



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

July 2023



The Church Universal  
Father John - North America  
Father Emmanuel - Africa  
Father Hung - Asia

## Father Hung's Odyssey . . .

Rev. Paul Hung Duc Truong has been enjoying a late spring odyssey. It began with a flight from his native Vietnam to Seattle, WA. Then on to Connecticut. Based at Saint Raphael Parish, Father also visited New York, West Hartford and Boston before moving on to Tampa/St. Pete. From there he was off to New Orleans and then to California before returning to Vietnam.

No stranger to the Nutmeg State, Father studied at Holy Apostles in Cromwell. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 8, 2017 and is currently pastor of Duong Giao Parish in Thach Thanh, Thanh Hoa, Vietnam. His parish, like Saint Raphael, has two churches. Father travels between them on his motor bike.

## . . . and His Chalice

Father Hung went home with a gift from Saint Raphael's - a chalice and paten for his new parish. He is most grateful for our generosity. A chalice and paten once used in Milford will now be elevated during the consecration at Masses in Vietnam. We are the Church Universal.

## Michael and Terri Deveny New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Michael and Terri were commissioned during the 9:30 Mass at Saint Ann's on Sunday, June 18. Congratulations! May God bless and guide you in your new ministry.

## What is So Rare as a Day in June?

American poet James Russell Lowell posed the question in the nineteenth century. In this, the twenty-first century, the newsletter staff proposes a response: a day when three priests who serve God's people on three different continents come together on a morning in June to celebrate Mass at Saint Raphael Parish in Milford.

And it came about purely by chance. Father Emmanuel Byaruhanga was close to the end of his five-week visit with us. Within just a few days he would be leaving for Uganda, where he is a priest in the Fort Portal Diocese and the rector of a Minor Seminary. Father Hung, newly appointed pastor of Duong Giao Parish in Vietnam, had come to spend a few days with Father John, his mentor when Father Hung was studying at Holy Apostles College and Seminary in Cromwell.

As we profess when we say the Nicene Creed, the Church is one, holy, apostolic and *catholic*, which means *universal*. Like its founding apostles, the Church has been commissioned: "Go into the whole world and proclaim the gospel to every creature." The photograph at left, from that rare June day, is a striking illustration of the church universal.

## It Remains A Time for Prayer

Exactly one year ago the front page of the parish newsletter featured an article entitled *A Time for Prayer*. Parishioners were asked to be part of a Saint Raphael Parish Family Prayer Initiative, to turn to the Lord in the face of escalating gun violence and the tragic deaths of the innocent.

And parishioners prayed, personally, as part of the prayers of petition at daily and weekend Masses and with heartfelt prayers in the weekly bulletin. The violence has not stopped. It remains *A Time for Prayer* and also for trust in the goodness and mercy of our loving Father. God hears our prayers and answers them in his wisdom and according to his will. "Pray without ceasing," Saint Paul urged the Thessalonians. We will follow that advice. Our Prayer Initiative will continue.

## Honoring Apostles This Month Feasts of 3 Apostles on July's Liturgical Calendar

**July 3: Saint Thomas** Absent when the others first saw the resurrected Jesus, and unbelieving, Thomas is later humbled at the Lord's gentle rebuke and memorably exclaims, "My Lord and my God!"

**July 22: Mary Magdalene** The first witness to Christ's resurrection, Mary is sent to "tell my brothers" the Good News. Tradition names her "the apostle to the apostles."

**July 25: Saint James** Often called "the Greater," James, along with his brother John and Simon Peter, acted as an inner circle to Jesus, present with him at special moments, eyewitnesses to his transfiguration.



## We Have a Date for the Parish Tag Sale! Saturday, October 21, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Folks have been waiting for that news, parishioners and energetic tag-salers alike. Time now to circle the date and set your items aside. They will be collected beginning on Tuesday, September 5 (*no earlier*). MaryJo and her hard-working committee will meet on Wednesday, August 23, at 6:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Library. New volunteers are always welcome! Reach out to MaryJo at 203-710-0471 or [maryjodowns@gmail.com](mailto:maryjodowns@gmail.com). Thank you!

## Additional Class of 2023 Graduates and Their Plans



### 8th Grade Graduates, High Schools

Camryn Irby  
Saint James School, Stratford  
The Academy of Our Lady of Mercy,  
Lauralton Hall

Ava Kraynak  
West Shore Middle School  
Trumbull High School,  
Agriscience Program

Vaughn Kraynak  
West Shore Middle School  
Jonathan Law High School

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

Robert Dabrowski  
Jonathan Law High School  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Finance

Ava Lam  
Joseph A. Foran High School  
University of Connecticut,  
Stamford Branch  
Pharmacy

### College Graduates

Amber Marie Lieto  
Seton Hall University  
Master of Science in Speech Pathology  
Will pursue her Doctorate at  
University of Pittsburgh,  
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

Nelson Gomes  
University of Connecticut  
Bachelor of Arts in History  
Working for the New Haven  
Board of Education  
Plans to pursue a Masters in Education at  
Sacred Heart University

Roza Terew  
University of Bridgeport  
Bachelor of Science in Psychology  
Attending Fairfield University,  
pursuing a degree in Nursing

### K of C Tinto Council 47 Scholarships



Congratulations to Arthur Moral and Deven Rivera this year's recipients of the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council 47 scholarships

Both Arthur and Deven have served the community and Saint Raphael Parish faithfully and well throughout their high school careers.

They head for college this fall, Arthur to Southern Connecticut, Deven to Central Connecticut, with our thanks and our prayers for their success.



Creation-Care-Corner

## Donna's Creation Care Corner

### Common Milkweed: A Gracious Host to Royalty!

The U.S. has no official king or queen, but we do have royalty – the iconic monarch butterfly!

Besides its stunning beauty, this regal butterfly is remarkable as one of but a few insects that migrate – for the monarch a trek of 3,000 miles! However, this miraculous journey is under threat. The monarch butterfly population in North America has plummeted 90 percent in just the last few decades. Destruction of America's grasslands ecosystems, commercial agricultural practices, conventional gardening, and pesticide use have all contributed to the alarming decline of this iconic species. One of the biggest factors is the increasing scarcity of milkweed. Without it, monarchs can't complete their life cycle.

Milkweed is crucial in three interlocking ways: \*the female monarch lays her eggs only on milkweed; \* the hungry monarch caterpillar can eat up to 25 leaves from its host to gather the energy needed to transform into a chrysalis; \*the adult monarch and other beneficial adult insects derive nectar (food) from the milkweed flower.

Common milkweed is the best known of the 100 or so milkweed species native to North America. Female monarchs will lay eggs on all milkweed species, but they prefer common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*) Since egg-laying preferences may change, however, it is wise to provide other supplementary native species. God loves diversity!

By planting milkweed in our own gardens, landscapes and throughout the community, we can help to reverse the fortune of this noble insect. Saint Raphael's parishioners can actually save the monarch *and* attract and support other crucial pollinators!

When speaking about the environment Pope Francis has reminded us that "Nurturing and cherishing creation is a command God gives to each of us." One simple way to follow that command is to plant for God's insect aristocrat – the royal monarch!

If you have questions, please reach out to Donna DiMassa at [dm.dimassa@prodigy.net](mailto:dm.dimassa@prodigy.net) or 203-444-4289.

### Lots of Yellow Blossoms in the Food Pantry Garden!

Can the squash and tomatoes be far behind?! (The squash flowers were showing off just a bit when our photographer stopped by!)

Kudos to the faithful members of the watering team for their diligent use of a "2-bucket system" with sturdy platforms and irrigation lines. The plants are clearly thriving. Our savvy gardeners have also installed some chicken wire fencing "to keep out the varmints."

Located behind the former Saint Ann Rectory on Naugatuck Ave., the Food Pantry garden, as most of you know, was established to provide fresh vegetables for the families served by the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry. If you would like to know more about this innovative project or if you'd like to join our great team, reach out to Elizabeth Simonetti at [elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com](mailto:elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com). Thank you!

Saint Isidore the Farmer, pray for us.



**Last Call for STELLAR! Shine Jesus' Light!**  
**Our Summer VBS Cosmic Adventure Blasts Off Soon**  
**Register your 4-11 Year Old Campers Today!**



From Monday, July 24 through Friday, July 28 (9:00 a.m. - 12 noon) campers will participate in *Stellar's* cosmic quest, an out-of-this-world event! Every day begins with fun songs and continues with Bible adventures and surprising and authentic discoveries at the crafts & imagination station. Campers will enjoy all-star games, music & dance, KidVid Cinema, and, of course, galactic snacks. The daily adventure will wrap up with a cosmic closing. Through this exciting array of activities the children will learn more about Jesus and how to shine Jesus' light in our lives.

Camp fee is \$25 per week, \$5 per day per camper. Children are not required to attend all five days. Please contact Maria, 203-988-8598 or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net), with any questions or to register your camper. Interested in volunteering? It's not too late for adults and youth volunteers (ages 12 and older) to sign up. Maria would love to hear from you!

**GIFT and Sacramental Programs Begin in September**  
**Look for Faith Formation Mailings Early Next Month**

GIFT (Growing in Faith Together), our monthly faith formation program for people of all ages, is open to all members of the Saint Raphael Parish family and to non-parishioners as well. As part of this highly regarded program we answer questions about the Catholic faith, explain religious traditions and help participants grow in their relationship with God. GIFT's theme for 2023/2024 is The Sacraments.

Our Sacramental Programs include First Reconciliation and First Communion (for families with children in Grade 2 or older) and Confirmation (for families with teens in Grade 9 or older).

Please reach out to Maria (as above) if you do not receive our program mailing in early August, or if you have any questions about GIFT or about additional classes for First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation. GIFT registration forms will be available at the doors of both Saint Gabriel and Saint Ann Churches beginning in August. We look forward to having you join us in the year ahead!

**Adult Confirmation Program in August**



The Adult Confirmation Program planned for mid to late August is a series of six classes that meet usually on weekday evenings. The program is open to Catholics 18 and older who have received Holy Communion (Eucharist), but not the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please contact Maria (as above) to express interest and receive a copy of our Adult Sacrament Information Form. Adults who participate in this program will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall.

**The Parish Picnic Is On the Calendar!**  
**We'll be Picnicking On Sunday, September 10**

The Saint Raphael Parish Picnic is **the** event of the late summer season, a fun-filled family event to be held on the grounds of Saint Ann Church on Sunday, September 10, noon to 3 p.m. Circle the date and plan to be with us.

Everyone's invited - singles, teens, families, whether you're new to the parish or you've been here forever. Just back from a six-year stint in Timbuktu? Welcome home - we'll see you at the picnic!

Volunteers, of course, are the key element in any great parish event. At the top of picnic chair Cathy Coda's list of must-haves: **volunteers for the planning committee**. If you've dreamed of being a picnic planner, here's your golden opportunity. Not your cup of tea, but you're always willing to work hard to support the parish? Welcome aboard!

Please reach out to Cathy *today* ([cathy.coda@att.net](mailto:cathy.coda@att.net), 203-878-1990 or 203-988-4407) to let her know you'd like to help. Be a picnic planner - how great is that?!

**Bakeless Bake Sale Returns!**

The Bakeless Bake Sale is back! You are cordially invited to step into our *virtual* bakery. Choose from (and pay for!) an endless variety of scrumptious no-calorie desserts: make-believe macaroons, faux cupcakes, pies, cakes, and pastries. Your *actual* donations will help support this year's HomeFront project, scheduled for September 16. Donation forms are in the weekly bulletin. Please return your contributions in the collection basket by July 15. Thank you very much.



**Sign On To Our HomeFront Team!**

John Marmolejo, House Captain, and Carrie Nocerino, Coordinator of Volunteers, are recruiting skilled and unskilled workers to be part of the Saint Raphael HomeFront 2023 team. HomeFront projects are labors of love and service that provide repairs at no cost to homeowners in need, enabling them to remain in their homes with an improved quality of life.

For this year's project, scheduled for Saturday, September 16 in Devon, we need painters, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and landscapers as well as people to provide food service, do yard work and take care of cleanup. It's a 7 a.m.-5 p.m. rain or shine work day, but the team appreciates whatever time you can give. Signup sheets are at the doors of both churches. Fill one out, please, and drop it in the collection basket on the weekend.

If you have questions or would like additional information about HomeFront 2023 you may call John (203-375-2912) or Carrie (203-878-5566). Thank you.

## Serendipity in June, More Graduates, Garden Notes and More

Serendipity: "the occurrence of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way." Check out the photo of parish serendipity that appears on Page 1 of this issue! We have additional info about the Class of 2023 and on our two thriving gardens.



Salute the Stars and Stripes on the 4th and pray that God will bless us with lasting peace, in our homes, on our streets and around the world.

Items on the parish calendar: the K of C's evening Rosary recitation, September's parish picnic, October's tag sale, and the highly anticipated Christmas Fair. Make a personal note for July 27 - it's Take Your Houseplants for a Walk Day. (If you participate we'd love to post photos in the August newsletter!)

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

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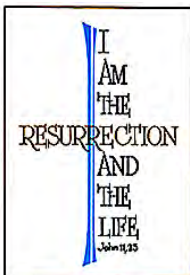
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### **In Memoriam**

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Joan Goda Jacen Gallbronner  
Craig Dunna Joseph A. Anderson  
Jean Ann Lewis Celyne Haberman  
Gerard Rooney Gail Kerwin  
Karen Dumas Ackley  
Sister Margaret Rooney RSM  
Mary Ellen Voytek



May they rejoice in the presence of God forever and may their families take comfort in knowing that we share in their sorrow.

### **Bereavement Support Sunday, July 9**



Our Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, July 9 at 2 o'clock 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.

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

### **Sip, Snack and Socialize at *Coffee And* the Weekend of July 8/9**

Visit *Coffee And* after all the Masses on the July 8/9 weekend and share goodies and refreshing drinks with the members of our parish family at Saint Gabriel Hall or the Parish Center (where you can also shop for gifts and Scrip cards). Topic for conversation: How did you celebrate the 4th? Picnic? Barbecue? A day at the beach? Fireworks, too? What else is coming up for you this summer?



### **Love and Best Wishes**



as you begin your married life together. . .

Daniel and Juvy (Abarientos) Herget

who were united in marriage at Saint Gabriel Church on Saturday, May 27.

Congratulations! May God bless you and love sustain you through a long and happy marriage.

### **August Parish Press Info Due on Bastille Day**

News, photos, notes and comments for the upcoming newsletter are due in our editorial offices by Bastille Day, Friday, July 14. Please call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) or send them to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com). Merci!

### **Thursday Evening Rosary with the Knights of Columbus**

The Knights of Columbus invite you to join them as they pray the Rosary on the fourth Thursday of every month at the K of C Shrine (the statue of our Blessed Mother) on the grounds of Saint Ann Church. Bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather the group will meet in the Parish Center. Rosary recitation this month: July 27. All are welcome!

