



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

August 2022



Honor Mary on Two August Mondays

Monday, August 15 - The Solemnity of the Assumption

When the course of her earthly life was finished our sinless Virgin Mother was “taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things.” (CCC 966) The Solemnity of the Assumption, according to Pope Saint John Paul II, is a mystery in which we find “clearly revealed the destiny of every human creature: the victory over death, to live forever with God.”

Because the Feast falls on a Monday this year, it remains a holy day, but there is no obligation to attend Mass. The beautiful liturgy for the Solemnity will be celebrated at the regular 8:00 a.m. daily Mass.

Monday, August 22 - The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Eight days after the Feast of the Assumption we celebrate the Queenship of Mary. In the Collect of the day’s Mass the celebrant prays, *O God, who made the Mother of your Son to be our Mother and our Queen, graciously grant that, sustained by her intercession, we may attain in the heavenly Kingdom the glory promised to your children.*

In his 1954 encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*, which established the feast, Pope Pius XII wrote that the faithful should approach Mary’s throne of mercy and grace with confidence, “to beg help in difficulty, light in darkness and solace in trouble and sorrow.” Let us add the Holy Father’s eloquent words to our *Time for Prayer* initiative.

Help Milford’s K-12 Crowd Get Off to a Great Start This School Year!

A key to a successful school year - having all the supplies you need. You can make that happen by donating supplies for Milford families in need. The Milford Department of Human Services has lists of items by grade level:

Elementary school: Pencils, pencil cases, pencil sharpeners, erasers, glue sticks, small scissors, Crayola crayons, pocket folders, markers (wide, washable), spiral notebooks (wide-ruled, one subject)

Middle and High School: Index cards 3" x 5", pens, post-it notes, mechanical pencils, highlighters, colored markers/pencils, pocket folders, spiral notebooks (college-ruled, one subject)

All grade levels: Small packets of tissues, hand sanitizer

Please bring your donations to either church or the parish office by Sunday, July 31. Questions? Contact Maria at 203-988-8598 (voice or text). Thank you very much.

HomeFront Recruitment Month! Work with our Parish Team on Saturday, September 17

Saint Raphael’s crack HomeFront team is hoping to recruit a few - or quite a few! - volunteers to join them on Saturday, September 17. Yes, it’s HomeFront Day, the annual neighbor-to-neighbor effort to make home repairs for a Milford family in need.

Here’s a chance to use your highly developed professional/DIY skills: interior painting, carpentry, plumbing, clearing brush, trimming trees, sprucing up the yard - a perfect opportunity to use your time, gifts and talents to serve others. And the crew can definitely use your help, even for a few hours on a part-time shift.

Team leaders John Marmolejo, Rich Wheeling and Carrie Jayne Nocerino have a spot for every volunteer. Sign on with Carrie, the team’s volunteer coordinator, at carrietvl@yahoo.com or 203-878-5566. Come be a HomeFront hero. Thanks.



**Saint Ann
Choir Concert**
Sunday, July 31
6:00 PM
Saint Ann Church

**Feast of Saint
Ignatius of Loyola**

Free!
All are welcome!

An Invitation from the Choir

You are cordially invited to enjoy the beautiful sounds of the Saint Ann Choir at a free summer concert on Sunday, July 31 at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Ann Church.

Come with family and friends. Relax in the cool confines of our air-conditioned space and let the music lift your spirits and soothe your soul.

A Time for Prayer

Please continue to be part of our parish Prayer Initiative. Pray for an end to the unrelenting violence in our country and in our world. Beg help from our Blessed Mother, as Pope Pius XII has written. Pray the inspired words of the Psalmist:

*The righteous cry out, the Lord hears
and he rescues them from all their afflictions.*

Above all else, continue to pray, pray without ceasing, in the name of Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Pollinator Garden Update: How Does Our Garden Grow?

Our staff reporter caught up with Mike and Donna DiMassa on a recent Monday morning as they were watering in our newly planted pollinator garden. The exchange went like this: Reporter: "How does our garden grow?" Donna: "Let me send you a report." The promised details were emailed to our editorial office in short order.

To Mike and Donna's delight, the Black-eyed-Susan plants from their garden have recovered from what Donna calls the trauma of the transplant and are actually going to have flowers this year. The Common Milkweed is doing well, although it will probably not flower this year. But all of the plantings have "made it"! Donna continues to sing the praises of New Haven's Urbanscapes Native Plant Nursery: "a fantastic place to get native pollinators for low prices – a true treasure that is so near Milford!"

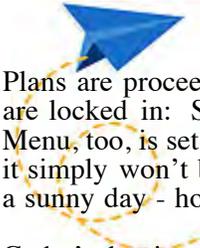


The DiMassa's hope is to attract Monarchs - like those in these photos taken at their garden - to breed in our garden by providing this critical food source for Monarch caterpillars.



Donna's report included facts about Monarchs from a conservation group, The Xerces Society: "Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on the leaves of milkweed, the only host plant for this iconic butterfly species. Monarchs need everybody's help!! For every 2,250 monarchs there were 30 years ago, there is only one left flying today. The significant problems afflicting western monarchs are habitat loss (overwintering and breeding areas), pesticide use (herbicides and insecticides), and climate change (including increased drought severity and frequency)."

Two important ways you can help in this effort to preserve Monarch habitats: 1) Plant native milkweed and nectar plants and 2) Reduce or eliminate the use of pesticides, particularly insecticides. Further information is available at <https://xerces.org/publications/fact-sheets/how-you-can-help-western-monarchs>.



Plan to Party at the Parish Picnic!

Plans are proceeding apace for September's parish picnic. Date, time and place are locked in: Sunday, September 11, noon-4 p.m. Saint Ann Church grounds. Menu, too, is set: picnic fare from Lasse's. All of you will be there, of course - it simply won't be the same without you! Cathy Coda's committee has ordered a sunny day - hold the rain. (We'll see how that goes!)

Cathy's hoping to add more volunteers to her crew. (It's a parish event -we always need more volunteers!) Slots available for setup, cleanup, Italian ice scoopers, hallway monitors and more. Please reach out to Cathy if you can help. (cathy.coda@att.net, 203-878-1990 or 203-988-4407.)

If you were hoping to give instruction in (and execute) the art of making excellent paper airplanes - sorry. That slot's been filled by a talented teen whose work is much better than our graphic. Now that's a picnic draw! Please plan to party at the picnic.



The Parish Christmas Fair Returns! Saturday, December 3 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saint Ann Parish Center

After a two-year hiatus, the always popular Saint Raphael Christmas Fair will return on Saturday, December 3. As of press time half of the Parish Center hall had already been booked. If you're a vendor looking for a spot you should reach out ASAP to Maureen Hanson (mhanson808@gmail.com) or MaryJo Downs (maryjodowns@gmail.com).

The Christmas Fair team is also looking for donations, prizes for one of the fair's major attractions - the raffle! Shoppers ooh and aah at wreaths, trees and gorgeous gift baskets (and take lots of chances on them) but gift cards to local restaurants, nail and hair salons also make great prizes. Let Maureen or Mary Jo know if you can help. They'll be most grateful for your support.

More High School Graduates and Their Plans

Lindsay Capobianco
Saint Joseph High School, Trumbull
Sacred Heart University
Elementary Education

Alaina Sciuto
Acellus Academy, the accredited
online high school of the
International Academy of Science
based in Kansas City, Missouri
Alaina is finalizing her
post-graduation plans.

Catholic Biblical School

Know God's Word . . .
. . . Know God's Love!

Accredited Bible Studies for Adults

Virtual and In-Person Fall
Classes Enrolling Now!

catholic.biblical.school@aohct.org



A Scoreboard Message

To all the parishioners and friends
headed to Yankee Stadium for the
Mets/Yankees game on
Tuesday, August 23:
Enjoy! Have fun!

We polled the newsletter staff
and it was unanimous:
*We're rooting for the team
from New York!*

Parish Website

www.saintraphaelmilford.org

GIFT: Growing In Faith Together

Our Saint Raphael Faith Formation Program for Children, Teens, Adults of All Ages

Two basic tenets of GIFT, our Faith Formation/Religious Education program, are that we can learn best when we learn together and that we are never too old to learn about our faith. Those concepts come together beautifully in our highly regarded intergenerational program.

GIFT offers an opportunity for adults to learn at an adult level, and to discuss our faith and what they have learned with other adults. That faith sharing, in turn, helps those with young families continue learning at home as they work with their children and teens, all of them deepening their understanding, growing in faith. When parents/guardians participate in GIFT and come to Mass as a family, their children and teens can see how important it is to *learn about*, to *practice* and to *live* our faith.

Families with children in Grade 1 or older should register for GIFT every year and should continue to participate at least until their young people receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Every year we focus on one of six overall GIFT themes, important topics in our faith. Children who

learn about a particular topic in elementary school will have the opportunity to learn about that topic again in middle school or high school, with a greater level of understanding. By participating every year young people can continue to build on a good foundation of what we believe as Catholics.

The GIFT program theme for 2022/2023 is Catholic Social Teaching. Monthly topics will include:

Life and Dignity of the Human Person
Human Rights and Responsibilities
Call to Family and Community
Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
Solidarity with All God's People/Peace
Care for God's Creation

GIFT program registration materials will go out by mid-August to registered parish families with young people ages 5-16 and to families from other parishes who regularly participate in our GIFT program. They will also be available at the doors of both churches.

GIFT Sacramental Program Update

Sacramental Program mailings will go out by mid-month to registered parish families and to participating GIFT families if our records indicate that they have children eligible to prepare to receive these Sacraments:

First Reconciliation/First Communion

Families with children in Grade 2 or older who have not received these Sacraments are required to attend one of these meetings:

Saturday, September 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m. *or*
Saturday, September 24, 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

All Sacramental Program Meetings will be held in a Parish Center classroom at the Saint Ann Campus.

GIFT program representatives will be available after all Masses the weekend of September 17/18 to answer questions and provide additional information on our faith formation and sacramental programs. Other GIFT questions? Please contact Maria: atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell phone - voice or text).

Confirmation

Families with teens in Grade 9 or older. Parent and 1st year candidates are required to attend one of these Program Overview meetings:

Thursday, September 22, 7 - 8:30 p.m. *or*
Wednesday, September 28, 7-8:30 p.m.

Volunteer to be a Day Brightener!

Outdoor Visits to Health Care Facilities

As part of Saint Raphael's Social Action outreach we are making plans for two outdoor visits to Milford health care facilities between mid-August and mid-October. We're thinking outdoor games or sing-a-longs — maybe both!

What a great opportunity for volunteers of all ages, including young families, to share smiles and brighten the spirits of these facility residents. Interested in learning more or signing up? Please reach out to Maria, (as above). And thank you!

Adult Confirmation

We are planning for a six-session Adult Confirmation program beginning in mid-August for Catholic adults (age 18 or older) who have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion (Eucharist) but who have not yet 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.



Info for September's Newsletter Due August 15

Got news for September's *Parish Press*? Spread it, share it, let the parish family know what's happening! Send us an email (parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!

August: GIFT Mailings, Coffee And, Marian Mondays and More

Look for GIFT materials this month, at the churches or in your mailbox, and read on page 3 about GIFT's faith formation and sacramental programs.

Mark your calendars - second weekend of the month means Coffee And after all the Masses. Hope to see you there!



We'll honor Mary, our Mother and our Queen, on two August Mondays.

HomeFront news, a report on our pollinator garden, one on our picnic, and much more inside. We also have two late-July tidbits: a note about school supplies and an invitation to a summer concert. Have a prayerful and beautiful August.

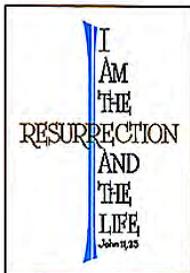
The Parish Press

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
501 Naugatuck Ave.
Milford, CT 06460-5048

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILFORD, CT
PERMIT NO. 362

In Memoriam



St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Lydia Porcelli | Annabelle Lanci |
| Christopher Coffey | Dina Parlato |
| Peter DiLeo | Leonard Macura |
| Rosemarie Cioppa | Philomena Birch |
| Margaret Salomone | Richard DeCapua |
| Ernestine Olencki | |

May God welcome them into the joy of his presence.

Bereavement Support Sunday, August 14



If you are struggling to cope with the loss of a loved one we invite you to meet with our parish Bereavement Support group on Sunday afternoon, August 14, at 2 o'clock in in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. You may find comfort in sharing your feelings and your memories with others who have known the pain of loss. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

- Elizabeth Cook
Ruby Jude Nappo

Elizabeth received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, June 26 at Saint Gabriel Church. Ruby was baptized on Sunday, July 17 at Saint Ann Church.



You have received the light of Christ, little ones. May that light guide you all the days of your life.

Love and Best Wishes



as you begin your married life together. . .

Joseph and Rebecca (Morgan) Witkins
who were united in marriage on Friday afternoon, July 1 at Saint Ann Church.

Congratulations, Joe and Rebecca. May you always share love and laughter.

Coffee And After All Masses the Weekend of August 13/14

Stop in to those happening places, Saint Gabriel Parish Hall or Saint Ann Parish Center, after Mass on Saturday or Sunday, August 13/14. Enjoy a cuppa (hot or cold) and some tasty snacks. Hobnob with those fabulous folks, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family.

The parish Card & Gift Shop will be open at Saint Ann's, before and after Masses and Scrip cards will be available. Purchase or order cards for back to school shopping at Amazon, Staples, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Target, Best Buy and lots of other merchants. Dunkin Donuts or Starbucks cards make a nice surprise for the college bound, who might also appreciate cards for Red Robin, Burger King, Dave & Buster's, IHop or other spots for casual dining. All Scrip card purchases support the parish. Thank you!

