



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

June 2023



## Celebrate Our Parish Graduates! Graduate Recognition Mass and Reception Sunday, June 4, Saint Ann Campus

## Class of 2023

Members of the Class of 2023, 8th grade, high school, college and post secondary grads, this celebration is for you! Please allow the parish to recognize you for your achievements on Sunday, June 4.

Festivities will begin at the 9:30 Mass at Saint Ann Church, followed by a reception with brunch in the Parish Center Hall. Please plan to come with your family and friends and enjoy this well-loved annual event.

Parents, kindly RSVP to Maria, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text) **by May 31** to register your Class of 2023 graduate and confirm the number of family members and friends who will be with us. Include the name of your graduate's current school and plans for next year (high school, college/major, post-secondary/technical school, military, work). An electronic copy of a photo would be a great addition to our graduate photo board. Thank you!

And what does the future hold for our honorees? Look for a partial list of the grads and their plans on Page 2. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.



## Celebrate the Holy Spirit at GIFT's Pentecost Celebration

Tuesday, June 6, between 6:00 and 7:30 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center

The Easter season came to a glorious close on Sunday, May 28, the Feast of Pentecost. (The word comes from the Greek *pentekoste*, meaning 50th.) Fifty days after the Resurrection of the Lord we remember and celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

Mark your calendars and plan to be with us for GIFT's Pentecost Celebration and Activity Open House. Drop in to the Parish Center on Tuesday, June 6, any time between 6 and 7:30 p.m. Come to the party - Pentecost is often referred to as the birthday of the Church. There will be food (pizza, beverages and snacks) and fun (spirited activity centers featuring crafts, activities, coloring and puzzles), opportunities to learn more about Pentecost and about the 3rd person of the Trinity.

On that first Pentecost the Apostles, Mary, and Jesus' first followers had gathered in fear in a locked Upper Room. The Apostles were afraid to go out and preach Jesus and his message. But after the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit came upon them, they were no longer afraid. They went out immediately and preached to everyone - even those who spoke other languages. This was the beginning of their earthly ministry to make disciples of all nations, and the beginning of the Church.

Please celebrate with us on June 6! All are welcome! Contact Maria, as above, to RSVP for planning purposes. Come, Holy Spirit!

## Coffee And the Last Weekend of the Month

Something hot to drink, something cool, lots of things tasty - all available at *Coffee And* following weekend Masses on June 24th and 25th at the Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall.



Visit with those fascinating folks, the members of the parish family. If you can, make a donation to support the Little Sisters of the Poor as they continue to provide for the needs of the elderly poor at Saint Joseph's Residence in Enfield. The Sisters are most grateful for your kindness.



Check out the inventory at the parish Card and Gift Shop, located within the Parish Center at Saint Ann's. You'll find rosaries, hostess gifts, sacrament gifts, items from the popular "New to You" tables and more. While you're there pick up or order

Scrip cards and shop locally or online for items from hundreds of different merchants. Bonus: Every Scrip card purchase helps to support the parish. Call Pat Dumas, Scrip coordinator for details (203-878-2774) and thank you!

### Pastoral Council

### Pastoral Council Members for 2023-24

Name	Term Expires
John Adams	2025
Catherine Coda	2026
Paula Demirjiam	2024
Terri Deveny	2025
Leo Dorsey	2026
Wally Hauck	2025
John Kirkham	2025
Frank Lacerenza	2026
Joyce Marlow	2026
Rose Marie Marmolejo	2024
Albert May	2024
Tom Zawislinski	2024

## Some Class of 2023 Graduates and Their Plans

### 8th Grade Graduates, High Schools

Kieran Burns  
Harborside Middle School  
Notre Dame Catholic High School  
Fairfield.

Brooke Gachi  
West Shore Middle School  
Jonathan Law High School and  
ACE/ECA Music program

Paulo Tutunjian  
West Shore Middle School  
Jonathan Law High School

### High School Graduates, Work Plans, Colleges, Intended Majors

Emma Diane Acri  
Trumbull H.S./Trumbull Agriscience  
and Biotechnology Center  
Cornell University  
Environment and Sustainability

Gianluca Armellino  
TEC Connections Virtual H.S., MA  
While playing soccer for New England  
Revolution Academy  
University of Vermont

Aislinn Burns  
Jonathan Law High School  
Rice University  
Medical Bioengineering  
Jacob Cupole  
Bridgeport Military Academy  
Plans to become a CT State Trooper

Arthur Moral  
Engineering and Science University  
Magnet High School (ESUMS)  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Nursing

Deven Rivera  
Jonathan Law High School  
Central Connecticut State University  
Geological Environmental Sciences

Josh Yazdzik  
Saint Joseph High School, Trumbull  
George Mason University  
Cyber Security

### College Graduates

Mary Elizabeth Lonergan  
Sacred Heart University, College of Nursing  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

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

## Signs of Spring at Our Gardens

### Pollinator Garden Report



No flowers or other activity just yet, Donna Massa reports, but all the plants are coming in, and that's a good sign. Pictured at left is another sign that says we are on the Pollinator Pathway.

By creating a pollinator garden the parish has joined a growing Northeast-based movement to help pollinators by building "pathways," an effort to connect pollinator gardens to provide food and shelter that birds, bees and butterflies need to thrive. These public and private spaces are pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat. Even the smallest green spaces, like flower boxes and curb strips, can be part of a pathway that keeps the birds and insects from having to travel too far to find water, food, and shelter. (Go to [www.pollinator-pathway.org/about](http://www.pollinator-pathway.org/about) to learn more.)

Insects play critical roles in pollinating foods like fruits, vegetables, chocolate, coffee, nuts, and spices (Farmers.gov USDA). Yet 40% of all insect species are declining globally; a third of them are endangered. Projects like our parish pollinator garden help us care for God's creation.

Beginning next month Donna will write about the various native plants in our garden and how each plant supports the life cycles of beneficial insects. (In July: Common Milkweed.) And in her Creation Care Corner, she'll suggest ways in which parishioners can dedicate some portion of their lawns to God, to nature, and to pollinators

### Our Food Pantry Garden: Ups , Downs , Surprises

Ups for our Food Pantry Garden: the generosity of all those who dropped off seedlings, flats, stakes, seeds, and supplies!. Thank you! And thanks so much to Wally Hauck, Jane Hebert and Al May (the fencing team, at right) who worked very, very hard on Saturday, May 13th to install the plant supports, amend the soil and start the fencing Thanks also to John Marmolejo who built and delivered the platforms.



Downs: Despite having secured the donated seedlings and flats, we lost our lettuce, kale and beans to some hungry critters before we were able to complete the fencing. (Thankfully, the tomatoes, onions, squash, broccoli, beets, and pepper seedlings are still ok! Note: finish the fencing!!)

Surprises: We had to cut down the size of the garden by several feet when we found quite a bit of gravel under the topsoil. (We simply moved the fence posts to a better location.) And we found an inactive cistern that was deep and vast; even with a flashlight we could not see the sides or the bottom. (We replaced the top after we had peeked inside.)

We will continue to keep you posted on the progress of this important project, a garden to support the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry with fresh vegetables for the families it serves so faithfully.

If you have questions about the garden or if you'd like to be part of our crew, please reach out to Elizabeth Simonetti at [elizabethsimonetti@mindspring.com](mailto:elizabethsimonetti@mindspring.com). Thank you!

## Joyous First Communion Weekends

May's two First Communion weekends were a special and beautiful time for the 32 young people who received Jesus in Holy Communion for the very first time. Special and joyous, too, for their moms and dads, brothers, sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles and for the entire Saint Raphael parish family who celebrated with them.



We pray for God's continued blessings on these boys and girls, whose names appear below. We hope to see them at the Lord's table every week, drawing closer to Jesus, sharing the meal of God's family.

Sophia Claire Arias	Layla Marie Caponegro	Jackson Timothy Grivalsky	Mildred Kathleen Rosengrant
Aria Laurette Beebe	Nico Paul Cavanna	Alexandra Lapham	Dante Rullo
Joseph (JJ) Beler	Joshua Joseph Chila	Kayleigh Lupo	Cole Michael Schulze
Sophia Quinn Bernardo	Ava Compton	Mason Marchand	Adrian Sevillano
Amelia Kate Bianchi	Carter Conelli	Lennon Grace Maurutis	Allison Persephone Soria
Giulianna Raye Bianchi	Ethan DelMonte	Tyler John Noel	Mirella Sophie Soto
Julianna Alice Beers	Connor Fino	Evan Matthew Putnam	Natalie Anne Taylor
Jack William Capobianco	Joseph Fiordelisi	Annabelle Josephine Rosengrant	Graham Zdrojowy

### Additional Sacramental Notes

#### Confirmation

Three parishioners who attended our recent Adult Confirmation program received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford on Tuesday evening, May 9. We congratulate:

Vanessa Abigail Grazynski  
Andrew Murphy  
Alaina Margaret Sciuto

If you are an adult who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and are interested in preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Maria at 203-988-8598 (voice or text) or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net). If there is interest, we will schedule another Adult Confirmation program in August of this year.

#### First Reconciliation

Three parish young people made their first confessions earlier this year, meeting Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and asking for God's forgiveness through this beautiful sacrament of healing. Congratulations to:

Mirella Soto  
(Saturday, April 29)  
Annabelle Rosengrant  
Mildred Rosengrant  
(Saturday, May 20)



Summer VBS Camp  
for ages 4 through 10/11  
Monday-Friday, July 24-28,  
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon  
\$25 per week, \$5 per day per camper  
Register by Monday, July 10  
Contact Maria, as on Page 1



### HomeFront 2023 Saturday, September 16

According to its website, HomeFront is "a community-based, volunteer-driven home repair program that provides free repairs to low-income homeowners, thus enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life." According to Saint Raphael Parish, HomeFront is a ministry embedded in the fabric of the parish, a hands-on, practical way of bringing God's love to others, especially those in need. Our long-standing participation in HomeFront continues this year on Saturday, September 16.

Our project: a single family residence in Devon. The scope of work includes leveling the driveway, painting the exterior siding, replacing the front storm door, installing fencing in 3 small areas of the yard and some minor planting/landscaping.

House Captain John Marmolejo and Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Nocerino have issued a call for volunteers. The team needs workers, including professionals, skilled in trades like painting, carpentry, plumbing, electrical and landscaping as well as folks who can assist in food service, yard work and cleanup. The project is scheduled for 7 a.m.-5 p.m. rain or shine. Can't commit for the entire day? John and Carrie are grateful for whatever time you can give. Look for signup sheets at the doors of both churches, please, and check the **Yes, I will volunteer!** box.

### Support HomeFront Through our Bakeless Bake Sale

Enjoy a variety of scrumptious, no calorie baked goods (that means make a donation without purchasing any taste treats!) when you contribute funds for our ever-popular Bakeless Bake Sale. Your donations will be used to cover HomeFront expenses such as insurance and project supplies like lumber, paint, fencing, a storm door, etc.



Drop your donations in the collection basket in an envelope marked *HomeFront* or use the forms you will find at the church doors. Checks should be made payable to Saint Raphael Parish, with *HomeFront* on the memo line. Thank you very much for your support.



### News from the Knights of Columbus

Catholic men ages 18 or older can join the Knights at any time during the year. Contact Dave Sell (203-589-5554).

Wednesday evening Bingo, 6:30 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center.  
Everybody is welcome! Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

## Graduate Recognition, Pentecost Celebration, HomeFront News, More

It's mortarboard season! Check inside for notes about our June 4th Graduate Recognition festivities. There's a Pentecost Celebration on the calendar and we have a detailed report on this year's HomeFront project.



We lost some of our vegetable garden seedlings to nocturnal munchers, but others are thriving. Read not one but two garden updates.

Happy Father's Day to all the parish dads, granddads, foster fathers (like the Church's beloved Saint Joseph), step-fathers, great coaches (like Saint Raphael's own soon-to-retire Charlie Phillips), all those who love, lead and guide the young people in their care. May God bless you always, every day of your lives.

### ***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

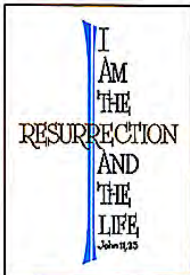
## *Happy Father's Day*

### **In Memoriam**

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Thomas Cupole	Ralph Conelli
Portia Gonzales	Peter Pietrini
Janice Uberti	Patricia Adams
Brian Kirmil	George Zentkovich, Jr.

May they be raised up to the glory of God's kingdom.



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

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Violet May Zdrojowy  
Elenna Mei Gargiulo  
Madison Riley Smith



Violet was baptized on Sunday, May 7th at Saint Gabriel Church. Elenna and Madison received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, May 21st at Saint Ann Church.

### **Bereavement Support Sunday, June 11**



Our Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday, June 11 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Please be with us if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. Call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you have questions or need additional information.

God bless you, little ones. May your lives be filled with joy and wonder.

### **July Parish Press Info Due June 12**

Please submit news, photos, notes and comments for July's newsletter by Monday, June 12th. Send them to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) Thank you.

### **Social Gathering Team Meeting Tuesday, June 20 6:30 p.m. Saint Ann Parish Center**

Come socialize with the Saint Raphael Social Gathering Team and share your ideas about events that will bring parishioners together for lively, entertaining events that can deepen our sense of community.

The team meets on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center. Did someone mention "A Taste of Saint Raphael's"? Now doesn't that sound mouthwatering?

### **The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for This Month**

*For the Abolition of Torture*

*We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.*



### **June is the Month of the Sacred Heart**

*Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.*