



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut



A Time for Prayer

If ever there was a time for prayer, it is now. As the epidemic of gun violence in our country escalates and as lives are shattered by the tragic deaths of the innocent, let us turn to the Lord with heartfelt prayer.

Be a part of the Saint Raphael Parish Family Prayer Initiative. Raise your hearts and your voices in prayer and join your prayers with those of the parish family. You will find prayer cards at the church doors and special prayer notes in the weekly bulletin.

Jesus has said, *If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.* (John 15:7) Let us pray as a family for an end to violence. *Hear us, O Lord.*



Coffee And Weekend July 16/17

Enjoy the first Coffee And of the summer after all the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, July 16 and 17. Drop by the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Parish Hall for hot and cold drinks, delectable taste treats and the chance to visit with those great folks, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family. If you can, make a donation to the Little Sisters of the Poor in Enfield, CT, whose mission, since the congregation's founding in 1839, has been to serve the elderly poor. Thank you for your kindness.



The Card and Gift Shop will be open in the Parish Center before and after all Masses.



Several months ago, I received a telephone call from Father Ronald Perry, chaplain at Fairfield College Preparatory School. I attended Fairfield Prep for my high school education, graduating in 1972. Father Perry called to invite me to be the celebrant and homilist for the Baccalaureate Mass for the Class of 2022.

Since this was the Golden Jubilee Anniversary of my graduation, the Campus Ministry team thought it would be appropriate for me to offer the Mass for the current year's graduates. But even more significant was the fact that our most senior Altar Server, Michael Deveny, was himself graduating from Fairfield Prep, fifty years after me.

What, I asked myself, could this old dinosaur tell these young men on this most important occasion? Luckily, the Baccalaureate Mass would be a few days prior to Pentecost Sunday, and the scripture selections for the Mass were the Pentecost readings. And so, the Pentecost theme of receiving the Holy Spirit and being sent forth as disciples was an easy and appropriate one to explore.

I invited two of my 1972 classmates to join me for the Mass. After Mass, Mrs. Colleen Keltos, Dean of Operations, gave them a private tour of the campus, which has changed dramatically since our time. I had taken the same tour a few months prior with Mr. Christian Cashman, the president of Fairfield Prep. I am delighted I accepted Father Perry's earlier invitation.

Father John



1972 graduates
(L to R) Nick Vaccaro, Fr. John, Alan Edo



At June 2 Baccalaureate Mass,
Class of 1972 graduates with
Michael Deveny, Class of 2022

Excerpts from Father John's Baccalaureate Homily to Fairfield Prep Class of 2022

Your Prep education has formed you, strengthened your intellect. You have grown spiritually and emotionally and learned to be a man for others. You were touched, graced and gifted with God's Holy Spirit. This Pentecost/Graduation weekend listen to God's call to go forth. Be thankful for the gifts of the Spirit. Always use them for the good of others. The Spirit is on the loose and wants to use you to do God's work. Let God use you well. And may the Spirit of God that guided those first apostles continue to guide you as well. May His richest blessings be on you forever.

Laudato Si' and the Parish Pollinator Garden



Pollinator Gardener at Work

Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'* was a challenge and an urgent appeal, addressed to "every person living on this planet," to care for Creation, "our common home." The global *Laudato Si'* Movement is a response to that challenge, hundreds of thousands of people committed to prayer and action, promoting "a new way of thinking about human beings and our relationship with nature." Parishioner Donna DiMassa, deeply concerned about what is now a broken relationship, has become a certified *Laudato Si'* Animator, trained as a community leader in this vital effort.

As the required Capstone project for her training, a real-world application of what she had learned, Donna has started a pollinator garden behind the former parish rectory. Healthy ecosystems depend on pollinators, bees, birds, butterflies, even bats, that transfer the pollen plants need to produce seeds and fruit. This dependence is a tiny example of the interconnectedness we must bear in mind when caring for the earth. The pesticides and herbicides used to create lush green lawns kill the insects that provide food for many birds and pollen for continued plant growth.

Our new pollinator garden features native plants, grown from seeds that were not treated with chemicals. Among the host plants: common milkweed, the only plant Monarch larvae and caterpillars eat. Nectar plants: New England asters; goldenrod from New Haven's Urbanscapes Native Plant Nursery; and Black-eyed Susans from the DiMassa garden. No mulch - some bees need dirt for nesting and butterflies extract minerals from the soil. Donna and her husband Mike (the gardener at work in the photo above) are looking for the right shelter plant for the space. The DiMassas have maintained their own pollinator garden for several years. When it's sunny, Donna says, "the bees appear like winged jewels sparkling and dancing among their admiring audience of flowers."



New England Aster



Common Milkweed



Goldenrod

Donna hopes to get more parishioners involved in the project, a bit of *Laudato Si'* that has come to life here in Milford. If you're interested in adding to the garden, planting more native pollinators, perhaps contributing native plants from your own garden, you may reach Donna at dm.dimassa@prodigy.net or 203-444-4285. To learn more about the *Laudato Si'* Movement and its Animators online course, which Donna found "well-organized, timely and very enriching," go to <https://laudatosimovement.org/it/news/apply-to-become-an-animator-3/>.

Great project, Donna. We'll check in from time to time to see how your garden grows!



New Members Selected by Lot A First Since 2020

The Council's mandated Selection Process, an April 2020 victim of the Covid Effect, resumed again this year. Parishioners were able to submit the names of nominees, and Council members whose terms had been extended were finally able to step down. New members were chosen by lot at the Council's May 24 meeting.

Saint Raphael Pastoral Council 2022-2023

Name	Term Expiration
John Adams	2025
Kathleen Buchanan	2023
Cathy Coda	2023
Paula Demirjiam	2024
Terri Deveny	2025
Wally Hauck	2025
Tom Jagodzinski	2023
Andrew Jorge	2023
John Kirkham	2025
Rose Marie Marmolejo	2024
Albert May	2024
Tom Zawislinski	2024

Ex Officio:
Deacon George Sartor
Maria Tomasetti, Faith Formation



During this difficult summer of 2022 the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry continues its mission of providing for those in need. Food distribution (by appointment only) begins on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. Schedule an appointment before 6:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday at 203-878-3075.

Please continue to support the Pantry with donations of:

- pasta and pasta sauce, brownie mixes
- cereal, tuna, peanut butter and jelly
- condiments like ketchup and mustard
- hygiene products, bar soap, hand soap
- shampoo, toothpaste,
- dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent.
- Gift cards are always welcome!

To make a donation please call 203-878-3075.

In Matthew 25:31-44 the righteous ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?" In July of 2022 the king might answer, "When you donated to the food pantry." Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



June First Communions

Congratulations to the boys and girls who received Holy Communion for the first time last month. What a wonderful celebration for the entire Saint Raphael Parish family as some of our youngest members joined us at the Eucharistic table. May they bring the gentleness and love of Jesus to everyone they meet.

Saturday, June 4 at Saint Gabriel

Brooklyn DelMonte
Gabriella Guzas
Carlos Hernandez
Addison Mangan
Lillian Mangan

Ava Maziarz
Matthew Pawlowski
William Simpson
Elina Soria
Paulo Tutunjian

Saturday, June 11 at Saint Ann

Samuele Mannino

Sunday, June 12 at Saint Gabriel

Matthew Krynski Alibrandi
Brennen Patrick Lawless



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

Registration Deadline for VBS Camp: July 11 Adventure Awaits Campers Ages 4 through 11

Exploration, celebration, snacks, Bible points and music are all part of the Jerusalem Marketplace experience! Campers will see, hear, touch and taste what it might have been like to live in Bible times.

Registration deadline is Monday, July 11. The \$25.00 per child suggested donation will help defray the cost of camp materials. Contact Maria at 203-988-8598 or atomasetti@snet.net if you have any questions.

Wanted: Jerusalem Marketplace Summer VBS Camp Volunteers!!

We need additional adult and youth volunteers (ages 12 and older). Our volunteers must enjoy working with children ages 4 through 11 - a *very important* qualification.

We need: volunteers who can help all five days; volunteers who can help for just one or two days; volunteers who like music/dance, acting, arts & crafts and games; volunteers who can help with weekday evening setup and decorations during the weeks of July 11 and July 18. (Clearly, we need volunteers!)

Interested in helping? Please contact Maria (as above) to learn more about the volunteer role that's the best fit for you!!

Adult Confirmation Program Begins in August

The Saint Raphael Parish Adult Confirmation Program, a series of six 2-hour sessions, is scheduled to begin in August. The program is open to Catholics 18 and older who have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion (Eucharist) but who have not received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Please contact Maria, (as above) to express interest and receive a copy of our Adult Sacrament Information Form. Adults who participate in this program will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall.

Can We Count on You to be a Money Counter?

Sign on to be part of our crack money counting crew. Teams meet on a rotating basis on Sunday mornings. Excellent training available. Details: Call Laura Frutkin (203-306-8276) or Lou Servideo (203-306-4750). Thank\$.

Remember to Save Your Spot for *David This Fall* Sight & Sound Theatre, Lancaster, PA

You won't want to miss this brand-new original stage production where you'll see David, Israel's Warrior King, come to life. Live animals, massive sets and spectacular special effects are part of this spectacular show. Be one of the 50 people we need to commit to this 3-day, 2-night trip, which includes 4 meals. Estimated cost: \$325 per person double occupancy. Contact MaryJo (203-882-0695) or Cindy (203-435-5494) to reserve your spot.

More Graduates and Their Plans

8th Grade Graduate, High School

Charlotte Baldieri
Harborside Middle School
Jonathan Law High School

High School Graduates, Colleges, Intended Majors

Abbey Candelora
Center for Global Studies, Norwalk
University of Vermont, Burlington
Business Administration

Christopher DeCastro
Fairchild Wheeler
Inter-district Magnet H.S.
Southern CT State University
Psychology

Grace Kantor
Jonathan Law High School
Thomas Jefferson University
Philadelphia
Occupational Therapy

Catherine McCabe
Academy of Our Lady of Mercy
Lauralton Hall
Sacred Heart University
Elementary Education

Owen McCabe
Joseph A. Foran High School
Has already enrolled in EMT
training through Yale.
Plans to become a firefighter.

Allyza Moral
Engineering and Science
University Magnet H.S. (ESUMS)
Updated information:
University of New Haven
Biochemistry

College Graduates School, Future Plans

Christopher Twombly
The Pennsylvania State University
Bachelors Degree in Finance
Risk & Financial Advisory Analyst
Deloitte, New York City

Tinto Council 47 Scholarships

Congratulations to Michael Deveny and Allyza Moral, graduating high school seniors and recipients of 2022 scholarship awards from the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council 47. We wish them much success in their college careers and thank them for their many hours of service to our parish and community.

A Time for Prayer, More Graduation Notes, A Pollinator Garden

A somber, but hope-filled note for this issue: In the face of escalating, devastating violence in our country, it is certainly *A Time for Prayer*. Read about our parish prayer initiative on Page 1.

We have more information from the Class of 2022 - and a message from a golden jubilee Class of 1972 alum as well.



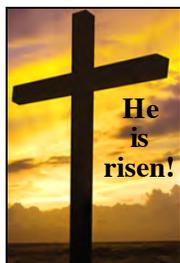
Black-eyed susans - like the one blooming at left - are nectar plants, a key element in the parish's pollinator garden.

Catch up on the latest parish picnic news and VBS camp details, including the call for volunteers. Congratulate June's 1st Communicants.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July.

The Parish Press

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In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Alicia Haley
Thomas Raynor, Sr.
Edward L. Frisbie
Charles Duarte
Marie Dingee

May the mercy of God bring them to new and everlasting life.

Bereavement Support Sunday, July 10



The Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, July 10th, at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. If you are grieving the loss of a loved one we invite you to be with us. Sharing your thoughts and feelings can be a significant step on the difficult road from grief to healing. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

August Parish Press Information Due July 11

Please send your news, notes, photos and comments to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). We look forward to hearing from you!

Saint Raphael Parish Website
www.saintraphaelmilford.org

SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

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Milford, CT 06460-5048

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Parish Picnic Preliminary Checklist

Date: Sunday, 9/11/22 ✓
Time: Noon - 4:00 p.m. ✓
Location: Saint Ann Church grounds ✓
Food, fun, games ✓
Picnic fare from Lasse's ✓
(kindness of the parish) ✓
Colorful flyers to be posted ✓
New and *forever* parishioners, singles, teens, families - everyone's invited! ✓

What Else???

The picnic committee's goal is to make this the best parish family picnic ever. To make that happen we need:

Enthusiastic Volunteers for:

Logistics (planning for good flow, good food, good crew, variety of activities, etc.); Setup (tables and chairs, game areas, entertainer venues - Garth and Dolly are coming, right??); Cleanup (vital; no explanation necessary); and for covering the unexpected!

How can you help? Mark your calendars and plan to be with us. Share your time and considerable talents by volunteering as a worker bee or a committee chair.

Reach out *today* to Cathy Coda (cathy.coda@att.net, 203-878-1990 or 203-988-4407) and ask your friends to do the same. You'll make Cathy smile, *and* you'll become a key player for the best parish family picnic ever - a coveted distinction. Thank you very much.