



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

February 2022



T4S

Winter Family Fun Night ZOOMS in on February 5

Winter Family Fun Night returns this month, not quite as originally advertised. Lively? Yes. Fun-filled? Yes. Great for the 4 to 10 crowd? Absolutely. Date and time remain the same: Saturday, February 5 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. The difference? WFFN will be presented on Zoom.

Our T4S crew, adaptable and innovative as always, is up for the challenge. Their invitation to the youngsters and their families reads, "Come have some fun!" Check out the list of great activities and plan to Zoom in!

- ❄️ **Get Crafty!** Winter Crafts, Coloring, Puzzles
- ❄️ **Dance Night!** Rocky Railway VBS Camp Music
- ❄️ **Snowman Stories!** *The Biggest Snowman Ever* by Steven Kroll
Snowman Paul at the Winter Olympics by Yossi Lapid
- ❄️ **Game On!** Bingo? Charades? ❄️ **Go for a Strike!** Do-It-Yourself Indoor Bowling
- ❄️ **Snack at Home!** Fun snack will be delivered to all children who register.

*Saturday, February 5
on Zoom*

Winter Family Fun Night

6:30-8:00 p.m.

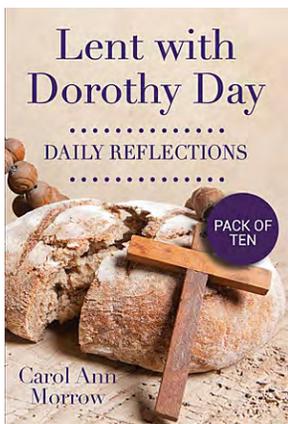
Presented by T4S



Be sure to join us for this *free* event, one that lives up to its name! Interested? RSVP to Maria at atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell) by Groundhog Day, Wednesday, February 2.

A Booklet of Lenten Reflections

This year's Lenten reflection booklet, *Lent with Dorothy Day*, is a publication from Franciscan Media, publisher of *Advent with Saint Joseph*. Our Lenten selection will be available at the church doors the last two weekends of this month.



The story of Dorothy Day, the publisher writes, is one of conversion, passion, and following God's call.

In her example, we see radical love for others put into practice, and we are invited to walk a similar path, to consider how we might best show care for the least among us.

Let Dorothy Day be your guide this Lent with daily prayers and reflections that walk you through the life of this holy servant of God.

Details about Dorothy Day

We learned from a Social Justice meditation in July 2020 that Dorothy Day was a journalist and radical social activist who, in the 1930's, helped establish the Catholic Worker Movement, a pacifist initiative that combined direct aid for the poor and homeless with nonviolent direct action on their behalf. Jim Forest, who worked with her at the Catholic Worker and who has written about her often, titled one article *Dorothy Day - Saint and Troublemaker*. If she's ever canonized, he wrote (and her cause is under consideration) she will be "the patron saint, not only of homeless people and those who try to care for them, but also of people who lose their temper. Dorothy Day was certainly not without her rough edges."



Dorothy Day

Eileen Egan, a lifelong friend and colleague has written, "Most saints appear to be hedged in by vows or life style, but Dorothy wasn't hedged in by anything." She seems to have been an exemplar of C.S. Lewis's observation, "How monotonously alike all the great tyrants and conquerors have been: how gloriously different are the saints."

Of her work Day wrote, "What we would like to do is change the world - make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do." With Dorothy Day as our companion, Lent should be a challenging, interesting and inspirational journey.

March 2 Ash Wednesday Schedule

Mass and Ashes

8:00 a.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

12:00 Noon

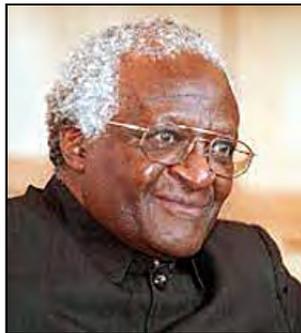
Saint Gabriel Church

7:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Church

The Pope's Prayer Intention for February For Religious Sisters and Consecrated Women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.



Desmond Tutu

A Social Justice Meditation

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has his foot on the tail of a mouse, you can say you are neutral, but the mouse might not appreciate your neutrality." – Desmond Tutu

The late South African Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu, who passed away in December at age 90, was known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. He believed in a non-racial South Africa where all people count because they are made in the image of God. For his work in this area and his strong belief in nonviolent solutions to racial discrimination, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984. Archbishop Tutu had close and personal relationships with Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis, since all three men knew what it was like to live in countries which, at times, had very repressive governments.

Do you have a favorite social justice quote? Send it, along with the name of the author, to parishpress06460@gmail.com and we will feature it in a future issue of *The Parish Press*.



Help Wanted: Beth-El Pizza Dinner Subs

Pizza Dinner Nights one weekday evening a month have become a staple at Milford's Beth-El Center. Four small teams of Saint Raphael Parish volunteers are carrying on a tradition that began in 2011, outreach to people in need, both Beth-El residents and members of the wider community.

Long known for offering "slices and smiles," our dedicated pizza ministers now dispense "bagged pizza to go," a testament to the times. But the smiles remain, we're sure, behind the masks and social distancing the Health Department requires.

We are currently in need of additional pizza ministers, subs who can fill in when a team regular isn't available. No pizza tossing involved, no toque needed, simply a willingness to serve the poor and the homeless. To learn more about this ministry of love please contact Maria, as on the page at right.

We are deeply grateful to the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council #47, who provide funding for the pizza dinners. Thank you for your goodness and generosity.



K of C Adds 1st and 3rd Saturday Bingo To Its Wednesday Lineup

Now hear this, bingo lovers! K of C Tinto Council #47, which has regular Wednesday night bingo, now offers bingo on first and third Saturdays. (This month that means the 5th and the 19th.)

Doors open at 4:30 at 240 Naugatuck Avenue in Milford, the former Aldario's; bingo starts at 6:30. Food and refreshments are available. Email any questions to Jim Lambert at jimlambert@ctfcc.com. A bit of trivia: Before his acting career took off, Russell Crowe used to work as a caller at bingo games.

Human Trafficking Myth vs Reality

Our series continues

Myth: People being trafficked are physically unable to leave their situations/locked in/held against their will.

Reality: That is sometimes the case. More often, however, people in trafficking situations stay for reasons that are more complicated. Some lack the basic necessities to physically get out - such as transportation or a safe place to live. Some are afraid for their safety. Some have been so effectively manipulated that they do not identify at that point as being under the control of another person.

For more information or to seek help, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline: **1-888-373-7888**.

Do you have a question regarding human trafficking? If so, send it to the address at left and we will try to answer it anonymously in a future issue



Saint Mary School Milford Virtual Open House

**Tuesday, February 1
7:00 p.m.**

Whether you are looking for a change this year or thinking about next school year, you're invited to join Saint Mary School's Virtual Open House on Tuesday, February 1st at 7:00 p.m. Login and learn about the school without leaving your home! Registration is required at <https://www.saintmaryschoolmilford.org/open-house>.

Saint Mary is accepting applications for all grades (preK - grade 8) for the academic year 2022-2023, as well as rolling enrollment for the current school year.

The school's mission is to provide a nurturing and challenging environment which encourages children from preschool through grade eight to grow in faith and knowledge.

Saint Mary integrates Catholic beliefs with a strong academic curriculum. Its goal is to prepare its students to become citizens who live the message of Jesus by serving others.

Saint Mary's is located at 72 Gulf Street in Milford.

Saint Raphael Parish Website
www.saintraphaelmilford.org

**GIFT
Sacramental
Program Schedule**

**First Communion
Learning Session #1**
: *The Mass -
Introductory Rites and
Liturgy of the Word.*

Saturday, February 5
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Parish Center Classrooms
Required for 1st Communion
children with parent/guardian.

A weekday evening
make-up class will be
scheduled if necessary.

**Confirmation
The Nicene Creed**

Sunday, February 6
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

or

Tuesday, February 8
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Required for Candidates
Parish Center Classroom

**GIFT for February
Showing Our Love through Catholic Devotions**

Catholic devotions are powerful forms of prayer and ways to show our love for the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit), our Blessed Mother and the saints. We honor and venerate Mary and the saints, but we worship and adore God alone. Catholic devotions and traditions can touch our hearts, help us to express our love and ultimately lead us to God.

Devotions we may consider during this month's GIFT sessions include Lenten Devotions (Stations of the Cross, Veneration of the Cross), Eucharistic Adoration, Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Rosary and other Marian devotions, Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and novenas. We may also look at some Sacramentals, like holy water, palms and ashes. All presentations will be age-appropriate.

Per COVID guidelines all GIFT participants will continue to practice safe distancing and wear masks in the church and Parish Center. Please attend your first choice session or contact Maria at atomasetti@snet.net or 203-989-8598 (voice or text) to change your session date for February. Please do not attend if anyone in your family is ill or has been exposed to COVID-19.

**Summer VBS 2022 - July 25-29
Jerusalem Marketplace**

Campers at this year's highly anticipated Summer VBS 2022 will enjoy a Holy Land adventure as they step back in time to where Jesus

walked to the Cross. They will discover the bustling town of Jerusalem, meet the citizens and explore authentic traditions. There will be visits to activity centers like Bible Times School, Marketplace Shop and Village Playground. As always with Summer VBS there will be lots of great music, all kid-tested and approved.



This year's Bible Buddies, Donkey, Bee, Dog, Lamb and Chick, will be on hand to help campers remember each day's Bible stories and Bible points. As the campers follow the steps that Jesus took, they'll discover what it means to walk with Jesus today.

Parents, guardians, grandparents, mark your calendars (mornings, July 25-29) and save space for your 4-11 year olds. At press time plans called for a smaller camp—with up to 20 children—with masks indoors and safe-distancing. Any changes will be based on current health and safety considerations. Questions? Contact Maria, as above. An exciting Holy Land adventure awaits!



Thank you for your continuing kind donations to the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry. We are always in need of:

- peanut butter, jelly, tuna
- pasta and pasta sauce, cereal, brownie mixes
- condiments like ketchup and mustard
- hand soap, bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste
- dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent

Gift cards are always welcome!

Pastoral Council Notes

The Pastoral Council will meet on Monday, February 28 at 7 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center. Parishioners are welcome to attend meetings as observers.

**Pastoral
Council**

Featured in the Transcript

The familiar face we saw *twice* (on pages 3 and 16 of the recent issue of the Catholic Transcript? Even with the mask we recognized her.



Several months ago we had read about Yvonne Torsiello and her path to profession as a 3rd Order Franciscan. The Transcript article described the life and service of members of the Legion of Mary, a lay apostolate focused on service to others that recently celebrated its centennial.

Info Due February 4 for the March Newsletter

Short month (that's February!) means an early deadline for newsletter information for the upcoming issue.

Please send your notes, photos, comments and suggestions for March to parishpress06460@gmail.com by Friday, February 4 or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks very much.

Welcome to February!

We shivered through January, but - good news - February's Accuweather forecast looks more promising, with temps mostly in the 40's - and lots of love on the 14th.



There will definitely be a frosty feel on the 5th as T4S presents *Winter Family Fun Night* on Zoom - a fun fest for ages 4-10 and their families.

We have a pizza help wanted posting this issue and an updated schedule for K of C bingo. GIFT looks at Catholic devotions, we have news about July's VBS camp and Desmond Tutu is featured in February's Social Justice meditation.

As the month closes and we draw near to the season of Lent you'll find reflection booklets at the church doors. Ash Wednesday falls on March 2.

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

SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

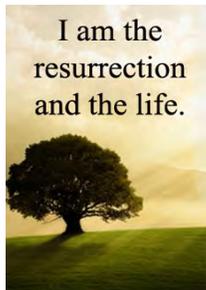
Saint Ann Church Saint Gabriel Church
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Happy Valentine's Day!

In Memoriam



I am the
resurrection
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of
Helen Malafronte Henry Scopp
Suzanne Mora Rose Marie Kempton
Marguerite Acebo Richard Van Tine
Mary Kos Genevieve Lasse (Salito)

May they enjoy perpetual joy and peace in heaven, and may their families find comfort in their cherished memories.

Bereavement Support Meets February 13



The parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. If you are struggling because of the death of a loved one we invite you to be with us.

In this prayerful and confidential setting ease the burden of your sadness, if only for a little while. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

Weekday Happenings at the Saint Ann Children's Chapel

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the Lord." These lines from Psalm 122 have special resonance for two groups of parishioners, who gather on weekdays for prayer and Scripture discussion in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel, a quiet corner of the Lord's house.

The prayers of the Rosary group that meets at noon on Tuesdays rise like fragrant incense before God. The Scripture group that had been meeting on Wednesday evenings now gathers at 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays to read, review and discuss the readings for the upcoming weekend's Masses. Both groups welcome new participants. Please enter the church through the Church Street side door near the chapel. While you are there *give thanks to the name of the Lord.*

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family

Evelyn Grace Dwyer
MacKenzie Marie Dwyer
Valentino Noel Federici
Marco Mannino
Dean Maverick Marchetti
Rosina McCarthy
Alvaro Gonzalez Mendoza



who were baptized in December. May you grow in grace and wisdom, little ones, and may you walk always in the light of God's love.

Fatima Rosary

Saturday, February 5 at 11:00 a.m.



First Saturday recitation of the rosary will continue on Saturday morning, February 5, at 11 at Saint Ann Church, concluding the First Saturday devotion that began in October. The Rosary, wrote St. John Henry Newman, "brings the great truths of Christ's life and death nearer to our hearts."