



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family  
Milford, Connecticut

November 2021



## Parish Mass of Remembrance

The Saint Raphael Community of Faith invites parishioners, families and friends to our annual Mass of Remembrance to remember and to celebrate all the members of our parish family who have died during the past year.

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.



## Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 25, 9:00 a.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church

On Thanksgiving we have two opportunities to gather with family, share a special meal and give thanks for God's many blessings.

The first: morning Mass, when the parish family comes together to celebrate Eucharist. (How appropriate that the word *Eucharist*, which comes from the Greek, means *Thanksgiving*.) Later in the day: the more traditional holiday celebration with family, special meal and a veritable litany of things we're thankful for. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving. *May God grant you joy of heart and may peace abide among you. (Sirach 50:23)*

**T4S**

**Wednesday, November 17  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

November's Teens for Service meeting is open to parish teens in Grades 7-12 and their friends. On the agenda: learning about this year's service projects, which include - to no one's surprise! - assembling Thanksgiving baskets later in the month for parish families in need.

We'll also discuss an intergenerational program that offers opportunities for teens and elderly parishioners to make a connection, as pen pals, for example, or by 'phone. The meeting is set for a Parish Center classroom. Bring a friend, and it's T4S, so expect snacks! Questions? Contact Maria, 203-988-8598 (voice or text) or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net).

## Veterans' Day Coffee Hour

After all Masses the Weekend of November 6/7

A Veteran's Day Coffee Hour will be held after Masses at Saint Ann's and Saint Gabriel's the first weekend of the month. Stop by, please, enjoy the refreshments and consider making a donation to the Wounded Warrior Project.

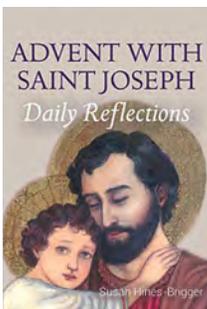


WWP, through its free programs and services, supports our nation's wounded veterans, who can face significant challenges when they return to civilian life. During November, when we traditionally honor those who have served, we can thank these valiant warriors for their service by assisting in their recovery.

## Advent Begins on Sunday, November 28

The Liturgical Year comes to a close after Thanksgiving and we move from the green of Ordinary Time to the violet of Advent, a season of preparation. During these weeks before Christmas we direct our hearts and minds to the coming of Our Savior.

Let Saint Joseph be your guide as you journey toward Bethlehem this Advent. In this patron of the universal Church, the man who "loved Jesus with a father's heart" as Pope Francis has written, we see a model of holiness, a man who responded to God's call with humility and service. Saint Joseph can be a beacon of light for us: a man who protected the vulnerable and marginalized, even when it meant upending his life and fleeing his home country. You will find *Advent with Saint Joseph*, a gift from the parish, at the doors of both our churches. Use the booklet's daily prayers and reflections to prepare your heart for Christ's coming.



## Mass for Healing During These Troubled Times Monday, November 29, 8:00 a.m. Saint Ann Church

On Monday, November 29, Father John will offer the 8 o'clock morning Mass for "Healing During These Troubled Times." We have lived in troubled times since March of 2020, and have dealt with illness, separation from and within our families, job loss, anxiety and more. On this first Monday of Advent we will "turn to God in our need" and ask for God's loving mercy to sustain us.

Father will celebrate a Mass designated for "any need," which is among the many rich and varied Masses contained in the Roman Missal. The collect, or opening prayer, which you can read at right, seems a perfect expression of our longing for comfort. Father will pray for all of us and our intentions at this Mass. If your schedules permit we hope that you will be with us.

*O God, our refuge in trials,  
our strength in sickness,  
our comfort in sorrow,  
spare your people, we pray,  
that, though rightly chastised  
now by affliction,  
they may find relief at last  
through your loving mercy.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.*



Last month Saint Raphael Parish moved into the public phase of Forward with Faith, the first ever capital campaign in the Archdiocese of Hartford.

The campaign is being conducted by the Hartford Bishops' Foundation, which was founded in 2016. A 501(c)(3) forward-thinking nonprofit, the Hartford Bishops' Foundation, Inc. is dedicated to advancing the mission of the Archdiocese of Hartford. It does so by encouraging philanthropy and strategically investing in parishes, schools, ministries, and services that are integral to the Archdiocese's vibrancy and long-term sustainability.

Begun in 2018 with a pilot group of seven parishes, the Forward with Faith Campaign will eventually be conducted in all 131 parishes of the archdiocese. Saint Raphael Parish launched the fund-raising initiative in 2020 by forming a Campaign Leadership Committee. The initial phase of the drive identified a group of parishioners who were asked to make a significant donation to the campaign. Of course, that effort was stymied by the worldwide Covid-19 Pandemic, which also delayed the further implementation of the program. The public phase of the program began in October with a mailing to all registered parishioners.

Each parish will receive 50% of the funds raised from its parishioners to be allocated to its own local needs as identified in their parish case for support. Once a parish reaches its target, 80% of all funds over the target will be retained by the parish. Moreover, the remainder of all campaign funds will return to the parishes either directly or indirectly via HBF grant-making activities within its funding priorities. So far Saint Raphael Parish has raised \$266,150 which is 48% of our \$550,000 goal.

*Father John*

**Upcoming Events to Remember**

**Fatima Rosary**

Saturday, November 6, 11:00 a.m.  
Saint Ann Church

Pray for the peace the world cannot give.

**Reception for Father John**

In honor of his 40th Anniversary of Ordination  
Sunday, November 21, 4:00 p.m.  
Saint Ann Parish Center

**Advent Soup and Sandwich Luncheon**

Benefit Beth-El Shelter/Boys and Girls Village  
Sunday, December 5, after 11 o'clock Mass  
Saint Gabriel's Hall  
Admission: Winter gloves, hats, scarves, socks  
Information: 203-378-5508

**MYTHS VS FACTS**

**ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

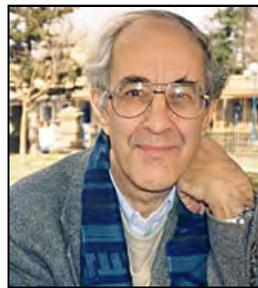
*An ongoing series from the the Pastoral Council's Human Concerns and Social Justice Committee, intended to educate parishioners and help them protect their children.*

**Myth:** Human trafficking and smuggling are the same.

**Fact:** Human trafficking and smuggling are not the same. *Trafficking* is based on exploitation; it does not require movement across borders. *Smuggling* is based on movement; it involves moving a person across a country's border in violation of immigration laws. Although they are very different, human smuggling can turn into trafficking if the smuggler uses force, fraud, or coercion to hold people against their will for the purposes of labor or sexual exploitation.

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

**A Social Justice Meditation**



Henri Nouwen

*When we have nothing to cling to as our own and cease thinking of ourselves as people who must defend privileges, we can open ourselves freely to others with the faithful expectation that our strength will manifest itself in our shared weakness.* Henri Nouwen

Henri Nouwen was an internationally renowned Dutch priest and author, respected professor and beloved pastor who wrote 39 books on the spiritual life. He taught at the University of Notre Dame, and at the divinity schools of Yale and Harvard. Since his death in 1996, ever-increasing numbers of readers, writers, teachers and seekers have been guided by his literary legacy. His books have sold more than 8 million copies and been published in more than 30 languages.

**Christmas Giving Program 2021**

The hardwood trees were still laden with leaves as we went to press, but our dedicated Christmas Giving Program Coordinators were busy planning for this year's program. They will follow the same safety protocols as last year while continuing our parish tradition of Christmas generosity.



The team is currently reaching out to local organizations, including those listed below, to determine how we can best help people in need this year. Some organizations will probably accept gifts while others will request gift cards as in previous years.

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Amistad Catholic Worker House  | Mary and Joseph's Place             |
| Beth-El Center                 | Milford Health Care Center          |
| Boys and Girls Village         | Milford Senior Center               |
| Bridgeport Rescue Mission      | Milford Youth and Family Services   |
| Bridges                        | West River Health Care Center       |
| Four Corners RCF               | St. Vincent's Special Needs Program |
| Golden Hill Health Care Center | Families in Need                    |

Please check your email, the weekly bulletin and December's *Parish Press* to learn more about opportunities to provide for those in need this Christmas. Thank you in advance for your kindness.

You may contact Kathleen Buchanan ([kbuchanan203@gmail.com](mailto:kbuchanan203@gmail.com)) or Maria Tomasetti (as on next page) if you have questions.

## **GIFT Sacramental**

### **First Reconciliation**

#### **Session #2**

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

Parish Center classrooms.

Required for children  
with a parent or guardian.

A weekday evening make-up  
class will be scheduled.

## **GIFT for November - Focus on the Mass, Our Most Important Prayer**

During this month's GIFT sessions we will focus on the Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist that is the "source and summit of the whole Christian life." The Mass, according to one beautiful definition is "one great prayer, the greatest prayer the Church can offer to God."

As part of each session we will learn more about the Mass: Why is it so important to our faith? What are the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist? What are we called to do as part of the Body of Christ, and why do we do what we do during the celebration? What are the different types of prayer we experience at Mass? And why is it

important to see and treat the Mass, the Eucharist, as the center of our lives?

Adults will also have the opportunity to think about and discuss ways we can continue to immerse our children and teens in our Catholic faith - ways to help them experience, understand and live the Mass by living and loving like Jesus in the world. How can we help them to see the Mass, the Eucharist, as important, as the center of their lives - in the midst of school, sports, scouts, dance, play dates, music lessons, and so many other activities? How can our example help them to feel that Mass every weekend is something very special and very important in our lives?

Teens and adults without children are welcome to attend November's GIFT sessions as our guests. Questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 (voice/text) or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net).

### **Prayer Life: The Mass**

**Friday, November 19**

**6:30 - 8:15 p.m.**

**beginning in Saint Ann Church**

**Sunday, November 21**

**12:30 - 2:15 p.m.**

**beginning in the Parish Center**

**Tuesday, November 23**

**6:30 - 8:15 p.m.**

**beginning in Saint Ann Church**

**Special note to GIFT Families:**

**Please bring nonperishable  
food items for Thanksgiving  
baskets for families in need.**

**Thank you!**

## **GIFT's Virtual Celebration - Remember the Saints**

**Zoom in on Friday, November 12  
any time between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.**

On November 1, All Saints Day, we remember all saints living in God's presence, known and unknown, canonized and non-canonized. The GIFT team has scheduled *Remember the Saints*, a Virtual Celebration of these holy men, women, even children, for Friday, November 12 on Zoom, any time between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. This unique event is open to anyone in the parish - children, teens, adults - and sounds like a fun family activity.

We're asking children and teens to participate in a special way:

*Choose a Saint* - your name saint, a teenage saint, an athlete, a soldier, a strong-willed saint - there are lots of possibilities and Maria has books and links to help you find someone interesting.

*Prepare something to share during the celebration* - a picture or drawing of your saint, maybe a life-sized cutout; some things you've learned about your saint (Write them down!); dress as your saint. (You'll look terrific!) Parents and young children can certainly share together!

What a great way for the parish family to get to know the saints, our family in heaven, and to learn more about the role they play in our lives and in the life of the Church. Heroes of our faith, they were also real people who can inspire and support us on our everyday spiritual journey. As we meet them we'll discover that we, too, all of us, have the potential to become saints.

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

## **Submit Parish Press Info by November 10**

Please send information, photos and comments for the December issue of *The Parish Press* to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) by Wednesday, December 10, or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you!



## **Confirmation at the Cathedral Sunday, November 7**

On Sunday, November 7, Saint Raphael's 23 teen candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford, along with candidates from other parishes within the Archdiocese. Archbishop Leonard Blair will be the principal celebrant, assisted by priests from the other parishes in attendance.

Before he confers the Sacrament the Archbishop will extend his hands over all the candidates as he prays, *All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. We ask this through Christ our Lord.*

Confirmation renews the promises made at Baptism and brings a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands and the anointing with sacred chrism. As he anoints each candidate the Archbishop will say, "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit."

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in prayer as they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church. May they be transformed by the Holy Spirit, stay close and committed to Jesus and remain strongly connected to the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may they have the strength to live as Catholic Christians in our world today.

## Give Thanks, Pray for Healing, Remember Loved Ones and More

November: A glow of russet and amber, light filtered through a golden haze. It is a time to thank God for all things, to remember loved ones we have lost, to ask for healing and God's loving mercy. We will do all of these things this month, and more: Provide baskets for families in need, salute and support our Wounded Warriors.



33 Saint Raphael teens will be confirmed on the 7th, and we'll Remember the Saints in a unique Zoom presentation on the 12th. Plan to be a part of it.

Look inside for a Fatima Rosary reminder, a message from Father John's Desk and notes about other parish activities. Have a joyous, golden November!

### ***The Parish Press***

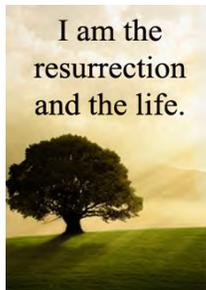
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## *Happy Thanksgiving!*

### **In Memoriam**



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Frank Signarvic    Robert Morrill, Sr.  
MaryAnn Skurja    Evelyn Smith  
Barbara Scianna    Wilson Blair  
Robert Raynor    Colin Powell  
Anne Elise Smith

May they see God face to face and rest  
in his everlasting goodness.

### **No Bereavement Support Group Meeting This Month**



The parish Bereavement Support group will not meet in November. If you are grieving the loss of someone you love we invite you to be with us on Sunday afternoon, November 14 at 2 o'clock at Saint Ann Church for our annual Mass of Remembrance.

The support group will meet again on Sunday, December 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you need assistance or would like further information.

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

**Fall Back! Adjust Your Clocks!  
Daylight Saving Time Ends on November 7**

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

. . . the newest members of our parish family

Sage Elizabeth LaRosa  
Landon Edward McGoeys  
Luca Michael Picarazzi  
Robert John Silva  
Leo Paul Valencia



who were baptized on Sunday, October 17 at Saint Gabriel Church. You have received the light of Christ, little ones. May it guide you all the days of your lives.

### **Savvy Shoppers: Shop the Shop on November 14**

What shop is that? Our Saint Raphael Parish Gift Shop, of course! Come visit us in the Saint Ann Parish Center for our one-day pre-holiday opening. Shop from 9:00 am until 12 noon on Sunday, November 14. Highlights:

50% off our entire inventory:  
Advent and Christmas merchandise  
Rosaries  
Sacramental Gifts  
Prayer cards, Note cards  
Coloring books  
Message magnets and shopping bags  
Gifts for home and hostess  
Lots more!!

Browse our "new to you" table where you can name your price and go home with a treasure. The shopper's mantra for November: *Be savvy - shop Saint Raphael's!* (All this and the chance to visit with our award-winning friendly staff!) See you on the 14th!