



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

October 2021



October, the Month of the Holy Rosary

October is traditionally the Month of the Holy Rosary, the beautiful prayer Our Lady entrusted to Saint Dominic in the 13th century. Since then many of the popes have championed the Rosary as a powerful devotion.

In *Christi Matri*, his 1966 encyclical on Prayers for Peace during October, Pope Paul VI wrote, "If evils increase, the devotion of the People of God should also increase. Pray ardently to our most merciful mother Mary by saying the Rosary during the month of October." Pope John XXIII had written but a few years earlier, "The Rosary is a magnificent and universal prayer for the needs of the Church, the nations and the entire world." Their words resonate with us during these very troubled times.

Saint Raphael's offers special opportunities to pray the Rosary this month.

International Rosary Tuesday, October 5

In keeping with a long-established parish tradition we will pray an International Rosary at Saint Gabriel Church on Tuesday, October 5 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Come and reflect on what Pope John Paul II called "the mysteries of Mary's heart" as multi-lingual parishioners lead each of the Rosary's five decades in a different language: Diana D'Avignon in French, Emma Scialis in Italian, Antonia Gomes in Portuguese, Katharina Weirether in German and Anna Nguyen in Vietnamese. Our prayers will rise with a sweet and lovely fragrance to Mary's throne in heaven.

The evening includes hymns to the Blessed Mother and closes with refreshments in Saint Gabriel's Hall. The International Rosary reminds us that we are indeed a universal church.

T4S

Kickoff Meeting Monday, October 11

Our Teens for Service group will kick off the season when they meet on Monday, October 11 (6:30-7:30 p.m.) in a Parish Center classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave campus.

Any parish teens in Grades 7 through 12 can be part of this terrific group. Meetings will include small service projects, planning for parish/community service events, and time/activities to get to know each other. Please arrive on the 11th with your ideas for ways we can serve our parish and/or community! Invite a friend or two! Planning to be there? Contact Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell).

10th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Walk/Run Saturday, October 30, Lisman Landing, 37 Helwig St., Milford Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Race begins at 9:00 a.m.

Your participation directly supports Beth-El Center's programs and services for people experiencing hunger and homelessness in our community. Note: Masks are required prior to the starting line and immediately after finish. Please bring your own water bottle - no cups allowed. In the event of high COVID-19 community transmission, the event will be held virtually. For complete information and registration: <http://www.milfordtrickortrot.com/about.html>

Questions? Please contact Maria (as above). Thanks for your support.

Fatima Rosary Resumes Saturday, October 2 at 11:00 a.m.

We continue the Fatima tradition of First Saturday Rosary recitation beginning October 2 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Ann Church. This powerful First Saturday devotion will continue through February. Please join us as we pray for peace.

Pray the Rosary Tuesdays at Noon Saint Ann Children's Chapel

You may drop in any Tuesday. All are welcome. For additional information call Joanne (203-877-4020).



Annual Social Justice Dinner October 19

You are cordially invited to the Annual Dinner and Awards of the Office of Social Justice Ministry of the Archdiocese of Hartford on Tuesday evening, October 19, 5-8 p.m. at the Aqua Turf, 556 Mulberry Street, Plantsville.

At this year's dinner CONECT (see pg 2) will be honored with the Bishop Donnelly Award in recognition of their work in promoting a more just world here in Connecticut. Congratulations, CONECT!

To reserve your spot at the dinner please contact Albert May (203-606-0994 or amay4713@gmail.com) The parish will cover the registration fee. (Thanks, Father John.)

Pastoral Council Meets October 25

The Pastoral Council will meet on Monday, October 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Saint Ann Parish Center.

HomeFront 2021: Transformation and Inspiration



Melvin Moral, his son Arthur and Rich Wheeling (background) were among HomeFront's volunteers.

The house was in great disrepair, desperately in need of a fresh coat of paint, and dauntingly high - up to three stories in some areas, close to 3,000 square feet in all. But our HomeFront team was up to the challenge! Some 40 strong (including several teens) and led by the John Marmolejo/Rich Wheeling/Carrie Nocerino triumvirate, the team went to work on Saturday, September 11.

The neighbors could not believe what our team accomplished in a single day: power washing; scraping, sanding, priming and painting; landing and railing replacement at front and back; gutter flashing; drywall ceiling repair; and landscaping - adding new plants and flowers for the front raised garden beds.

Team captain Marmolejo was effusive in his thanks to the volunteers, "some regulars and some new, who made it happen." Referring to Matthew's Gospel, he said, "You are salt and light!! 'In the same way your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father who is in heaven.'" (Matt 5:16)

The transformation of the house at 634 Naugatuck Avenue in Milford, a beautiful example of Social Justice in action, provided the inspiration for this month's Social Justice meditation.

Social Justice In Action

Saint Raphael HomeFront volunteers spent September 11 doing what they always do at this time of year - making repairs and improvements to the home of a low-income person in our community.

HomeFront is a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides FREE repairs to low-income homeowners, thus enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life. One long-standing and valued collaborator has been the Archdiocese of Hartford's Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry (OCSJM). Since 1994, the OCSJM has been responsible for organizing thousands of volunteers to help revitalize homes and community centers. It is through OCSJM that Saint Raphael Parish first became involved in HomeFront.

OCSJM-supported volunteer teams are composed of single parishes, multiple parishes from within the same geographic area, and interfaith partners who are joined by local businesses to work on projects demonstrating the greatest recipient need in the Greater Hartford, New Haven and Waterbury regions.

HomeFront allows a community of volunteers to walk away from a project with a sense of having helped a neighbor and changed lives for the better, raising spirits and restoring hope. HomeFront currently serves Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven Counties in CT; and Westchester County, NY. For more information on HomeFront, contact their main office in Stamford (800-887-4673) or visit their website (www.homefrontprogram.org).



Core Team Meeting
Monday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.
Saint Gabriel Parish Hall

The Saint Raphael CONECT Core team, inactive since 2019 due to the pandemic, is pleased to announce that we will meet again this month. We are looking for parishioners interested in developing relationships and taking action on issues of common concern - health and mental health care, for example, schools, government, whatever issues you consider important. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to participate via Zoom, call or text Al May (203-606-0994).

CONNECT (*Congregations Organized for a New Connecticut*) is a collective of faith communities and civic organizations from New Haven and Fairfield counties, representing more than 30,000 people, who have joined together to make our communities better. Learn about CONECT at www.weconnect.org or at <https://www.facebook.com/CONNECT.IAF/>

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: Human trafficking always or usually a violent crime.

Fact: By far the most pervasive myth about human trafficking is that it always, or often, involves kidnapping or other use of physical force. In reality, most human traffickers use psychological means such as tricking, defrauding, manipulating or threatening victims into providing commercial sex or exploitative labor.

For help or more information call the National Human Trafficking Hotline:

1-888-373-7888

Saint Gabriel

Food  **Pantry**

Food distribution:

Thursdays beginning at 10:00 a.m.
by appointment only.

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

In addition to foodstuffs, the pantry needs hygiene products, hand and bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dishwashing liquid and laundry detergent.

Gift cards always welcome.

Thank you very much.

GIFT Sacramental

Confirmation

**Program Session:
The Sacraments
Sunday, October 3
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
OR
Tuesday, October 5
6:30-8:00 p.m.**

One of these sessions required for "first year" Confirmation candidates.

First Reconciliation

**Session #1
Saturday, October 2
10:00-11:45 a.m.**

**Session #2
Saturday, November 6
10:00-11:45 a.m.**

Sessions required for children with a parent or guardian.

Classes will be held in the Parish Center, 501 Naugatuck Avenue.

October's GIFT - First Session Focus

Prayer Life is the theme for this GIFT season, and during this first session we will begin to explore the depth and richness of prayer in the Catholic Church. We'll examine our call to prayer, what the Church defines as prayer and the importance of prayer in our lives as disciples. We'll look, too, at some of the rich paths of prayer that enable us to spend time with the living God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

During this session we'll look at the various forms of prayer: Blessing/Adoration, Petition, Intercession, Thanksgiving, and Praise, and at some of the many styles and types of prayer.

At our age-appropriate breakout sessions, we'll talk about prayer as a vital and personal relationship with God and learn to value the role of prayer in living our Catholic faith. We'll discuss taking steps to practice prayer on a regular basis in our lives, and encourage our children and teens to practice prayer in their lives.

Registered GIFT families will receive their time slot notifications early this month. We will follow Covid health/safety protocols, re: masks and safe distancing. (Sorry, pizza lovers: we won't be offering our pizza dinner this month.) Questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti - 203-988-8598 (voice/text) or atomasetti@snet.net.

We Are Called to Pray Forms/Styles of Prayer

**Friday, October 22
6:30 - 8:15 p.m.**

**Sunday, October 24
12:30 - 2:15 p.m.**

**Wednesday, October 27
6:30 - 8:15 p.m.**

**Opening gathering
in Saint Ann Church.**

**Breakout sessions in
Parish Center classrooms.**

**(Session times and
locations to be confirmed
by October 11.)**

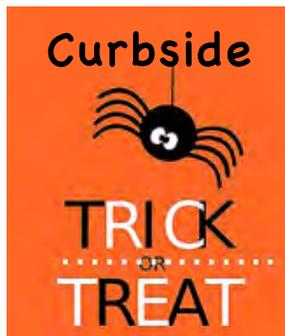


Goods for the Troops Eagle Scout Project A Great Success

As part of his Eagle Scout project *Goods for the Troops* Confirmation candidate Kiernan Wilson had placed collection boxes for nonperishable foods and hygiene products in various locations throughout Milford, including Saint Ann's and Saint Gabriel's.

Sunday, September 12, was packing day, when fellow Scouts and troop leaders helped Kiernan package the contributions - 81 boxes in all! The project also raised approximately \$1,000 for shipping the boxes to our troops overseas.

Kiernan wants to "thank all Saint Raphael parishioners for your help and donations. Without your generosity, my project would not have been such a great success. Thank you again."



Sunday, October 31 (Halloween!) 1:00- 2:00 p.m.

Trick or Treat Curbside is on the Halloween calendar, and the accent is definitely on *treats*! Parents are invited to bring their trick or treaters, ages 4-12, to the Saint Ann's parking lot behind the parish office

(501 Naugatuck Avenue), where members of our Social Gathering team will be distributing the treats between 1 and 2 p.m. Costumes are optional for the young people, their drivers and the team, for this drive-through event. Sounds like a fun time. Don't miss it!

A Special GIFT Event - Remember the Saints Friday, November 12, 6:30-7:30 p.m. via Zoom

On November 1 the Church celebrates All Saints Day, an important feast and a day to remember all the holy people who live now forever in God's presence. Our innovative GIFT team has proposed a unique, fun-for-all-ages way to celebrate the saints at the virtual *Remember the Saints* event on November 12.

Between now and then we invite parish children, teens, adults and families to learn about a particular saint - your Confirmation saint, perhaps; your patron saint; a saint who shares your heritage or one with whom you feel a special connection - there are lots of possibilities. Do some research, make some notes. Draw a picture of your saint in action. Dress up as your saint - perhaps for trick or treating! Then, on November 12, share what you've learned, what you know, as part of *Remember the Saints*.

What a great way for parishioners of all ages to come together, to meet the saints and to grow in an understanding of the role the saints play in the life of the Church and in our own lives as well. The saints are role models, the heroes of our faith. But they were real people - moms and dads, cooks and farmers, priests, peasants and more. All of them, we will learn, can support us on our everyday spiritual journey. And all of us, we'll discover, have the potential to become saints.

If you'd like to participate in this special event, please contact Maria (as above) for the Zoom link/meeting information and for links to resources about Catholic saints.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for October

Intention for evangelization - Missionary disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

October: The Rosary, T4S, Trick or Trot, HomeFront Report and More!

It's October - time for falling leaves, apple picking and pumpkin carving. National Homemade Cookies Day, National Poetry Day and International Coffee Day all fall on Friday, the first - sounds like a party!



We celebrate Mary this month as Our Lady of the Rosary. T4S, our lively teen group, kicks off its season, while the younger crowd can look forward to Trick or Treat Curbside on Halloween. The annual Trick or Trot 5K is also on the calendar.

In this issue we have followups on Kiernan Wilson's Eagle Scout project and the HomeFront team's stellar work as well as news about a unique way to meet the saints, coming up in November. Enjoy October!

The Parish Press

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SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

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In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Alfred Cappellirei
João Baptista Santiago Pereira
Lillian Injaychock
John Cammarano
Ronald Williams
Richard Plasky Michael Keilty
Robert Weaver Sally Irwin

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family

Emma M. Cuttler
Violet L. Murray
Vivienne Grace Cooper
Alice Holly Gargiulo
Madelyn Griswold
Kailani Sophia Monteiro



Emma and Violet were baptized on Sunday, August 29 at Saint Gabriel Church. Vivienne, Alice, Holly and Kailani received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, September 19 at Saint Ann Church.

God bless you, little ones. May you live always in the joy of the Lord.

Love and Best Wishes

as you begin your married life together. . .



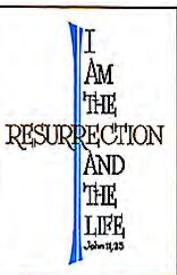
Kirk and Elizabeth (Witkins) Anderson

who were married at Saint Gabriel Church on Saturday, September 18. May you always share love and laughter.

Parish Press Info due October 11

The information deadline for November's newsletter is Monday, October 11. Kindly send your news, notes, comments and photos to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744).

Have a suggestion? Something you'd like to see in the newsletter? Send that along as well. Thanks very much.



As the gracious gift of Jesus Christ overflows, may they taste the sweetness of eternal life.



Bereavement Support Meeting Sunday, October 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Our parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, October 10 at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

Please plan to be with us if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. Let us stand with you and beside you during this most difficult time. It is our hope that you will find comfort in this prayerful, confidential setting among others who have known the pain of loss.

You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you have questions or would like further information.

Saint Raphael Parish Website

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>