



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

May 2022



Highlights for May, the Month Dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary

May Crownings Will Honor Mary, Our Mother

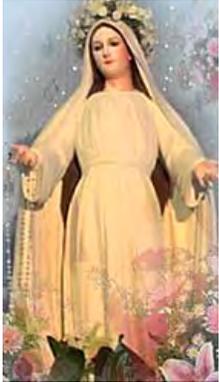
Sunday, May 1 at Saint Ann Church

After the 9:30 Mass gather to sing and pray in front of the statue of Mary outside the church. We will crown Mary with a wreath of fresh flowers and place flowers at her feet.

Sunday, May 8 at Saint Gabriel Church

This year Jesse Greene, our lovely cantor, has the honor of crowning Mary at the 11 o'clock Mass.

*O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today.
Queen of the angels, queen of the May.*



Coffee And Weekend May 14/15 A Benefit for Boys & Girls Village

A benefit Coffee And in support of Milford's Boys & Girls Village is on the calendar for the weekend of May 14/15. Drop in to the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall after Mass and enjoy freshly brewed coffee and scrumptious taste treats. Check in with friends and fellow parishioners at our first Coffee And since November.

Consider making a donation, if you can, to Boys & Girls Village, a leading provider of behavioral health, education and permanency planning services for Connecticut's at-risk youth and their families. Thank you for your generosity.

Join Us at Four Corners for an Outdoor Saturday, May 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m.



The parish sing-a-long singers are back! After a break of more than two years due to the pandemic these dedicated social outreach ministers have planned an outdoor sing-a-long at Four Corners RCF, 306 Naugatuck Ave. on Saturday morning, May 21 and they invite you to join them.

Day-brightening visits to local health care facilities have been part of the fabric of the parish for more than twenty years. Mostly musical - strolling music, sing-a-longs, solo performances by talented teens - they've also included balloon volleyball games and non-musical but very tasty root beer floats. Parishioners of all ages have participated, adults, families with children, teens, their enthusiasm lifting the spirits of the residents.

Please help us share Easter joy at Four Corners on the 21st. We welcome returning volunteers, and we're hoping to see new faces (and hear new voices!) as well. We'll be singing patriotic tunes and some old-time favorites. No practice required, but we can work out a short Zoom practice if there is interest. Rain date will be Saturday, May 28. Questions? Please contact Maria at atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598. Thank you!

Pastoral Council Selection Process Underway

Pastoral Council

The terms of four current members of the Pastoral Council will expire this month, and the selection process for new members has begun. Please use the form in the weekly bulletin to nominate parishioners you believe are good candidates, including yourself.

Council members advise the pastor in areas such as prayer and worship; faith formation; social justice and parish life.

In order to be eligible nominees must be at least 18 years old; baptized and confirmed Roman Catholics in good standing with the Church; registered and supporting members of Saint Raphael Parish; and committed to giving the time needed for Council participation. Submit all nominations via the collection baskets by Sunday, May 15.

The four new members, who will serve 3-year terms, will be selected by lot during the Council's May 23 meeting. (Matthias, you may recall, was chosen by lot to take the place of Judas among the Twelve.)

The Ascension of the Lord, Thursday, May 26

Forty days after His resurrection, as the apostles watched, Jesus "was lifted up, and a cloud took him from their sight." And "they gazed intently at the sky as he was going." (Acts 1:9)

In an Ascension Thursday homily Pope emeritus Benedict XVI observed, "They looked up to heaven because they looked to Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Risen One, raised up on high. We do not know whether at that precise moment they realized that a magnificent, infinite horizon was opening up before their eyes: the ultimate goal of our earthly pilgrimage."

We, too, his holiness continued, are "called to look up to heaven, to look towards this divine reality [where] we find life's ultimate meaning and an everlasting place in God."



Holy Day Masses
8:00 a.m.
Saint Gabriel Church
7:00 p.m.
Saint Ann Church

A Social Justice Meditation



Pope Francis

“The biggest problem we face (in our society) is not drugs, or violence, but the marginalization of the people. Drugs are a symptom, violence is a symptom, but marginalization is the disease. People feel marginalized by a social system that basically tells them, ‘We don’t want you to exist.’ Our task is to try to tell them instead, ‘It’s good that you exist,’ reminding them that they have intrinsic value. Next time you want to uplift someone’s dignity, remind them of that wonderful truth: ‘It’s good that you exist.’” - Pope Francis

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, made these remarks before he became Pope Francis, in a 2013 interview. Faced with high poverty rates, massive drug addiction and powerful gangs, Cardinal Bergoglio concluded that, bad as these problems were, they were merely the effects of unjust structures and actions within society itself.

Two years later, as the first Pope ever to address a joint session of the United States Congress, Francis struck a similar note when he said, “Our efforts must aim at restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments, and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples.”

Afghan Refugee Resettlement Update

We have a great news update from the Afghan Refugee Resettlement project! Afghani brothers Israr and Abdul are living in Hamden and making great strides toward achieving independence.

The young men had been living in Massachusetts when Milford’s Way, the coalition of Milford churches and Rotary Clubs, helped bring them to Hamden, where they have relatives. Israr has enrolled at Hamden High School. His older brother Abdul, formerly a property manager in Kabul, is looking for work and has had several interviews. He hopes to be able to support himself and Israr and to send money back to Afghanistan to help their family come to the United States to start a new life.



Afghan brothers Israr (far left) and Abdul (third from left) with Dr. James Krantz and Rev. Matt Lindeman, rector of St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Milford.

Both brothers now have health insurance through Connecticut’s HUSKY program and are improving their language proficiency through ESL (English as a Second Language) classes. Israr and Abdul are pictured above with Dr. James Krantz and Rev. Matt Lindeman, leaders of the Milford’s Way coordinating committee, which is overseeing this resettlement project. Watch for project updates in future issues of *The Parish Press*.

Revisiting the Sacrament of the Sick



Of all the seven sacraments, the most frequently misunderstood is, without question, the Anointing of the Sick, a Sacrament of Healing. We know from the Gospels that Jesus had a particular ministry to the ill and the infirm. People brought them to him, he touched them, laid hands on them, and they were cured. And when he sent the Twelve out on mission they “anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.” (Mark 6:13) The early Church carried on Christ’s healing ministry, as we read in the Letter of James: “Is anyone among you sick? He should summon the presbyters of the church, and they should pray over him and anoint (him) with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person” (5:14-15).

From the 12th century until the 1960’s the sacrament was called “extreme unction,” or, as many people still refer to it, “last rites.” But in the first completed document of the Second Vatican Council, the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the Council fathers moved that the sacrament be called Anointing of the Sick. Vatican II was clear that *it was not to be reserved only for those at the point of death*. The church’s current Code of Canon Law provides that it be admin-

istered to a member of the faithful who “begins to be in danger due to sickness or old age” (No. 1004). The ritual itself designates as proper recipients a sick person “before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery,” as well as elderly people “if they become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present.”

The sacrament, then, is appropriate for anyone whose health is seriously imperiled by sickness or advanced age. While it is never to be trivialized (minor illnesses or injuries would hardly justify it), neither should families wait until death is on the doorstep. The first purpose of the sacrament is spiritual — as well as forgiving sins, it offers the peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany illness — but it also asks for the restoration of health, if that is God’s will. Often the sacrament comforts not only the recipient but relatives as well, as the priest anoints their loved one, at home or in the hospital, using the striking prayers provided in the church’s pastoral ritual for the sick:

“Through this holy anointing, may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit. May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up.”

**GIFT
Sacramental
Program Schedule**

Confirmation

Sunday, May 15
1:00-2:30 p.m.

or

Tuesday, May 17
6:30-8:00 p.m.

*Catholic Social Teaching
(required for candidates)*

**First Communion
make-up class**

Wednesday, May 18
6:30-7:30 p.m.

*Learning and Praying
the Rosary*

Saint Ann Church

*Open to anyone who would
like to join us. Please come
and pray with us.*

**GIFT - Growing in Faith Together
Prayer Life Home Kits Available Beginning May 14**

The theme for the 2021-2022 GIFT season was Prayer Life. At each session we explored different aspects of the Catholic Church's deep and rich treasury of prayer. We looked at forms of prayer; traditional and seasonal prayers; the Mass, our greatest prayer; praying with the Bible and more.

Our GIFT program, as most of you know, includes adult home kits for our families with children and teens, great resources for continued learning at home. The kits include Catholic Update articles from Liguori Publications on the Mass, Catholic prayers, Catholic devotions, the Bible and prayer - all the topics mentioned above - as well as other adult information related to prayer.

The kits will be available at both Saint Ann Church and Saint Gabriel Church beginning Saturday, May 14. Participating in Mass at home? There's a Catholic Update article that walks us through each part of the Mass. It might enrich your Mass-at-home experience. Please contact Maria, (atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 - voice or text) if you have questions or need further information.

First Reconciliation April 11

Congratulations to Paulo Tutunjian, who came to Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, April 11 at Saint Ann Church. Always remember how much God loves you, Paulo, and how Jesus calls you to follow Him.



Saint Raphael Parish First Communion Mass Dates

In addition to the dates posted at right, a few children will be receiving their First Holy Communion at our regular weekend Masses on Sunday, May 22, Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. Please keep our children and their families in prayer as they prepare to receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the very first time.

Saturday, May 14

11:00 a.m.

Saint Ann Church

Saturday, June 4

11:00 a.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

**Summer VBS Campers: Come With Us to Jerusalem Marketplace!
Register Today for Summer's Holy Land Adventure**

We have slots available for 30 adventurous campers who would like to explore ancient Jerusalem, check out its marketplace and peer into its shops. You might find a carpentry shop, a bakery, an herbs and spices shop, or even a barnyard!

Hear a different Bible story and meet a different Bible buddy every day. Donkey, bee, dog, lamb and chick will make sure you remember the stories and the daily Bible points: Jesus is King, Jesus showed God's love, Jesus loves us, Jesus died for us, and Jesus lives. As you follow the steps Jesus took in Jerusalem, the city he loved and wept over, you'll discover what it means to walk with Jesus today.

Camp fee is \$25 per child for the week. Please contact Maria (as above) with any questions about the camp or the fee. A limited number of camp scholarships are available.



Summer VBS Camp

Monday-Friday

July 25-29

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Ages 4 through 11

Saint Ann Campus



Parish Graduation Celebration: Sunday, June 26

11:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Gabriel Church

Lunch and Dessert Reception to follow in the Saint Gabriel Church Hall

It's a tradition. It's a celebration. It's a way for the parish to honor and recognize the members of the Class of 2022 as they close one chapter in their lives and prepare to open another. We hope that you and your guests will be able to join us.

Please submit the following information for our graduate sheet, even if you can't make it on June 26th:

8th Grade promotions/graduates: Your current school, which high school you'll be attending

HS Seniors: Your current school, your plans for next year (college and major, work force, branch of the military)

College Graduates: College/post-secondary school you attended, your career or education plans

All Graduates: Please send us an electronic copy of a photo for our Class of 2022 photo board.

Contact Maria Tomasetti (as above) with graduate information. We hope to hear from you soon. And please accept our congratulations on your upcoming graduation! We look forward to celebrating you and your achievements.

May Crownings, a Sing-a-Long, a Holy Day and More

. . . all on this month's parish calendar. Read about a benefit Coffee And, revisit the Sacrament of the Sick and make your reservations for the annual Pork Roast fundraiser. Parish Council nominations are due this month, we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension, and we're happy to publish some rapturous remarks about *Love, Burn Bright*.



Terrific events coming up for grads and VBS campers, and we have a report from Milford's Way.

May is a month to remember our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, foster mothers, all those women whose love has been a blessing in our lives. It is also a month to honor Our Blessed Mother, Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth.

The Parish Press

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SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

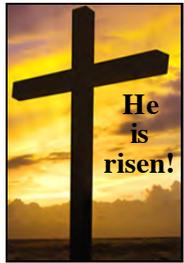
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Happy Mother's Day!

In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:
Lynn George Theresa Mastroni
Marilyn Blake Sean Cunningham
Loretta Parker Conrad Boyer
Salvatore Cappello Arthur Caruso
Maureen Sullivan Porto
Matthew Arciuolo, Sr.
Sherri Puma Pantoja
Robert Michael Moulitis



May they enjoy the everlasting light of God's presence.

Bereavement Support Meets Sunday, May 1



The Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, May 1, at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. (Please note the change, for this month only, from the 2nd to the 1st Sunday of the month.)

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one come join us. Sharing the burden of your grief can be a first step toward healing. Questions? Call Joanne (203-877-4020).

June Parish Press Info Due May 11

Send your information to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks!

Love, Burn Bright - A Special Presentation Indeed!

Just a sampling of the glowing comments we received from some who attended the March 27th evening of music and Lenten reflections: *I was filled with love and healing, and I felt nurtured. . . The Lenten reflection was beautiful. Your choir sounded terrific! The music choices moved us ever more deeply into the contemplative quiet of the season. . . The music invited contemplation.* Beautifully done, Amy Ekeh, Peter DeMarco and the Saint Ann Choir. Thank you.

Saint Raphael CONECT Core Team

Zoom House Meeting
Monday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.

Parishioners take note: The team would like to hear from you! Which social issues are of greatest concern to you? Health care, long-term care, affordable housing, mental health, the environment? Something else? Please call or text Al May (203-606-0994) to register for the meeting or to obtain further information. Thank you.

Saint Raphael parish was a founding member of CONECT, a collective of some 40 churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and civic organizations from New Haven and Fairfield Counties that have joined together to take action on social and economic justice issues of common concern.

Parish Tag Sale Saturday, June 4

Bring your donations to the parish office during business hours (M/W, 9 to 5, T/Th/F 9 to 1) or call MaryJo Downs (203-882-0695). Make MaryJo smile - volunteer to help!

Pork Roast Dinner Sunday, June 5, St. Gabriel Hall Fundraiser for September's HomeFront Project

Adults: \$10.00, Under 10: \$3.00

3:30 Happy Hour, Dinner at 4:30

Reservations at church doors after weekend Masses.