parent/guardian.

First Communion/First Reconciliation

Choose:

Saturday, September 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m. OR
Saturday, September 18, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

For a parent/guardian of children entering Grade 2 or older who have not yet prepared to receive these sacraments. This meeting is intended for parents, not children. If children need to attend due to childcare considerations we will provide them with an activity during the meeting.

Thank you, parents and guardians, for making the decision to help your children and teens continue to learn and grow in faith as they prepare to receive these Sacraments.

If you do not receive the appropriate mailing or need further information contact Maria Tomasetti - 203-988-8598 (voice or text) or atomasetti@snet.net.



First Communion Monday, July 12

Much to the delight of the morning Mass family, July 12th was a First Communion Monday at Saint Ann's. Cousins Frida Aragon and Keyla Ramirez, beautiful in their white dresses and veils, received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion.

Congratulations, Frida and Keyla. Jesus, the Bread of Life, has come to you in the Eucharist, the Bread of Angels. May you always welcome His loving presence.

It's August: Poppies, Meteor Showers, GIFT, Help Wanted & More

The poppy is one of two August birth flowers (Gladiolus is the other) and mid-



August is considered peak viewing time for the Perseid Meteor Shower, with 50 meteors an hour on summer evenings. Ah, the beauty of God's creation!

On the parish level it seems to be "Help Wanted" month for at least 3 very good causes. We also have updated information on GIFT, our family faith formation and sacramental preparation program.

Read about the Feast of the Transfiguration and the disciples' stunning glimpse of the glory of the Lord. And don't miss this month's Social Justice meditation and Sister Joan Chittister's comments on the "invisibility" of women. Happy August!

The Parish Press

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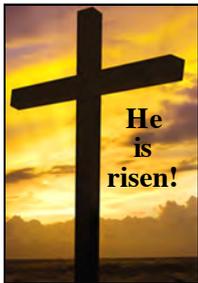
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In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Henriette Garozzo
Jean Doran
Douglas Kovacs
Daniel Moll
James G. McCarthy
Adana Tutunjian



May they come to know perfect joy and peace in heaven, and may God bless their families with comfort and consolation.

Bereavement Support Meeting Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 p.m.



If you are struggling to cope with the death of someone you love, please consider meeting with our Bereavement Support group on Sunday afternoon, August 8. We gather on the second Sunday of every month at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

The chapel offers a prayerful and confidential setting where you may find comfort, sharing your feelings and your memories with others who have known the pain of loss. Sharing the burden of your grief can be a first step toward healing. If you need additional information, a kind heart and a listening ear, please call 203-877-4020.

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

We Welcome With Love . . .

the newest members of our parish family,

Leo T. Roberts
Declan P. Harte
Jeff Thomas Burgarella
Jonathan Mark Castaneda



Leo and Declan were baptized on Sunday, June 27 at Saint Gabriel Church. Jeff and Jonathan received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, July 18 at Saint Ann Church.

God bless you, little ones. May your lives be filled with joy and wonder.

Submit *Parish Press* Info by August 13

Please submit your news, notes, comments and photos for September's newsletter by Friday, August 13. Send them via email (parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks very much.

Scrip

A Great Way to Shop!

Purchase Scrip cards for shopping - back to school, gifts, groceries, dining out and more - and you'll be helping the parish! A percentage of each Scrip purchase (% varies by retailer) goes to support Saint Raphael's. The list of merchants runs from Amazon to Zappo's, with hundreds of others in between, including your favorites, we're sure.

For details or to place your order please call parish Scrip expert Pat Dumas (203-878-2774). Thank you.