



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

October 2022



October, a Month Dedicated to the Rosary

In 1884 Pope Leo XIII, as part of his encyclical *Superiore Anno*, dedicated the month of October to the rosary. From his youth this brilliant writer, poet and theologian had a strong devotion to Mary. Pope Leo XIII, who ascended to the papacy in 1878, is considered the greatest champion of the rosary ever to hold the office of the Vicar of Christ. He wrote 11 encyclicals on the rosary, taught that the rosary was part of the solution to the social problems of his day, and encouraged everyone to pray the rosary every day.

In 1978, one hundred years after Leo XIII was elevated to the Chair of Peter, Karol Wojtyla became Pope (now Saint) John Paul II. He, too, had a great devotion to the rosary. Among his many observations on this special and beautiful prayer Pope Saint John Paul II has written, "To pray the rosary is to hand over our burdens to the merciful heart of Christ and his Mother. Through the rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."

The October calendar is sprinkled with "rosary opportunities," including recitation before the 8 o'clock daily Mass at both churches. *Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us.*



International Rosary Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 PM

You are invited to pray the beautiful and much-loved International Rosary on Tuesday, October 4 at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel Church.

Multi-lingual parishioners will begin the prayers of each decade in a different language - Spanish, French, Italian Portuguese, German and Vietnamese, while the congregation will pray the second half of each prayer in English. We will raise our voices in song, hymns to the Blessed Mother, between each decade. The evening will close with refreshments in Saint Gabriel Hall. We hope you can be with us.

A Time for Prayer

October seems the perfect time to ask the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary, to intercede for us as we continue to pray for peace, for an end to violence, in our country and throughout the world.

The Latest from Our Pollinator Garden

Since our last report several types of bees, including the green bee at right, have buzzed in to visit our New England Asters, which bloomed for a second time. They had disappeared in August - providing dinner for the deer.



Our Monarch caterpillar emerged unseen from the chrysalis and, we presume, has made the long trek to its overwintering destination in Mexico. Father John has graciously allowed an expansion of the garden, and Mike and Donna have added Coneflowers (*Echinacea purpurea*) and Butterfly Weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), considered must-haves in any pollinator garden. Arrowwood (*Virburnum dentatum*), a multi-tasking shrub, is a jack-of-all trades in the garden, providing food, cover and nesting sites. "How does our garden grow?" you ask. Very well, it seems!

Enjoy Coffee And After All Masses October 8 and 9

Coffee And is back, and on its second weekend of the month schedule. Do stop in to the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall after Mass on October 8 or 9. Enjoy coffee and taste treats. Rub elbows with some of the finest people we know - the Saint Raphael Parish family!

First Saturday Rosary Recitation Begins October 1 at 11:00 a.m.

We continue the Fatima tradition of First Saturday Rosary recitation starting Saturday, October 1 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Ann Church. Please be with us as we honor Mary with this very special devotion on the first Saturdays of October, November, December, January and February.

Pray the Rosary in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel Tuesdays at Noon

Drop in any Tuesday. All are welcome. Enter through the Church St. side door. Questions? Call Joanne (203-877-4020).

Newsletter Info Due October 12

Please submit your news, notes, comments and photos for the November issue of *The Parish Press* by Wednesday, October 12. Call Ann Eden (203-874-8744); email us at parishpress06460@gmail.com. Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you.

Breakfast at the Flyer

Join fellow parishioners for breakfast at the Bridgeport Flyer following morning Mass on the second Monday of the month. (This month: October 10th). Meet old friends, get to know some folks you've seen but haven't talked to, enjoy this Saint Raphael Parish social gathering.!

All Saints Holy Day Masses Tuesday, November 1

Saint Gabriel Church: 8:00 a.m.

Saint Ann Church: 7:00 p.m.

Kudos to the Picnic Committee - Terrific Parish Gathering on September 11! Committee Chair Cathy Coda Submitted This Report (Great job, Cathy!)

The first Saint Raphael Parish Family Picnic is officially in the books! The 194 people who attended enjoyed delicious food provided by Lasse's. Scott Rohrig went above and beyond in quantity, quality and variety in his menu selections. So many choices, so little time...

The fried dough station was like a visit down memory lane! Someone commented, "I felt like I was 15 again and at a carnival. And your choice of toppings! Sauce and grated parmesan, powdered sugar or cinnamon and sugar! Yum!"



I'm in the bounce house.
Now what ?

Micalizzi's Italian Ice was a perfect finish for such a fabulous gastronomical experience! In addition to the traditional lemon ice, many picnic goers were spotted sporting red or blue tongues to go along with their cherry or blue raspberry flavored ices.

Between the inflatable obstacle course and the multifaceted children's area our younger guests were kept happy and occupied. Who doesn't love making paper airplanes, hula hooping, painting rocks for the parish gardens or decorating themselves with temporary tattoos?"

I can't mention many names because I don't want to miss anyone. But, if you set up a tent, put up a table or a chair, emptied garbage, made paper airplanes, played children's games or took care of any of the millions of details that made the day so successful, you have my respect, admiration and sincere **THANKS**.

We can't thank Father Brinsmade enough. He was on board from the beginning and without his support and encouragement the picnic would not have been possible.

Major shout out also to Maria Tomasetti, who organized her army of teens and led them into the battle, hauling tents from an upstairs classroom, setting up tents and tables and chairs, and generally saving my life! (All this on Maria's birthday! Happy Birthday Maria!)

Finally, I couldn't have done this without my co-chairs, Melissa Coda Lawless and Susan Coda, who get things done!

Thank you to everyone who came. I hope you enjoyed the afternoon - even with the sprinkles on top! *Cathy Coda*

Saint Raphael's Went to the Ball Game August 23 And What a Game It Was!

In the late afternoon of Tuesday, August 23, 48 Mets and Yankees fans (with a few Red Sox fans in the mix) boarded a bus headed for Saint Raphael's 1st-ever Subway Series game, this one at Yankee Stadium. And what an exciting game it was!

There was no score going into the bottom of the 4th inning, when Aaron Judge crushed his 48th home run of the season into left field. The ball whistled right over the Saint Raphael contingent. The Yanks led 2-0 after 4. The Mets responded, scoring 1 in the top of the 5th, and tied the game in the 6th. The Yankees came back and took the lead: 4-2 Yankees after 7. The Mets loaded the bases in the top of the 9th, but couldn't pull it out. Final score: Yankees 4, Mets 2.



Two of our most enthusiastic fans smiled and waved for the camera.



Aaron Judge at the plate.
Home run #48 to follow!

Not all 48 of our folks were happy with the outcome, but everyone agreed: What a great time! Let's do it again next season, this time at Citi Field. (A suggestion from the Mets fans? Looking for home field advantage?!)

Special thanks to Lou Servideo and Carrie Nocerino, who organized the event, and to Lou's son Louis, who simplified the seating process, provided refreshments on the bus, and took the great photos that accompany this article.



Looks tasty - dig in!

GIFT Sacramental Program Dates

First Reconciliation

**Saturday, October 1
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.**

Required session for children with a parent or guardian.

Confirmation

**Sunday, October 2
1:00-2:30 p.m.**

Required session for first year Confirmation candidates

Classes will be held in the Parish Center, 501 Naugatuck Avenue.

GIFT- for October Faith Formation for People of All Ages

GIFT sessions for 2022-23 will focus on Catholic Social Teaching, a central and essential element of our faith. The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society.

All the principles of Catholic Social Teaching are based on this foundational belief: every person is precious, people are more important than things, and the measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person. During October's GIFT session we will study and learn more about this critical belief.

The life and dignity of every person must be respected and protected at every stage and in every condition. The right to life is the first and most fundamental principle

of human rights that leads Catholics to work actively for a world of greater respect for human life and greater commitment to justice and peace.

During October the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning to the end of their lives, and at every point in between. During October the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.

At every monthly GIFT session we will learn about Catholic Social Teaching topics in age-appropriate ways: Family session for parents and children through Grade 4, Grade 5/6 session, Teen session (Grade 7 or older), and adult session (for parents/guardians of young people in Grade 5 or older as well as for adults without young people who are participating in GIFT.) Questions? Please contact Maria: atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

Milford Trick or Trot to Benefit Beth-El Center Saturday, October 29 at Lisman Landing Join the Saint Raphael Parish Team!!

Calling runners, walkers, and volunteers of all ages! Be a part of our Saint Raphael Team for Milford's Trick or Trot 5K on Saturday, October 29. Great exercise and a great cause: supporting the Beth-El Center, a recognized leader in caring for and meeting the needs of the hungry and homeless as it strives to prevent and end homelessness.

Register online at <http://www.milfordtrickortrot.com> To receive a race number and t-shirt.: **Adult pricing:** \$33 (first 150 participants), \$36 after; **Youth pricing:** \$25 age 18 and younger.

Registration at Lisman Landing begins at 7:30 a.m. Kids' Fun Run begins at 8:45 a.m., 5K Run/Walk at 9:00 a.m. Come in your family-friendly Halloween costumes and enjoy music by The Elwoods. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners by age group will receive awards. (If high Covid-19 community transmission, the event will go virtual.)

Pledge sheets are available for faith community participants who wish to collect additional donations from family members or friends to benefit Beth-El Center. Please contact Maria (as above) if you have questions or need a pledge sheet or paper registration form.

T4S

T4S is recruiting teens in Grades 7-12 for 2022/2023. Join us and participate in parish projects and teen service projects throughout the year. Invite a friend to participate in our group and these projects, many of which are designed to help people in the community.

For October we're looking for setup/cleanup volunteers for the Milford Trick or Trot 5K. In November we'll meet in person to pack some 40 Boxes of Joy. (See details in the articles above.) Questions? Call Maria (as above).

Catholic Social Teaching Life and Dignity of the Human Person

**Sunday, October 23
12:30 - 2:15 p.m.**

(12 noon start time if we serve optional dinner.)

**Tuesday, October 25
6:30 - 8:15 p.m.**

(6:00 p.m. start time if we serve optional dinner.)

T4S and Box of Joy

This fall our Teens for Service group will be part of Box of Joy, a Cross Catholic Outreach program that brings smiles, hope and a reminder of God's love to impoverished children in Haiti, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and other developing countries.



A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoe box packed with new items: small toys, clothing, school supplies, and hygiene products. Each gift represents Christ's love and may be the only gift children in these countries are blessed to receive. The boxes will also include friendly notes and prayer cards. Our generous GIFT families will help us fill the boxes. The teens will pack them in early November

For other parishioners who might like to participate Cross Catholic Outreach suggests: dolls; cars, trucks, or boats; small plush animals; ball (deflated) with pump; jewelry; sunglasses; hair accessories; purse or wallet; handheld toys; rosary or wrist watch. (We cannot accept food or beverages, medicine or vitamins, liquids or gels, toy weapons, glass items, military toys, knives or tools.)

As always, we are most grateful for your kindness. If you have questions or need additional suggestions, you may contact Maria (as above).

October Highlights, Picnic and Yanks/Mets Reports, Lots More!

Highlights for October, the month of the Holy Rosary, include First Saturday Fatima Rosary and the always popular International Rosary. GIFT sessions resume this month, while T4S will introduce a new program from Cross Catholic Outreach, Box of Joy.



Some 200 picnickers enjoyed the food, fun and festivities at September's parish picnic, including the young lady at left, who was headed, we think, for the bounce house. Another parish summer adventure took folks to the newest version of the House that Ruth built. Exciting! Read about it inside.

Beginning October 8th, look for the rising of the Hunter's Moon, which will reach peak illumination on Sunday, the 9th.

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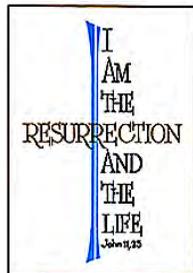
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In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Charles L. Davis, Jr.	Frances Baye
Josephine Brigantic	Margaret Lewis
Lynne Connors	David Samelwich
Loretta Paul Goldin	William Hershey
Maria Pastore	Patricia Shanley
Dorothy Guaglianone	
Queen Elizabeth II	



May our Savior welcome them into the joy of his everlasting kingdom.

Bereavement Support Meeting Sunday, October 9 at 2:00 p.m.



Our parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, October 9 at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

Please plan to be with us if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. Let us stand with you and beside you during this most difficult time. It is our hope that you will find comfort in this prayerful, confidential setting among others who have known the pain of loss.

You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you have questions or would like further information.

Visit the Card and Gift Shop . . .

. . . on Thursday evenings from 6 to 8 and during Coffee And on October 8 and 9. We're located in the Saint Ann Parish Center Library. Come see what's new, or find a treasure on our "New to You" table. Meet our award-winning staff. Hope to see you soon!

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Isla Roach
Leighton Sisk
Lucas Sisk
Alivia Grace Cammarano
Zachary Cruz Silva
Lucas Alexander Przybyszewski
Ellora Theresa Worthington
Benjamin Digno Ramirez



Isla, Leighton and Lucas were baptized on Sunday, August 21 at Saint Gabriel Church. Alivia received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, September 19 at Saint Ann Church. Zachary, Lucas, Ellora and Benjamin were baptized at Saint Ann Church on Sunday, September 18. You have become new creations, little ones, clothed now in Christ. May you walk always as children of the light.

Christmas Fair December 3 from 9-3

Our Wish List:

Donations:

Christmas trees, wreaths, decorations
Gifts cards for raffle prizes:
Diners, restaurants, grocery stores, hair and nail salons, local shops



Volunteers!

for setup, decorating, break down, kitchen, bakery, raffle

To help, call MaryJo Downs (203-710-0471)

Thank you!