



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

June 2022



Parish

**Saturday, June 4  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.,**

**Saint Ann Campus  
499 Naugatuck Ave.**

## Headline Event for Early June: The Parish Tag Sale!

The Parish Tag Sale returns! After a 2-year hiatus the popular find-a-treasure parish fundraiser is back on the calendar, set for the first weekend in June. Mark your calendars, grab a bargain-hunting friend and head for the Saint Ann Parish Center on Saturday, June 4.

Look for small furniture, housewares, china and glassware, holiday decor (including an array of jolly Santas), books, toys and collectible dolls. Lots of clothes this year - be sure to ask about the sale's great bargain, stuffing a bag with clothes for \$5.

Parish Tag Sale 2022 is a one-day event, and one you won't want to miss. Kudos to MaryJo and her terrific team, known far and wide as "Southern Connecticut's hardest working tag sale team," a well-earned distinction.

## Graduation Celebration June 26 Recognition for the Class of 2022

A parish tradition continues on Sunday, June 26, when we recognize our eighth grade, high school and college graduates. Class of 2022, you are all an important part of our Saint Raphael Parish Family.



The celebration will begin at the 11 o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel Church and we're hoping that you, your families and friends will be with us. The Prayer of the Faithful at all Saint Raphael Parish weekend Masses will include an intention for our graduates, but it would be especially nice if you could be there. After Mass please join us, you and your guests, for a lunch and dessert reception in your honor in the Saint Gabriel Church Hall.

We hope you'll consider participating in this very special event. Please sign up with Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 (cell phone - voice or text) or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) by Sunday, June 19. For reception planning purposes, please let us know the number of family members and friends who may be attending as guests. May God shower you with grace and blessings now and in the future.

## Some of Our Graduates and Their Plans

### 8th Grade Graduate and High School

Austin Moral  
Engineering and Science University  
Magnet Middle School (ESUMS)  
ESUMS High School

## Pork Roast Dinner on Sunday, June 5 Fundraiser for September's HomeFront Project

The reservation desk is now closed and no tickets will be sold at the door for this annual favorite and major support for HomeFront. But it's not too late to make a donation to help our parish team, gearing up now for Home Front Day, September 17, when they'll provide free home repairs for a local family in need.



How can you help? We invite you to buy some virtual taste treats through our *Bakeless Bake Sale*. No fat, no calories, compatible with any diet plan. Your purchase (really a donation!) will be used to help cover the cost of materials, supplies and insurance coverage as required by HomeFront.

You'll find donation forms at the church doors. Return them, with your donation, via the collection basket in an envelope labeled *HomeFront*. Checks should be made payable to Saint Raphael Parish. Thank you for your generosity.

Word to the wise about the Pork Roast Dinner: Next year make an early reservation!

## More of Our Graduates and Their Plans

### High School Graduates, Work Plans, Colleges, Intended Majors

John Borgersen  
Platt Technical High School  
(specialty in precision machining)  
Will continue to work as a CNC machinist in Oxford where he completed his internship.

Jacob Buchino  
Jonathan Law High School  
The University of New Haven  
Mechanical Engineering.

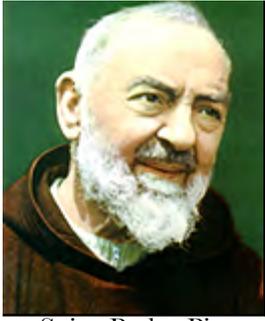
Michael Deveny  
Fairfield College Preparatory School  
The Catholic University of America  
Washington, D.C.  
Theology with a Pre-Law track

Joseph Glorioso  
Jonathan Law High School  
The University of New Haven  
Accepted to their Masters program  
in Criminal Justice

Madison Lusignan  
Jonathan Law High School  
The University of Tampa  
Nursing

## A Social Justice Meditation

*"Do not allow the sad sight of human injustice to sadden your soul; someday you will see the unfailing justice of God triumph over it." - Padre Pio*



Saint Padre Pio

Born Francesco Forgione in 1887 in the small farming town of Pietrelcina, Italy, Padre Pio was a Capuchin Franciscan friar, known as a humble man of prayer, charity and suffering. By the age of five he had decided to dedicate his life to God. At 15 entered the novitiate of the Capuchin Franciscan friars at Morcone, where he became Brother Pio. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1910, but remained in Pietrelcina, away from his religious community, for 5 years because of his precarious health.

Deeply impressed by his piety, his parishioners came seeking his counsel. Eventually, pilgrims by the thousands would come to him from all over the world, drawn by his spirituality. He prayed almost constantly, usually simple prayers, and had a particular love of the Rosary.

In late 1918 the marks of the stigmata, the wounds of Christ, appeared on Padre Pio's body, painful wounds that he bore with serenity. They also led to an increase in his popularity - he was said to levitate and perform miracles. The Church investigated and restricted his activities. After several years he was permitted to return to his ministry, praying, celebrating Mass, spending hours hearing confessions. Besides maintaining his faith throughout these trials, Padre Pio also displayed great charity. He converted an old convent building into a medical clinic for people in extreme need, Home for the Relief of Suffering, which is considered one of most efficient scientific research hospitals in Europe.

Padre Pio died on September 23, 1968, with his Rosary in his hands. More than 100,000 people attended his funeral. He was canonized by Pope Saint John Paul II on June 16, 2002. His feast day is September 23. Saint Padre Pio is a beautiful example of faith, love and social justice.

## A Final Salute for a Parish Hero

Force 4 winds of 10 to 18 knots coming from the northwest were pummeling the southern coast of France on the morning of June 6, 1944, wreaking havoc with the Allied invasion at Omaha Beach.



Pfc. John Peregrim

Wet, cold and mostly seasick, the men of the Army's 115th regiment, 29th Division encountered waves up to 6 feet as their landing craft approached, and 3 to 4 foot breakers on the beach. Once ashore the soldiers faced heavy fire

from German mortars and snipers and made slow progress because of mines. But the troops advanced off bloody Omaha. In the face of staggering losses they breached Hitler's vaunted Atlantic wall and helped to demolish the myth of Fortress Europe.

Among the brave soldiers who fought that day was Saint Raphael's own John Peregrim, who died on May 12, a month shy of his 100th birthday. In 2014 the French government awarded John and 33 other World War II veterans the The Insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, France's highest distinction. As we approach the 78th anniversary of D-Day it seems fitting to pay tribute to John, a man who wore his heroism lightly, and to all the valiant men and women who gave their lives in the cause of freedom. John's funeral Mass was celebrated on Thursday, May 24. He is buried at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Trumbull. May he rest in peace.

## 34th Annual Mayor's Youth Awards Congratulations to Saint Raphael Parish Nominees!

Seven young Saint Raphael parishioners were part of an extraordinary group of young people nominated for the 34th Annual Mayor's Youth Awards. All seven were nominated for their outstanding and dedicated service in the Milford community and were recognized at a ceremony on Thursday, May 12, 2022 at the Parsons Auditorium.

### Nominated by Saint Raphael Parish:

*Bianca Armellino  
Abigail Candelora  
Michael Deveny  
Ava Lam  
Allyza Moral  
Arthur Moral  
Deven Rivera*

### For participation in these ministries/service projects:

*Altar Server Ministry  
Beth-El Center pizza dinners-to-go  
Offertory Collector  
HomeFront  
Lenten Supper service  
Rocky Railway Summer VBS Camp  
Souper Bowl of Caring Drive-Thru Event  
Virtual Winter Family Fun Night  
Virtual Spring Family Fun Night  
Teen-Led Stations of the Cross*

### Young Parishioners Nominated by Their Schools or Other Organizations:

<i>Marcello Armellino</i>	<i>Christian Galligan</i>	<i>Christopher Smithauser</i>
<i>Catherine Barth</i>	<i>Emma Heinmiller</i>	<i>Lissette Soto</i>
<i>Aislinn Burns</i>	<i>Ava Kraynak</i>	<i>Sadie Timmeny</i>
<i>Julian Ekeh</i>	<i>Caroline Marchand</i>	<i>Kendall Upchurch</i>
	<i>Ash Smithauser</i>	

## Congratulations to Aislinn Burns 2022 Mayor's Youth Award Winner, High School

Aislinn was selected for the award because of her work as a member of Sandy Hook Promise's National Youth Advisory Board. A junior at Jonathan Law, in 2021 she was one of 13 high school students chosen for the board out of hundreds of applicants nationwide.

Heartfelt thanks, nominees, for your love and concern for others and for using your gifts from God to make a difference!

## Congratulations to the First Communicants

On Saturday morning, May 14, eleven parish young people received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion during a beautiful Mass at Saint Ann Church. We celebrated First Communion again on Sunday, May 22, when Brendan (the final name on the list below) received Jesus during the 11 o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel Church. After months of preparation these boys and girls were able to approach the Lord's table and receive the Bread of Life. Congratulations! May God's love surround you always.



Gehrig Canell	Everly Murphy
Nolan Canell	Samuel Pimenta
Mason Anthony Jackson	Aaryn Joyce Rotondo
Amelia Quinn Jorge	Braden Scepanski
Aubrey Mitchell	Sophia Swan
Thaddeus Jude Munk	Brendan Glynn

The joy of our "First Communion season" continues at Masses this month, on Saturday, June 4 at Saint Gabriel's, Saturday, June 11 at Saint Ann's and Sunday, June 12 at Saint Gabriel's.

### First Reconciliation April 30

Warm congratulations to Samuel Pimenta, who came to Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, April 30 at Saint Ann Church. Always remember how much God loves you, Samuel, and how Jesus calls you to follow Him.

### Adventurous Campers Will Explore Ancient Jerusalem

This summer's VBS campers will do a bit of time-travel as they head to the first century B.C. and ancient Jerusalem. During this unique adventure they'll learn about the culture and traditions of Bible times and explore the life-changing true story of Jesus' death and resurrection. This Holy Land adventure will include engaging hands-on activity centers:

Bible Drama	Celebration Music/Dance	Marketplace Shop Crafts
Synagogue School	Village Playground Games	Snacks (very important!)

Parents and guardians, we encourage you to register your child/children as soon as possible to make certain that space is available. Registration deadline is July 11, 2022 - we have to be sure we have supplies for all our campers. Suggested donation: \$25.00 per child for the week. Questions about camp or donation? Contact Maria, 203-988-8598 (cell) or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net). We'll share details concerning any Covid safety protocols in late June/early July. Get ready! The adventure will soon begin!!



**Summer VBS Camp**  
**Monday-Friday**  
**July 25-29**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12 noon**  
**Ages 4 through 11**  
**Saint Ann Campus**

### Still More Graduates and Their Plans

#### High School Graduates, Work Plans, Colleges, Intended Majors

Allyza Moral  
Engineering and Science  
University Magnet High School (ESUMS)  
Sacred Heart University  
Nursing

Moira Staples  
Jonathan Law High School  
Sacred Heart University

#### College Graduates, Schools, Future Plans

Nicholas Deveny  
Franklin Pierce University  
Rindge, NH  
BA in Education  
Minor in History  
Certificate in Global Irish Studies  
He will be working full time for  
Milford Public Schools  
as a Preschool Teachers Assistant.

### Calling Teen and Adult Volunteers: Adventure With Us to the Holy Land

We have issued a call for additional adult and youth volunteers (age 12 or older) to be part of this summer's VBS adventure to the Holy Land and Jerusalem Marketplace.

Do you enjoy the arts - drama, music, dance? How about creating craft projects? And do you find joy working with children and helping them learn about our faith? You might be just the ones we're looking for, adult and youth volunteers who can work with/assist the campers at the activity centers listed above. We also need small group (tribe) leaders and assistant leaders. Free in the evenings? Perhaps you can help with camp setup and decorations during the weeks of July 11 and July 18. Interested? (We hope so!) Please reach out to Maria, as above, and sign on. We've scheduled a Jerusalem Marketplace volunteer kickoff meeting for Thursday, June 23 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm in the Parish Center (Saint Ann Campus). Please join us!

### Come Thrill to *David* at Sight & Sound Theatre Reserve Your Spot for a Fall Trip to Lancaster, PA

David, Israel's Warrior King, will come to life with spectacular special effects, massive sets, and live animals in a brand-new original stage production. We need 50 people to commit to a 3-day, 2-night trip, (4 meals included), for an estimated \$325 per person double occupancy. Contact MaryJo (203-882-0695) or Cindy (203-435-5494) *today* to save your spot!

### GIFT

#### Sacramental Program Schedule

##### Confirmation

Sunday, June 5  
1:00-2:30 p.m. *or*  
Tuesday, June 7  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

*Choosing to Live  
a Life Close to God,  
Becoming Our Best Self,  
Faith in Action*

Monday, June 20  
6:30-8:00 p.m. *or*  
Tuesday, June 21  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

*Sacrament of Confirmation  
Review Session*

*Classes (in the Saint Ann  
Parish Center) are required  
for Confirmation Candidates.*

## June Highlights: Tag Sale, Honor our Graduates, Salute a Hero and More

The parish Tag Sale is back, on Saturday, June 4 - don't miss it! Class of 2022 notes are scattered throughout this issue, and we'll have more names and future plans in July. "First Communion season" began in May and continues this month.



As D-Day draws near we have a timely piece about a parishioner, a true and humble hero from the first wave at Omaha Beach, and notices about upcoming events.

June is rich with liturgical celebrations: The Feast of Pentecost, which marks the close of the Easter season; the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God; Trinity Sunday; Corpus Christi and the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Happy Father's Day and God's warmest blessings to all the parish dads.

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

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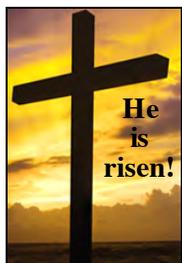
## ***Happy Father's Day!***

### **In Memoriam**

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Sean Baranowsky  
Charles Plasky  
William Hannon  
John Peregrin  
James McGrath

May they live forever with all the angels and the saints in the joy of heaven.



### **Bereavement Support Meets Sunday, June 12**



The Saint Raphael Bereavement Support group will meet in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel on Sunday afternoon, June 12th, at 2 o'clock. If you are struggling to cope with the death of someone you love, we invite you to be with us. Come share your thoughts and memories. Spend an hour in the comforting presence of others who have known the pain of loss. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

### **Let us go a-picknicking!**

Cathy Coda and her creative cohorts are working on plans for a Saint Raphael Parish Family Picnic 12-4 p.m. on Saturday, September 11, on the grounds of Saint Ann Church. Food from Lasse's (courtesy of the parish). You are cordially invited: to come, to have fun - there will be games! - *and* to be a worker bee or committee chair for logistics, setup, cleanup, all those things that go along with a great family party. Info: [cathy.coda@att.net](mailto:cathy.coda@att.net), 203-878-1990 or 203-988-4407. More details next month. Thanks!

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

. . . the newest members of our parish family

Clayton Mead	Lucy Mae Conatser
Hunter Mead	Jack Quentin Conatser
Ruthie Reis	Avery Grace Jackson
Connor Shaw	Maewa Estelle Smethurst
Hunter Sheehan	Cotton Jeffery Valentine



Clayton, Hunter M., Ruthie, Connor and Hunter S. were baptized on Sunday, April 24th at Saint Gabriel Church. Lucy, Jack, Avery, Maewa and Cotton received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, May 15th at Saint Ann Church.

May God bless and guide you always, little ones. May you grow in wisdom and knowledge before Him.

### **Info for July's *Parish Press* Due on Friday, June 10**

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

### **Coffee And Returns Next Month . . .**



. . . on July 9 and 10. Share a cup, enjoy some goodies and catch up with the latest after all the weekend Masses. The Card & Gift Shop will be open at Saint Ann's. Look for SCRIP cards there, too.

**Saint Raphael Parish Website**  
[www.saintraphaelmilford.org](http://www.saintraphaelmilford.org)