



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

May 2023



We Crown Mary, Mother of Jesus, Queen of Heaven and Earth

During the month of May we honor Mary, adorning her statues at Saint Gabriel's and Saint Ann's with wreaths of flowers.

Prior to the 11 o'clock Mother's Day Mass at Saint Gabriel's Jesse Kirkham, accompanied by Tom Croteau and Rose Marie Marmolejo, will carry a garland of blossoms in procession, then give it to the somewhat taller Michele Croteau, who will place the crown on Mary's head.

On the following Sunday, May 14, after the 9:30 Mass, the statue of Mary outside Saint Ann Church will also be crowned with flowers.

The May crownings at both our churches are fitting expressions of the reverence due to the Mother of God. We invite parishioners to be with us as we honor our advocate, our mediatrix, Mary, full of grace.

Ascension Thursday: May 18

Holy Day Masses

8:00 a.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

7:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Church

So then the Lord Jesus, after he spoke to his disciples, was taken up into heaven and took his seat at the right and of God.

Mark 16:29



Annual Pork Roast Dinner May 21 Tasty Fundraiser for HomeFront

Be sure to reserve your spot for the traditional pork roast dinner on Sunday, May 21st at Saint Gabriel's Hall. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children over 10.

You'll have a great meal and support a great cause, HomeFront's one-day repair blitz for a local family in need, scheduled for Saturday, September 16th.

Look for charming reservation agents at the doors of both churches, and don't delay! This event is usually a sellout.

Social Gathering Team Meeting Tuesday, May 16 6:30 p.m. Saint Ann Parish Center

This lively group meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month to plan and organize social events from Coffee And to excursions for the parish family. Stop by, please and share your ideas.

May First Communion Weekends: Celebrations for the Parish Family

The weekend Masses celebrated at Saint Raphael Parish on May 6/7 and May 20/21 will be joyous celebrations for the entire parish family. 34 of the youngest members of our faith community will be receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the very first time. We hope that as many parishioners as possible will be with us to welcome these young people to the Lord's table.

From 2020 through 2022 safety considerations necessitated by the pandemic dictated that we plan separate Saturday morning First Communion Masses. They were beautiful, of course they were, but something was missing: the joy and participation of the entire parish community.



With First Eucharist at regularly scheduled weekend Masses, our parish community offers a wonderful example to the children and their young families of the importance of receiving Jesus in Holy Communion every week. Although a child's First Communion Day is special because it is the first time a child receives Jesus in Holy Eucharist, our presence at Mass and our reception of Eucharist shows them that the second, third or fourth time - or the 2,000th, 3,000th or 4,000th time - is equally important.

The Eucharist, Holy Communion, is the most precious gift that Jesus gave us. We believe that the whole Christ is truly present in this Blessed Sacrament - body, blood, soul, and divinity - under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead (USCCB).

We joyfully welcome our First Communion children and their families to worship with us often as part of our Saint Raphael Parish community of faith and to receive Jesus in Holy Communion, the meal of God's family.

The Glorious Feast of Pentecost

The Easter season closes with the Feast of Pentecost, which falls this year on May 28.

A "strong driving wind" filled the Upper Room where Mary and the disciples had gathered and "tongues as of fire" came to rest on each of them. Strengthened now with the gifts and fruits of the Spirit they could fulfill Christ's great commission to go out to all the world and tell the Good News.



Pentecost is the birthday of the Church. In answer to the Psalmist's prayer the Lord sent out his Spirit to renew the face of the earth.

Who Are Your Nominees for Pastoral Council? Submit Your Nominations by Sunday, May 7

The annual Pastoral Council selection process is underway! Nominations for three new members are due by Sunday, May 7th. At the Council's May 22nd meeting new members will be chosen by lot to serve three year terms.

The Council meets on a monthly basis from September through May. Working together and making decisions by consensus under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, members advise the pastor in areas such as prayer and worship; faith formation; social justice and parish life.

Eligible nominees must be at least 18 years old; baptized and confirmed Roman Catholics in good standing with the Church; registered and supporting members of Saint Raphael Parish; and committed to giving the time needed for Council participation.

Please think carefully and prayerfully about parishioners (*including yourself*) who would serve the parish well as Council members. Using the form in the weekly bulletin, drop your nominations in the collection basket by the May 7th deadline.

At the May 22nd meeting, after a prayer for God's guidance and following an ancient Biblical tradition, the names of the new members will be drawn by lot.



John Adams
Kathleen Buchanan*
Cathy Coda
Paula Demirjam
Terri Deveny
Wally Hauck
Tom Jagodzinski*
Andrew Jorge*
John Kirkham
Rose Marie Marmolejo
Albert May
Tom Zawislinski
*Term expires in May



Graduate Recognition Celebration Sunday, June 4 9:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Ann Church Brunch and Reception to follow in the Parish Center

Members of the Class of 2023 are warmly invited to our parish Graduation Celebration, held this year on the Saint Ann campus. It's an "All Class of 2023" event, open to 8th Grade, High School and College/Post-Secondary School graduates, their families and friends. On this special day Saint Raphael Parish honors and recognizes all our graduates as they prepare to move into the future. We come together to give thanks to God for this special time in our lives and to remember that all of our gifts and accomplishments, everything we have, comes from God.

Letters have gone out to the graduates' families asking for details about plans for next year and for a photo to post on our Meet the Graduates board. Please send responses - and any questions - to Maria, (as on page 3) to register your graduate and to confirm the number of family members and friends who will be celebrating with us. Thanks very much and congratulations to the graduates! We look forward to seeing you on June 4th.

News from our Food Pantry Vegetable Garden

The garden is tilled - check that great photo at right - and the response has been overwhelming to the innovative idea of supporting the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry with fresh vegetables from the garden we're planting behind the former Saint Ann rectory on Naugatuck Avenue

Some generous folks have volunteered to help plant, weed and water the garden. Others have given us seeds, money to purchase seeds and offered seedlings from their own gardens. The Knights of Columbus Tinto Council has made a \$350 donation for fencing. (Thanks, Rich Wheeling, for advocating for us.) Next step, per project coordinator Elizabeth Simonetti: finding trellises, long sticks/poles and vertical supports for peas, beans, cucumbers, and hard squashes.

Want to help? Bring your seed packets to the donation boxes you'll find in both church vestibules. To join the garden's working crew reach out to Elizabeth at elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com. And, of course, pray to Saint Isidore the Farmer for success! Thank you!



Just in as we went to press: Subway Series Bus Trip 2023 is On!

Tuesday July 25th, Departing 3:45 p.m. from Saint Ann's Parking Lot
Round trip bus to Yankee Stadium, ticket and driver gratuity included, snacks on the bus
Section 207 seating, right field line looking into Mets dugout (entrance at Gate 6)

Price: \$181 per person based on 50 fans attending (non-refundable)
Reply and Payment in full due by May 10th

Contact Lou Servideo (203-260-4750 or louservideo@gmail.com)

Please do not call the parish office about this event.



**The Beauty of the Easter Vigil
Three RCIA Candidates Fully Initiated Into the Catholic Church**

On the evening of April 8th, as part of the beauty of the Easter Vigil Liturgy, three of Saint Raphael's RCIA candidates came into full communion with the Catholic Church. Following his homily and the blessing and sprinkling of water, Father John invited the candidates to come forward.

Timothy Forrest, baptized in the Episcopal Church as an infant, made a Profession of Faith, was received into the Church and received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Taylor Rose Michaud and Nolan Charles Rourke, who had been baptized in the Catholic Church as infants, received the Sacrament of Confirmation. All three candidates received First Communion during the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Welcome to the Saint Raphael Community of Faith, Timothy, Taylor and Nolan! We wish you the joy and wonder of God's abundant blessings as you continue to learn and grow in the faith.



**Summer VBS Camp
Monday-Friday, July 24-28
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon**

This summer's eagerly anticipated VBS camp adventure, *Stellar! Shine Jesus' Light!*, is scheduled to blast off on Monday, July 24 and touch down on Friday, July 28. Parents, we encourage you to save a *space* for your young (ages 4 through 10/11) cosmic explorers.

Every day is packed with fun and excitement. Between each day's opening and closing celebrations the *Stellar!* adventurers will enjoy Bible adventures, arts & crafts/imagination station, all-star games, music & dance, KidVid Cinema and the ever-important galactic snacks.

Preview of All Star Games

Silent Space Chase, Astronaut Hop
Spacesuit Stomp, Jet Fuel Fill-Up
Meteorite Mix-Up
Saturn Rings, Send the Light
and more!

Daily Bible Adventures:

- *Jesus comes as a baby to be king.
- *Jesus accepts Zacchaeus.
- *Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king.
- *Jesus cares for his mother during his crucifixion.
- * Philip helps the Ethiopian.

Camp fee is \$25 per camper for the full week, \$5.00 per day. You may contact Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text), for a registration form or if you have any questions about the camp or our schedule of fees. Please register by Monday, July 10 so that we can plan for our camp groups and supplies. Blast off!!



This is the 13th year for our Summer VBS Camp. OK, you camp vets and alums. Who remembers Year 1, *SonSurf Beach Bash*??? Does this handsome sea creature on the right look familiar?

**We're Looking for Lots of Great VBS Camp Volunteers!
Adults and Young People Age 12 and Older**

Terrific volunteers have been a hallmark of our Summer VBS camps: parents and GIFT participants, talented teens, young people who started off as campers and stayed with us as volunteers. We're hoping that the trend continues for this summer's *Stellar! Shine Jesus' Light!* space adventure. We need volunteers for Camp Week (July 24 through July 28), of course, and we'll also need help with camp planning, beginning in June, and with setup and decorating on some evenings during the two weeks prior to camp blastoff.

Please share your talents and skills with us to help ensure that our children learn more about Jesus safely, while having lots of fun! We have openings - and a real need - for:

- * Activity center leaders (adults and older teens) for Bible Adventures, Crafts & Imagination Station, All-Star Games, Music & Dance, KidVid Cinema, Galactic Snacks
- * Activity center helpers for all of the above (adults and youth volunteers)
- * Small group leaders (adults and teens grade 9 or older), and assistant small group leaders (preteen volunteers)

If you can help, please contact Maria, as above. Thank you very much. You are truly *stellar treasures!*

**GIFT Sacramental
Program Dates**

Confirmation
Candidates Only
*Tour of the Church
and Sacristy*

Sunday, May 7
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Saint Ann Church

or
Tuesday, May 16
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Saint Gabriel Church

Please let Maria know by May 6 which tour your teen will be attending (203-988-8598 - voice or text).

May Crownings, First Communions, Ascension, Pentecost and More!

May, a month for Mary, a month for mothers, the traditional month for First Communions. This May's parish calendar also features two major liturgical feasts, the annual pork roast dinner and a chance to sign up for a Subway Series date in July.



We have a gardening report, an invitation to this year's graduation celebration, some *stellar* details about summer's VBS camp and a reminder to go to the polls.

At last month's beautiful Easter Vigil we welcomed three RCIA candidates into our Saint Raphael Parish family. This month we crown Mary, Christ's Mother and ours, and give thanks to the Lord for the gift of our mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, foster mothers, all the women who have modeled Mary in our lives. We are blessed.

The Parish Press

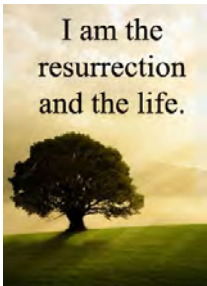
A Publication of Saint Raphael Parish
Milford, Connecticut
Editor: Ann K. Eden
Production Staff: Lou Eden, Nancy Vai
Printing: Graphic Image, Milford, CT

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

Happy Mother's Day

In Memoriam



I am the
resurrection
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Michael LeClair Kristin Mould
Antoinette Buccieri Nicholas Demet
E. Patrick Austin Kathleen Herson

May they rest in the peace of the Father's embrace and may their families take comfort in knowing we share in their sorrow.

Bereavement Support Sunday, May 7th



Our Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, May 7th at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. We've moved our usual second Sunday meeting up a week because of Mother's Day.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one we invite you to join us. Sharing the burden of your grief can be a first step toward healing. If you have questions please call Joanne (203-877-4020).

Info for June's *Parish Press* Due May 12th

News, notes, comments and photos for the June edition of *The Parish Press* are due in our editorial offices by Friday, May 12th. Call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) or send them to parishpress06460@gmail.com. Thank you!

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

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Audrey S. Burns
Santiago Goncalves
Parker Moran
Rory Moran
Connor Peterson



Audrey was baptized on Sunday, March 25th at Saint Gabriel Church. Santiago, Parker, Rory and Connor received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, April 16th, also at Saint Gabriel's. May they be blessed with the warmth of God's love every day of their lives.

Coffee And May 6 and 7 Sip, Snack and Support Boys and Girls Village

Stop in to the Parish Center or Saint Gabriel's Hall after after weekend Masses on May 6 and 7. Sip, snack and get to know the terrific members of the Saint Raphael Parish family. Pick up or order Scrip cards at the Parish Center and check out all the Card & Gift Shop has to offer.

This month we encourage you to make a donation to support the good work of Milford's Boys and Girls Village. Thank you for your generosity.

Long Term Planners, Note the Date:

The fabulous Saint Raphael Parish Picnic,
Version 2023
Sunday, September 10

Make your calendars, everyone, and plan to be there!