



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

November 2022



Parish Mass of Remembrance

The Saint Raphael Community of Faith invites parishioners, families and friends to our annual



Mass of Remembrance

to remember and to celebrate all the members of our parish family who have died during the past year.

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

The Mass of Remembrance will be streamed live via <https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

Celebrate All Saints' Day Tuesday, November 1

Schedule of Holy Day Masses
8:00 a.m. at Saint Gabriel Church
7:00 p.m. at Saint Ann Church

On this holy day we honor all the saints, All-Stars like Augustine and Francis of Assisi, who inspired others to greatness. But we also remember and seek to imitate that broader population of heaven who offered their lives in quiet ways to God. They lived His teachings in an exemplary manner in season and out until all seasons converged and God called them back to Himself.



My Catholic Life!, All Saints Day

Veterans' Day Coffee And After All Masses the Second Weekend of November



Please stop in to our annual Veterans' Day Coffee Hour after Masses at Saint Gabriel's and Saint Ann's on November 12/13. Enjoy coffee, tea and scrumptious treats and consider making a donation to The Wounded Warrior Project. WWP is a non profit organization that provides programs and services for warriors and their families.

Your generous, tax-deductible donation will change the lives of over one million injured warriors, caregivers, and family members. You will help bring independence back to our nation's most severely wounded veterans. Thanks. Hope to see you there. **"The greatest casualty is being forgotten®"**

Advent Reflection Booklet Waiting in Joyful Hope

November 27 is the first Sunday of Advent, a season of preparation, a season of waiting. Mary DeTurris Poust's booklet *Daily Reflections for Advent & Christmas, Waiting in Joyful Hope* is a series of down-to-earth reflections on the lectionary readings for the Masses of Advent along with prayers and meditations that will help us grow in understanding God's Word. Booklets will be at the church doors before the season begins. Please take one to enrich your Advent journey.



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 24
9:00 a.m.
Saint Gabriel Church

*And now, bless the God of all,
who has done wondrous things on earth.
May he grant you joy of heart
and may peace abide among you.*

Sirach 50:22a, 23

Ukrainian Relief Project: Urgent Need for Winter Clothing

Just as we were going to press we received word that Saint Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church in New Haven has organized a clothing drive for Ukraine. The posting on their website is direct and eloquent: The GREATEST URGENT NEED in Ukraine right now is for WINTER CLOTHING for people of ALL AGES.

We've seen the videos, we've read the accounts of what sources have called the "deepening misery" of a people in a war-torn country now "facing winter without enough light or heat." We have ached for them. We have prayed for them. Here now is an opportunity to put our words into action, to do something concrete to help, to practice a corporal work of mercy.

Please leave your donations (most needed items posted at right) in the containers you'll see in the vestibules of both churches **by Friday, November 4**. One kind parishioner will deliver them to Saint Michael's for packing and shipping to Ukraine. Donations needed also to cover the cost of shipping. Please place monetary donations in an envelope in the collection basket with the memo Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief Fund. Checks should be made out or mailed to K of C Council, St Michael the Archangel Church, 569 George St., New Haven, CT 06511-5301. May God bless you for your kindness and unstinting generosity.

Most needed:

Hats
Gloves/Mittens
Coats
Pants
Sweaters
Underwear
Sweat Suits

Any items that will offer protection from very cold winter weather

Saint Raphael Christmas Giving Program 2022

It's not a Norway spruce, it has no lights, and it's barely 3 inches, not 79 feet high - the chubby little Christmas tree at left would never make it at Rockefeller Center. But look closely and you'll notice that this "little Christmas tree that could" is adorned with the names of the many organizations/families we're planning to help through this year's Christmas Giving program. Now that's beautiful!



When you come to Mass on the first weekend of Advent, November 26/27, you'll see by the doors of both our churches a Christmas tree laden with gift tags, the wish lists of health care facility residents and of people in need.

Please take a gift tag (more than one, if you can) and return the gift(s), with tag(s) attached, by Sunday, December 11. (Our delivery elves want to be sure everyone receives their gifts before Christmas!) Thank you, as always, for the spirit of giving that makes ours such a special parish family

Want to help? We are scheduling a pre-Thanksgiving meeting for anyone - adults, teens, children - who would like to help write out/cut the gift tag ornaments. Watch the bulletin for the meeting date.

We'll also need some weekend help with gift check-in and sorting as well as help with delivery, beginning on December 12 and followed by several make-up delivery dates. Questions? Please contact Kathleen Buchanan (203-606-6476), Rose Marie Marmolejo (203-378-5508) or Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or (203-988-8598 - voice or text).

Advent Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Sunday, November 20

Saint Gabriel Hall

Following the 11:00 a.m Mass

You are cordially invited to the parish's annual Advent Soup and Sandwich luncheon in Saint Gabriel Hall following the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday, November 20. Food critics have always rated the fare "really, really good." The rating for the causes the luncheon supports: "Really, really great."

No tickets required for this special event, but there is a twofold entrance fee: 1. a *new, unwrapped* winter item (hats, gloves, scarves, socks, other essentials for adults and children); 2. non perishable food items or toiletries. All donations will support Beth-El Center, the homeless and the parish food pantry.

To make your reservation - we need to know how many people we'll be serving - please look for our "reservation specialists" in the church vestibules after weekend Masses.

We are grateful to our top-flight Advent luncheon committee members: Rose Marie Marmolejo, Michele Croteau, Kathleen Buchanan, Pat Pavlucik, Cathy Coda, Melvyn Moral, Mary Fedorchak, Maria Tomasetti, and Betsy Kirkham. Their camaraderie and hard work are the special ingredients that continue to make this annual winter gathering so successful.

If you have questions or would like to join the team, please call Rose Marie Marmolejo (203-378-5508). See you on the 20th!

And what are well-dressed senior altar servers wearing these days?

Why, black cassocks and white surplices, of course. It's a classic look, reserved at Saint Raphael's for senior servers, young men and women who are in high school but continue to serve in this very special ministry.

Thank you Senior Altar Servers, for your dedication, for the reverence with which you serve at the altar and for setting such a good example for our fine younger servers.

Christmas Fair Saturday, December 3 9 AM - 3 PM

Saint Ann Parish Center

Circle the date. Now do it again! You *must not miss* the parish Christmas Fair. Fun! food! prizes! Great vendors! Unique, hand-crafted items! Everything you

could want in a spectacular holiday event.

Our volunteers are a really special part of the Fair, and you have a chance to be one of them. We'll need help setting up, decorating, breaking down, and we could use some assistance with the raffle, the kitchen and the bakery. (We reached out to *ChristmasElvesToHelpWithFairs.org*, but, alas, no luck.)

We're also looking for donations of Christmas items (wreaths, trees, decorations) and of gift cards to local businesses for raffle prizes.

If you can help, please call MaryJo Downs (203-710-0471). Thanks very much.



**Catholic Social Teaching
Human Rights
and Responsibilities**

**Sunday, November 13
12:30 - 2:15 p.m.**

(12 noon start time if
we serve a light dinner.)

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

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

**GIFT in November
Faith Formation for People of All Ages**

As we continue to examine the principles of Catholic Social Teaching(CST), participants in November's GIFT sessions will explore Human Rights and Responsibilities, one of CST's key themes.

The basis of all Catholic Social Teaching is the life and dignity of the human person. From that basic right stem others: a right to food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, and essential social services.

As the U.S. Catholic Bishops explain, "Every person has a fundamental right to life . . . faith and family life, food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. We also have a duty to secure and respect these rights not only for ourselves, but for others . . ." (*Faithful Citizenship*, USCCB, 14) As Pope Saint John XXIII has written "to claim one's rights and ignore one's duties . . . is like building a house with one hand and tearing it down with the other." (*Pacem in Terris*, no. 30)

November's GIFT session is required for first year Confirmation candidates with a parent, guardian or sponsor and is very important for all GIFT participants and families. Questions? Contact Maria: atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598

**GIFT Sacramental
Program Dates**

**First Reconciliation
Session #2**

**Saturday, November 5
10:00 a.m - 12:00 noon.**
Required session for children
with a parent or guardian.

Confirmation
Church Year Seasons and Feasts

**Sunday, November 6
1:00-2:30 p.m.**
or
**Wednesday, November 9
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.**
Required session for first year
Confirmation candidates

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



Confirmation at the Cathedral

On Sunday, October 30, eighteen Saint Raphael's teen candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during a 2 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, along with candidates from other parishes within the Archdiocese of Hartford. Archbishop Blair will be the principal celebrant. Father John will concelebrate, as will priests from the other parishes in attendance.

Parishioners will be able to watch the Mass (live or recorded) via livestream at <https://www.facebook.com/CathedralOfSaintJoseph>, the Cathedral's Facebook page.

One candidate from Saint Raphael will be confirmed at the Cathedral during an Adult Confirmation Ceremony on Tuesday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Please keep all our Confirmation candidates in prayer as they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

**Creative Hands Meets Thursdays
Saint Ann Parish Center Library
6 - 8 p.m.**

Like to knit or crochet? Start a project? Or finish one? Creative Hands welcomes all ages and skill levels. For information please contact Val Yergeau (vyergeau@gmail.com or 203-687-9568). See you on Thursday!

Saint Raphael Parish Website
<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

Fall Back - Adjust Your Clocks
Daylight Saving Time Ends on November 6



**to Pack Boxes of Joy
Thursday, November 3**

Attention teens in grades 7-12! We will meet on Thursday, November 3, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center to assemble Boxes of Joy for our Cross Catholic Outreach project.

A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoe box, packed with small toys, clothing, school supplies, hygiene items, friendly notes - gifts that speak of Christ's love to the children in developing countries who receive them. Please join us, teens, and bring a friend!!



Our GIFT families, as always, have been very generous in helping us fill the boxes the teens will assemble and pack.

For others who might like to be part of this heartwarming project, Cross Catholic offers these suggestions. (*Italicized items are highly desired!*)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Deflated soccer balls with pump</i> | <i>Crayons</i> | <i>T-shirts</i> | <i>Hard Candy</i> |
| <i>Dolls</i> | <i>Coloring Books</i> | <i>Sunglasses</i> | <i>No Chocolates or</i> |
| <i>Binoculars</i> | <i>Pencils</i> | <i>Drawstring bag</i> | <i>Jolly Ranchers</i> |
| <i>Jump rope</i> | <i>Pencil sharpeners</i> | <i>Socks, Hats</i> | <i>Gum</i> |
| <i>Yo-yo</i> | <i>Erasers</i> | <i>Flip-flops</i> | <i>LED flashlights</i> |
| | <i>Stickers</i> | <i>Shorts</i> | <i>Sewing kit</i> |

May God bless you for your kindness. If you have questions, need more information or suggestions, you may contact Maria (as above).

This in, from the Blue Mantle Ministry

It's November. The weather is cooler, pool season has ended - it's time to start knitting and crocheting. If you agree, why not join the Blue Mantle Ministry? We meet at the Saint Gabriel ministry center from 7-9 p.m. on the first Monday of the month, 1-3 all other Mondays. We knit and crochet for various charities. Last winter we created a mitten tree - folks who came to the food bank could "pick" their favorites from an array of colors and sizes. The project was a great success.

New to the crafts? We'll teach you. And don't worry about supplies - we have everything on hand. Blue Mantle is a ministry - a great way to earn volunteer/service hours. And, bonus, it's a lot of fun! Come visit us, any Monday.

Holy Day, Election Day, Mass of Remembrance, Thanksgiving, Advent

November begins with the joyous celebration of All Saints and closes in the waiting time of Advent, as we prepare for the coming of the Lord. In between we go to the polls, remember the loved ones God has called home, and give thanks for our many blessings.



Parish traditions continue with Veterans' Day *Coffee* And on November 12/13 and Advent Luncheon on 11/20, another opportunity for Saint Raphael Parish family gathering and generosity. Add to that list other heartwarming projects: Boxes of Joy, our Christmas Giving program, collection of winter clothing for Ukraine. Details inside.

The entire *Parish Press* staff wishes you a cornucopia of Thanksgiving blessings.

The Parish Press

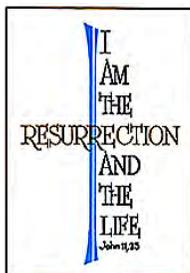
A Publication of Saint Raphael Parish
Milford, Connecticut
Editor: Ann K. Eden
Production Staff: Lou Eden, Nancy Vai
Printing: Graphic Image, Milford, CT

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:

John Finnell	Henry Hiltz
Robert Loch	Eileen Dugan
Una Glennon	Loretta Buckley
Mary Lou Kecko	Alma Keilty
Stephanie Trotto	Peter Apatow
Ruth Yatsinko	Michael Curma

May they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy.



Bereavement Support Meeting Sunday, November 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Our parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday, November 13 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

If you are carrying a burden of grief, please consider joining us. You may find comfort in sharing your story with others who have known the pain of loss. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) for further information.

Submit Newsletter Information by November 10

News, notes, comments and photos for December's issue of *The Parish Press* are due in our editorial offices by Thursday, November 10 (a bit of an early deadline because of the upcoming holidays).

Email us at parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks very much. It's always good to hear from you!

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Austin Robert DiChello
Jonathan Lew Vingo
Jake Ryan Berman

who were baptized on Sunday, October 16 at Saint Gabriel Church. Austin, Jonathan and Jake, may God bless you with love and joy all the days of your lives.



Mark Your Calendars:

Fatima Rosary

Saturday, November 5, 11:00 a.m.
Saint Ann Church

Election Day

Tuesday, November 8 Be sure to vote!

Catholics have a moral obligation to exercise our right to vote (CCC 2240). When we do, we are accepting our responsibility to act in the time and place God chose for us - the 21st century in the United States of America.

Social Gathering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 p.m.
Saint Ann Parish Center

The Great Missalette Exchange

Saint Ann Church
Friday, November 26, 9:00 a.m.
(It's a Friday after Thanksgiving tradition!)
Help remove the old missalettes from their covers and insert the new ones.