



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family  
Milford, Connecticut

September 2022



## Picnic Menu

Hot dogs Burgers  
Veggie Burgers  
Sausage Patties  
Grilled boneless chicken breast  
Roasted Veggies  
Potato Salad  
Garden Salad  
Fresh Fruit Salad  
Watermelon  
Beverages, Dessert

## Don't Miss Our Parish Family Picnic!

Sunday, September 11

Noon-4 p.m., Grounds of Saint Ann Church

Fun and festive, featuring fabulous food - a spot-on description of our parish family picnic, coming up on Sunday, September 11. Menu is posted at left, attractions at right. Additional highlights: the presence of those terrific people, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family (That's you!), no entry fee (Thanks, Father John!), no need to bring a dish (Lasse's chefs will be cooking!). What's not to like??

## Attractions

Inflatable Bounce House  
Children's Area Activities  
(at staggered times)

Hula Hoops  
Paper Airplanes  
Temporary Tattoos  
Painting rocks for the parish gardens  
And more!

Food served buffet style (with a separate area for beverages and desserts), tables and chairs set up under

large dining tents. There will be a DJ for background music and announcements, an information table for parish and GIFT registration and for upcoming events. On this particular date we will pause to remember - because we can never forget - the significance of September 11.

What we need now is a head count for Lasse's. We want to be sure we have enough food for our terrific guests - the parish family! If you're planning to come - and we certainly hope you are! - please let us know. Use the flyers you'll find at the church doors or send your response to our special picnic email: [srppicnic@gmail.com](mailto:srppicnic@gmail.com). Kindly break down the attendance numbers: adults, children ages 5-13, children under 5.

Please note that for setup and safety reasons there will be no parking in the area behind Saint Ann Church on Saturday, September 10 or Sunday, September 11. The usual street parking and the lot across Church Street will be available.

Look forward to seeing you at the picnic! Let's meet at the bounce house - check out our reporter's temporary tattoo!



## Celebrate Saint Raphael September 29 Feast Day Mass 8:00 a.m. at St. Gabriel's

Continue the tradition of honoring Saint Raphael, our patron, on Thursday, September 29, the Feast of the Archangels. Father John will celebrate Mass at 8:00 a.m. at Saint Gabriel Church.

After Mass the CSR committee will distribute "breakfast to go" bags, tasty treats for your morning enjoyment.

## Upcoming Newsletter Info Due September 12

Information for October's *Parish Press* is due in our editorial offices by Monday, September 12. Send your news and notes to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!

## HomeFront Day, September 17 Kickoff/Orientation Meeting September 11

HomeFront volunteers, please plan to meet in the Saint Gabriel Church vestibule following the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday, September 11. Team captain John Marmolejo will provide basic information about the project: scope, location, instructions. If you haven't done so already you'll be able to fill out the HomeFront volunteer form, required from each participant.

You will also be invited to the annual "job well done" celebration dinner (courtesy of Chef Rose Marie) for the project homeowners and volunteers at Saint Gabriel Parish Hall immediately after the work is completed on Saturday.

It's not too late to be a HomeFront hero! Sign on with Carrie, volunteer coordinator, at [carrietvl@yahoo.com](mailto:carrietvl@yahoo.com) or 203-878-5566. Thanks very much!



## Encore! Encore!

Music lovers, rejoice! The Saint Ann Choir will present an encore performance of their marvelous July 31 concert on Wednesday, September 28 at 7 p.m. at Saint Ann Church.

You will enjoy the beautiful music - a gift to our senses and a gift from the choir to the parish family. Thank you!

## Saint Ann Choir Concert

**Encore  
Performance**

**Wednesday,  
September 28  
7:00 PM**

**Saint Ann Church  
Free!**

**All are welcome!**

## A Time for Prayer

### The Importance of Persistence

In his letter to the Colossians (4:2) Paul writes, "Be persistent in prayer." In Luke's Gospel Jesus himself lauds the persistence of the pleading neighbor (11:8) and of the widow looking for a just decision from the unscrupulous judge (18:1ff)

We, too must persist, continue to knock and ask our loving God for an end to the violence in our nation and in the world and for the blessing of God's peace.



## Exciting News! A New Resident in Our Pollinator Garden!

Donna DiMassa, Saint Raphael's own Certified Laudato Si' Animator, and her husband Mike, who work together to plant and tend our pollinator garden, returned last month from a short vacation to a wonderful surprise. There in the garden, munching delicately on the leaves of a Common Milkweed they had planted, was a Monarch-Butterfly Caterpillar! (See it munching, at right.)



This is exciting and important news. Monarch butterflies, as well as other butterflies, bees, and beneficial insects, pollinate much of the food that humans eat. But just weeks ago the migratory Monarch butterfly was designated "Endangered," placed on the Red List of Threatened Species™ by IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"It's troubling news for an insect that represents nature at its most powerful — a tiny, delicate creature that can travel nearly three thousand miles from the northern US and southern Canada to its overwintering destination in Mexico. By the start of spring, monarchs are ready to mate and migrate back to the U.S. They fly another thousand miles to lay their eggs only on milkweed plants, which will eventually serve as a food source for the caterpillars." <https://www.worldwildlife.org/stories/migratory-monarch-butterfly-now-classified-as-endangered>.

### Donna's Suggestions for Helping Insects

\*Stop using pesticides – people who do not use them have NO insect problems.

\*Provide native nectar plants – these insects need nourishment! They love Echinacea, Joe-Pye Weed, Culver's Root and Lobelia. Research other nectar plants

\*Provide host plants: Milkweed and Violets are host plants. Research other host plants.

\*Think of your yard as a "bed-and-breakfast" for insects! Insects are amazing!! Embrace them!

Live with nature – not against it.

By the time Donna and Mike filed their report our resident caterpillar had eaten almost all of its host plant and "will soon be forming a chrysalis! We are closely monitoring its progress." Like Jack with his beanstalk, the DiMassas feel that they planted a "magic bean" in the pollinator garden.

Additionally, the Mountain Mint and the Prairie Broom are in full flower, as are the Black-Eyed Susans. Somebody (no names mentioned!) has been dining on the parish's New England Aster, so there are no flowers on it. But, says Donna, "That is okay! We think of the garden as a 'salad bar' for animals and insects! Eat up! Come back for seconds!" The garden, she continued, "is one of God's mysteries! It is thriving and providing a nursery, food, shelter and water!"

Great news, Mike and Donna. Please continue to keep us posted!



## No Coffee And this Month - a Picnic Conflict What About the Card and Gift Shop?

In these most challenging times the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry continues its long-standing 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 help by donating:

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. Thank you for your kindness.

Never fear, shoppers! The parish Card and Gift Shop is more than a Coffee And phenomenon! The shop is open regularly on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. (yes, different day and time!) in the Saint Ann Parish Center. Despite this month's picnic-induced hiatus for weekend Coffee And, the shop will be open for business in September.

So, stop by, please, and browse to your heart's content. Check out the latest - especially the new and popular selection of greeting cards. Chat with the crafty members of Creative Hands as they work on their latest projects. If you knit or crochet you might like to become a regular at their Thursday evening sessions.

Please notice the shop's **Help Wanted** sign. We're looking for smiling, friendly people to join our crack staff when we're open on Coffee And weekends. (Next: Saturday and Sunday, October 8/9.) If you are available from 3-5:30 p.m. on Saturdays or 9-11:30 a.m. on Sundays (usually the second weekend of the month), please call Nancy Vai (203-257-6216) to discuss salary (your reward will be great in heaven) and benefits (much laughter, great customers). You, too, can become part of our award-winning staff!



When you purchase Scrip cards you can shop locally or online at more than 500 retailers and support the parish as well. Cards are sold at the parish office (203-874-0634) during regular business hours (M/W: 9-5; T/Th/F: 9-1). Every Scrip card purchase helps to support the parish. Thank you.

Parish Website

[www.saintraphaelmilford.org](http://www.saintraphaelmilford.org)

## GIFT: Growing In Faith Together

All GIFT program and GIFT Sacramental Program mailings have gone out. September overview meetings for the Sacramental Program are listed below. Our First Reconciliation, Confirmation, and all ages GIFT program classes will begin in October.

GIFT Program representatives will also be available after all Masses on September 17/18 to answer any questions you may have about our faith formation/religious education program. Other questions? Please contact Maria: [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

### GIFT Sacramental Program

All Sacramental overview meetings will be held in a Parish Center Classroom, Saint Ann Campus.

#### *First Communion/First Reconciliation*

Choose:

**Saturday, September 10, 10:30-11:30 a.m. OR**

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

Required for a parent/guardian

#### *Confirmation*

Choose:

**Thursday, September 22, 7-8:30 p.m. OR**

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

Required for 1st year candidates with a parent/guardian

## Drum Roll, Please !

**Theme for our 2023 Summer VBS Camp:**

*Stellar! Shine Jesus' Light!*

Okay, we just finished our 2022 Jerusalem Marketplace VBS Camp, (photos below) but we're so excited about our 2023 theme we couldn't wait to share it!

### *Stellar! Shine Jesus' Light*

Launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world.

Our adult and teen volunteers are all in, and we expect our campers to be very excited about this space theme.

Bible Points:

When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!

When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light!

When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!

When people are sad, shine Jesus' light!

When people need help, shine Jesus' light!

Make a note: Registration will begin in January 2023!!!

### Snapshots from *Jerusalem Marketplace*



Pottery Workshop



Memory Maker

at Synagogue School

## What Was Jerusalem Like in the Time of Jesus?

Our 20 young VBS campers and more than 30 terrific volunteers spent a week in 1st century Jerusalem, singing, dancing, making music, visiting the "barnyard." They went to Synagogue School, made pottery, dreidels and beaded jewelry, and ground herbs and spices to make sachets. One family's house "was filled with music and dance, and smelled like a spice shop all week!" This is where Jesus spent time when he came and lived among us and where the campers looked for "God sightings" at camp and in their lives. It was a great week!

## Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

### Adult Formation Program This Month



Are you, or is someone you know, interested in becoming Catholic? Are you an adult Catholic who has never received the Sacraments of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation? If this is the right time for you to take the next step on your faith

journey or if you have questions about that step, you might want to consider our parish RCIA program, which begins this month.

RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process through which people join the Catholic Church or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. It is meant for: people who have not been baptized; those who were baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church; and, as mentioned above, baptized Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation.

If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Maria Tomasetti (as above). The RCIA process can be adapted to meet the specific needs of children and youth.

### The 4 Periods of RCIA Formation:

**Inquiry:** the initial period before a person decides to enter the Catholic Church

**Catechumenate:** the period when those who decide to enter the Catholic Church are developing their faith and learning basic points about Catholic faith and life.

**Lenten period of Purification and Enlightenment:** the period when people preparing to be received into the Church focus on and strengthen their faith as they prepare to commit their lives to Christ.

**Mystagogy:** the period after people receive the Sacraments of Initiation. This period lets people reflect and learn more about the mysteries of the Mass and the Sacraments in which they are now participating fully.

**Picnic, Pollinator Garden Update,  
Celebrate our Patron and More!**

Busy September at Saint Raphael Parish! We're picnicking as a parish family on Sunday, September 11 (details on page 1), gearing up for HomeFront on the following Saturday, savoring the sounds of the Saint Ann Choir in an encore performance on Wednesday, the 28th.



Exciting news from our pollinator garden - we have a new resident! (See page 2) We have updates from the GIFT team and notes about the Christmas Fair, too.

As the month draws to a close we will Celebrate Saint Raphael, our patron since June of 2017, patron saint of travelers and happy meetings, angel of peace. Throughout this month and always, *Saint Raphael, pray for us.*

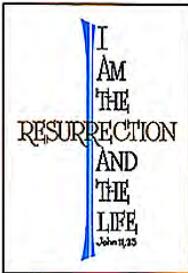
**The Parish Press**

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:  
Katherine Martelon    Geraldine Murillo  
Mary Ann Connors    Kelly Armour  
Madelyn Jannitto    Lester Trotto  
Nelson Hicks    Gerald Bowers  
Paul Orosz    Corrine Forgette  
May they they rest in eternal peace in God's heavenly kingdom.

**Love and Best Wishes**

as you begin your married life together. . .   
Patrick and Deirdre (Hall) Kane  
who were married on Friday, August 5 at Saint Gabriel Church.

Congratulations, Patrick and Deirdre. May God bless you abundantly through a long and happy marriage.

**Bereavement Support Sunday, September 18**



This month's Bereavement Support group meeting has been moved to the third Sunday, September 18, at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Please be with us if you are finding it difficult to cope with the loss of someone you love. Let us walk with you for a while on the long road from grief to healing. Call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.



**Pray the International Rosary  
Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church**

You are invited to pray the beautiful and much-loved International Rosary at Saint Gabriel Church on Tuesday, October 4 at 7 p.m. As multi-lingual parishioners lead each decade of Mary's prayer we will hear but a few of the many languages of God's people. The evening includes a selection of traditional Marian hymns and closes with refreshments in the Saint Gabriel Parish Hall.

**Parish Christmas Fair: Saturday, December 3, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saint Ann Parish Center**

**Attn: Crafters and Vendors**

Just 7 spots are left in the main hall! Reserve yours today with Maureen Hanson ([mhanson808@gmail.com](mailto:mhanson808@gmail.com)) or MaryJo Downs ([maryjodowns@gmail.com](mailto:maryjodowns@gmail.com)).

**Donations for Our Raffle Baskets**

Wreaths, baskets and gift cards make attractive raffle prizes. All donations greatly appreciated. (Remember: The fair is a major fundraiser for the parish. Thanks.)

**Planning Meeting  
Wednesday, August 31, 6:30 p.m.  
Saint Ann Parish Center**

Come be a part of our team! All are welcome to help the committee plan for this highly anticipated event. Share your skills, your ideas, your enthusiasm!

See you on the 31st!!

