

St. Raphael Parish, Milford – GIFT Program – 2022/2023

Faith Formation for People of All Ages – Information Sheet

What is GIFT?

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together – is open to all members of Saint Raphael Parish as well as non-parishioners -- from age 5 through adult. It is our Saint Raphael Parish faith formation program. It is the way our parish educates children and teens about the basics of our Catholic faith. It is also designed for adults – to answer their questions about the Catholic faith, explain religious traditions, and help them grow in relationship with God. Singles and couples without children and teens are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Through GIFT, we build community by involving people of all ages in the life of the Church. Materials are provided for parents/guardians to continue learning at home with their families— between sessions.

GIFT Theme

Our GIFT theme for 2022/2023 is Catholic Social Teaching. The GIFT sessions will focus on one of the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

GIFT In-Person Class Schedule – 2022/2023

- * October 23 or 25– Life and Dignity of the Human Person
- * November 13 or 15 – Human Rights and Responsibilities
- * December 11 or 13– Call to Family and Community
- * January 22 or 24 – Child/Teen Lures Safety Program (families with children and teens)
- * February 26 or 28 – Option for the Poor and Vulnerable
- * March 26 or 28 – Solidarity with All God’s People/Peace
- * April 23 or 25 – Care of God’s Creation

We offer age-appropriate sessions for families with children through Grade 4, young people in Grades 5/6, teens in Grade 7 or older, and adults on these dates. Adult participation is essential to our monthly faith formation program so at least one parent/guardian per family is required to attend with children and teens. Adults who attend with children through Grade 4 usually participate in our family sessions. Adults who attend with young people in Grade 5 or older or who attend without young people participate in our adult sessions.

Note: There will be other lifelong faith formation events in addition to our Catholic Social Teaching topics, e.g., Advent/Christmas Celebration (December) and Pentecost Celebration (June) as well as opportunities to pray together as a family.

GIFT Sacramental Program – 2022/2023

Any families with young people eligible to prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation will receive a separate Sacramental program mailing. Registration in the GIFT program is required for families participating in our Sacramental program.

* First Reconciliation/First Communion Overview Session for Parents/Guardians. Choice of:

- Saturday, September 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. or
- Saturday, September 24 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Location - Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave.

* Confirmation Overview Session for Parents/Guardians and incoming Confirmation Candidates. Choice of:

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

Location – Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave

GIFT Program Considerations Due to the Pandemic – 2022/2023

We will again be monitoring local Covid transmission rates and will plan for health and safety accommodations as needed based on local guidelines. We thank parents/guardians for monitoring the health of their families and only coming to our GIFT sessions if everyone is healthy.

We hope to start some of our GIFT sessions with an optional light dinner in 2022/2023, depending on Covid transmission rates. For months when we can start with a dinner, the Sunday start time will be 12 noon, and the Tuesday start time will be 6:00 p.m.

About a week before each monthly GIFT session, adults will receive a reminder email, which will also include any health and safety accommodations and whether we will be serving the optional light dinner.

Questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell phone – voice or text).