



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family  
Milford, Connecticut

January 2023



## News from the Knights of Columbus

From Tinto Council #47

<b>BINGO</b>				
7	26	40	58	73
14	22	34	55	68
4	24	FREE	46	72
9	20	36	52	74
6	28	35	49	64

Bingo lovers, take note! Tinto Council #47 welcomes you to our regular Wednesday evening Bingo at the Saint Ann Parish Center, 501 Naugatuck Ave. Doors open at 4:30. At 6:30 it's "Let the games begin!"

Start your 2023 bingo season on 1/4 and make an "every Wednesday" note on your calendar.

### Father Breen Assembly #1605 Annual Ziti Dinner

Saturday, January 21, 6-8 p.m.  
Saint Raphael Parish Center

Adults: \$20 Children under 10: \$5

Treat yourself to a delicious ziti dinner on a winter's Saturday night. The event is open to the public, so come with family and friends. Reserve a table for 8 or 10. Enjoy the taste-tempting menu of baked ziti, meatballs, salad, cake, coffee and tea. (BYOB)

The evening includes a 50/50 raffle and a Chinese Auction. Reserve today by mailing your check (made out to Father Breen Assembly) to Joseph Lucisano, 93 Berkeley Terrace, Milford, CT 06460 by January 19. Call 203-506-555 or email [lucisano2@aol.com](mailto:lucisano2@aol.com) for further details.



### Join the Knights of Columbus

Catholic men ages 18 and older who are interested in joining the Knights can do so at any time. Please call Dave Sell at 203-589-5554. Be part of a great organization whose motto is *In Service to One . . . In Service to All.*



### Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Sunday, January 1

Confessions: Saturday, December 31  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m., Saint Ann Church

#### Holy Day Masses

8:00 and 11:00 a.m. at Saint Gabriel's

9:30 a.m. at Saint Ann's

(No Vigil Mass on New Year's Eve)

On January 1, the Octave of Christmas, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. The oldest feast of Mary in the Church, it celebrates her "yes," her consent to God's invitation conveyed by the angel in Luke's gospel. (1:26-38)

Called in the Gospels "the mother of Jesus," Mary is acclaimed by Elizabeth, at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, as "the mother of my Lord." (Luke 1:43) The child in her womb, conceived by the Holy Spirit, her Son according to the flesh, is the Father's eternal Son, the second person of the Holy Trinity. The title "Mother of God" (*Theotokos* or *God-bearer* in Greek) was confirmed by the Church Fathers at the Council of Ephesus in 431 A.D.

### First Saturday Fatima Rosary January 7, 11:00 a.m.

First Saturday Rosary recitation will continue on January 7 at 11:00 a.m. in Saint Ann Church. Please join us as we pray to Our Lady of the Rosary for peace in our families, in our communities and in all the nations of the world.

### Don't Miss the First Coffee And of the New Year! January 7 and 8

Stop in to the Parish Center or Saint Gabriel's Hall after Mass on Saturday or Sunday, January 7/8 and visit with the parish family. Have a cuppa and a snack. Did you have a good Christmas? What's on for the new year? See you there!

### Christmas Visit and Sing-a-Long at Four Corners Saturday, January 7, 11:00 a.m. - 12 Noon

Parishioners of all ages - singles, families, teens, toddlers, the young and the young at heart - are invited to share the joy of Christmas with the residents of Four Corners, 306 Naugatuck Ave on Saturday, January 7. No practice required. Song sheets provided with the lyrics of Christmas and holiday songs as well as bells and other musical instruments. Our presence, conversation, smiles and music are simple and wonderful Christmas gifts we can share.

Additional visits to health care facilities are on our "2023 Planning Board" and we're hoping you might come and share your special talent - ballet, perhaps, or jazz, violin or flute. Residents really enjoy having children and teens participate! Please contact Maria, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text) with any questions or to confirm that you/your family will be participating.



### Saint Ann Choir Christmas Concert

Friday evening  
December 30, 2022  
7:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Church  
501 Naugatuck Ave.  
Milford, CT

*Our Christmas celebration continues with the choir's beautiful gift to the parish.*

*All are welcome!*

## A Prayer for the New Year from Pope Francis

*May the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to the "Prince of Peace" (Is 9:6), and who cuddles him with such tenderness in her arms, obtain for us from heaven the precious gift of peace, which cannot be fully pursued by human strength alone. Human strength alone is not enough because peace is above all a gift, a gift of God; it should be implored with unceasing prayer, sustained with patient and respectful dialogue, constructed with an open cooperation with truth and justice and always attentive to the legitimate aspirations of individuals and peoples.*

*My hope is that peace may reign in the hearts of men and women and in families, in places of work and of recreation, in communities and in nations. In families, at work, in nations: peace, peace. Now is the time to think that life today is organized around war, and enmities, by many things that destroy. We want peace. And this is a gift.*

January 1, 2021



## Donate Your Used Vehicle to Benefit the Parish

Car doesn't run? Too expensive to repair? Too difficult to sell? Why not consider donating your car (or motorcycle, motor home, perhaps even a boat) to benefit Saint Raphael Parish?

CARS (Charitable Adult Rides and Services) is a 501(c)(3) non profit that helps thousands of nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and Canada increase their fundraising. They take care of everything from pick-up and sale to sending you the donation receipt and necessary tax documents.

The parish receives 75% of the proceeds of the sale after fees. CARS keeps the remaining 25% to operate the program.

To start the donation process go to <https://careasy.org/nonprofit/saintraphaelparish> or call call 855-500-7433.

If you have questions please contact Maria, as at right. Thank you.

## Updates and Thank You Notes

Goodness, were we a busy parish in the last six weeks of 2022! An Advent luncheon, a Christmas Fair, our Christmas Giving program - wonderful opportunities to gather, to celebrate and to do what we do best, give of ourselves to others. Here's a brief "festivities follow-up."

### November's Advent Luncheon

Smiling greeters checked the guests in on Sunday afternoon, November 20, but took no tickets. Instead, they piled their tables high with hats, gloves, scarves, socks and mittens, and filled shopping carts with toiletries, laundry aids and non-perishable food items, gifts of love and warmth for Beth-El Center, the homeless and the parish food pantry.

We are most grateful to Rose Marie Marmolejo, Mistress of Soups, who shared this note: "I want to thank all those who attended for coming and for their donations, and my wonderful team, Kathleen Buchanan, Michele and Tom Croteau, Mary Fedorchak, John Marmolejo, Melvyn Moral, and Pat Pavlucik for their help and their input. It was a wonderful turnout and everyone had a great time. A special thanks to Fr. John Brinsmade for attending, and for his lovely prayer."

### Our "Spectacular" Christmas Fair

Despite the rain - and it did rain! - the Parish Center was "awash" in bright smiles and happy shoppers for our December 3rd Christmas Fair. The choir's joyous music added just the right spirit to the festivities, making ours, per a visitor/vendor consensus, "the best fair around." This from the Card & Gift Shop crew: "Shoppers came in waves from opening until closing. It was so good to see people we hadn't seen in so long!"

Thank you and congratulations to MaryJo Downs and her tireless team of volunteers for a job extremely well done. (MaryJo to her crew: "You all did an amazing job. Thank you.") Thanks as well to the vendors and, of course, to our supportive parishioners and friends. We look forward to seeing you again this coming December!

### 2022 Christmas Giving Program

"Gathering around the tree" has a whole new meaning when it comes to our parish Christmas Giving program. The entire parish family couldn't gather at once - not in the vestibules of either of our beautiful churches

But the trees that symbolize this annual gift of love were proof of our oneness in the Lord, our oneness in intention, our oneness of heart. Almost as quickly as the program's elves hung the ornaments, they were gone. Parishioners and friends young and old plucked ornaments from the trees before Mass, after Mass, during a visit, when they came for confession. Before long the trees were bare, eloquent testimony to Saint Raphael Parish generosity. Thank you to the very kind people who supported this program in many different ways:



\*Preparing the gift tags

\*Purchasing gifts/gift cards

\*Helping with gift check-in and sorting

\*Helping with gift delivery/distribution (ongoing as we went to press!)

It's not too late to return your gifts or gift cards. Simply bring them, with gift tag attached, when you come to Mass, or return them to the parish office.

If you have questions about the program, or would like to volunteer to join our ranks next year, please reach out to Kathleen (203-606-6476), Rose Marie (203-378-5508) or Maria (203-988-8598 or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net)). Thank you again.

**Jesus Loves Me and Makes Me New  
First Reconciliation Saturday, December 10**

Congratulations to the twenty-two young parishioners who met Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, December 10. May they remember always how much God loves them and how Jesus calls them to follow him.

Aria Beebe  
Julianna Beers  
Joseph Beler  
Sophia Bernardo  
Amelia Bianchi  
Giulianna Bianchi

Jack Capobianco  
Layla Caponegro  
Nico Cavanna  
Joshua Chila  
Ava Compton

Carter Conelli  
Ethan DelMonte  
Connor Fino  
Jackson Grivalski  
Alexandra Lapham  
Lennon Maurutis

Tyler Noel  
Evan Putnam  
Adrian Sevillano  
Natalie Taylor  
Graham Zdrojowy



**GIFT Sacramental  
Program Dates**

**Confirmation  
Prayer Life,**  
including the Mass  
Sunday, January 8  
1:00-2:30 p.m.

or  
Tuesday, January 10  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

**The Nicene Creed**

Sunday, February 5  
1:00-2:30 p.m.

or  
Tuesday, February 7  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Required for candidates

**First Communion  
Learning Session #1**

Saturday, February 4  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon  
(Evening make-up will also be  
scheduled.)

Required for 1st Communion  
children with parent/guardian.

Parish Center  
501 Naugatuck Avenue.

**GIFT for January**

**Child Lures and Teen Lures Prevention Program**

The Archdiocese of Hartford continues to require that families with children and teens registered in our GIFT program (Grade 1 through Confirmation Program) participate in the Child Lures or Teen Lures Prevention programs, *even if they have attended in previous years.* Even one year can make a difference in level of understanding.

Child Lures is designed for children through grade 6 with a parent/guardian. Teen Lures is designed for preteens/teens grade 7 or older with a parent/guardian.

These age-appropriate programs introduce personal safety to children and teens and empower them to detect, avoid, and report inappropriate behaviors and unsafe situations. The 2023 in-person dates for the Child Lures and Teen Lures programs are posted at right. We will be meeting in Parish Center classrooms.

All adults will receive a parent guide to help with continued reinforcement at home of these important personal safety tips. If you have questions, please contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net).

**Child Lures and  
Teen Lures Sessions in  
Parish Center Classrooms**

Sunday, January 22  
12:30-1:30 p.m.

or

Tuesday, January 24  
6:30-7:30 p.m.

**The Social Gathering Committee Weighs In**

Regular Social Gathering meetings will be held on the third Tuesday of the month starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center. (For January that's the 17th.)

Items on the drawing board for this active group, in addition to the Tag Sale, Christmas Fair and Advent and Lenten luncheons, include another Subway Series /Yankees/ Mets game, this time at Citi Field; a trip to Lancaster Sight & Sound and a possible casino outing for interested parishioners.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the committee please plan to come to a meeting or send your suggestions to Lou Servideo at [louservideo@gmail.com](mailto:louservideo@gmail.com).



**Coffee And Schedule for 2023**

What gathering is more social than our monthly Coffee And? Another "mark your calendar" suggestion (There's a lot of that going around this month!): the weekends of:

- January 7 (you knew that!)
- February 11 (w/mini ministry fairs for Money Counters and Men of Saint Joseph)
- March 15 (Make A Wish donations)
- May 7
- June 10 (Boys & Girls Village, Milford)
- July 8, August 12
- September 9 (Saint Jude's), October 14
- November 11 (WWP), December 9

Please continue to make your selfless and life-altering donations to the parish food pantry and support our mission to feed the hungry, especially in these difficult times. You may leave donations of non-perishable foodstuffs, toiletries, laundry products and paper goods at Saint Gabriel's or Saint Ann's on any weekend. Gift cards are always welcome.

For information, to make a donation or to schedule an appointment, call 203-878-3075.

Thank you, as always, for your continuing generosity.



## Saint Raphael Happenings in the New Year

It's January, a month named for Janus, the Roman god who looks to the future and to the past, the god of doorways, beginnings, gates, passages and endings.

Some upcoming parish happenings: A Christmas visit and sing-a long, First Saturday Fatima Rosary, second weekend Coffee And.



And from the recent past, reports and notes of thanks from the Advent soup/sandwich team and

the great Christmas Fair crew. Warm congratulations to the 22 young people who made First Reconciliation last month. Lots more inside.

We wish you peace and joy in the new year.

### ***The Parish Press***

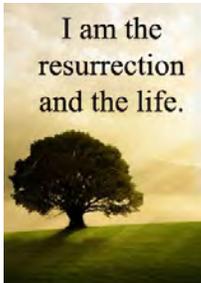
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# *Happy New Year!*

### **In Memoriam**



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Nancy Musante	Roberto Scialis
Craig Zentkovich	Robert Greenblatt
Mary Nylén	Kathleen Ryzewski
Janet Moulitis	Stella Konopka

May they behold the face of Christ, who is the resurrection and the life.

### **Bereavement Support Meeting Sunday afternoon, January 8**



The Saint Raphael Parish Bereavement Support group meets on the second Sunday of the month at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Through this very special ministry we offer comfort to those who are in mourning.

If you are finding it difficult to cope with the loss of a loved one please plan to be with us. Share your story and ease your burden, if only for an hour. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

### **Parish Press Info due January 13**

Kindly submit your news, notes, photos and comments for February's newsletter to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) by Friday, January 13 or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744).

Thanks. We look forward to hearing from you.

### **We Welcome With Love . . .**

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Celine Spillane  
Colin Spillane  
Lincoln James Allen



Celine and Colin were baptized on Sunday, November 20 at Saint Ann Church. Lincoln received the life-giving waters of Baptism at Saint Ann Church on Sunday, December 4.

May God bless and protect you, little ones, all the days of your lives.

### **Saint Raphael Parish Website**

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

### **Parish Policy for Daily Mass During Snowstorms**

In the event of snow, Saint Raphael Parish follows the Milford Public School emergency closing policy. If schools in Milford are *closed* or *delayed* because of adverse weather conditions, we follow their lead. Our church sidewalks, driveways and parking lots are not usually accessible immediately after a storm, and the insurance carrier for the Archdiocese of Hartford urges us not to permit vehicular or pedestrian traffic if they have not been cleared.

**Be aware, then, that daily Mass will not be celebrated if Milford public schools are closed or have a delayed opening.** We want all members of the parish family to be safe. Any Mass intentions will be rescheduled.