



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

August 2023



## The Solemnity of the Assumption Tuesday, August 15

**Holy Day Masses**  
8:00 a.m. - Saint Gabriel Church  
7:00 p.m. - Saint Ann Church

On this August holy day the Church celebrates the Blessed Virgin Mary and her glorious Assumption. "When the course of her earthly life was finished," we read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, Mary "was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory." (CCC 966) In her heavenly glory the Mother of Jesus "shines forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, a sign of certain hope and comfort to the Pilgrim People of God. (*Lumen Gentium* #68)

Mary's Assumption is not simply a *feast*, it is a *solemnity* the highest rank of liturgical celebration in the Church calendar. Just as on

Sunday, there will be three readings at Mass, the Gloria will be sung or said and the congregation will recite the Creed.

The image above is from 18th century painter Giovanni Battista Sassi.



## Volunteers Needed for HomeFront 2023 Saturday, September 16

The parish HomeFront team has issued a call for enthusiastic volunteers, adults and teens age 14 and older, to assist with this year's project. The team is hoping to recruit skilled professionals: masons as well as carpenters for deck work and fencing. They need painters, too, including adults who can climb ladders to work on the second floor.

If you can help, please contact Carrie Nocerino ([carrietyl@yahoo.com](mailto:carrietyl@yahoo.com) or 203-878-5566). Thank you for your kindness.

**T4S**

## Upcoming Fall Service Opportunities Open to Parish Teens

Members of our parish Teens for Service group are always ready to live up to their name and their sterling reputation. Here are some possibilities..

- \* Parish Picnic set-up: Saturday, September 9
- \* Parish Picnic set-up and clean-up:  
Sunday, September 10
- \* HomeFront Day: Saturday, September 16 for teens ages 14+  
(scraping, painting, clean-up, yard work,  
helper for adult volunteers)  
Full day and half day service opportunities  
to help a local homeowner in need
- \* Running Water for Africa: Saturday, September 16  
Walnut Beach Pavilion  
(volunteer, 5K or 1K participant)
- \* Milford Food 2 Kids pack night, planning for Fall 2023

Interested? Contact Maria [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (cell)

## Other August Feasts

**August 6: Transfiguration** Jesus led Peter, James and John up a high mountain and "was "transfigured before them." His face "shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." Moses and Elijah appear to them and the apostles hear a voice from a bright cloud that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him."

**August 10: Saint Lawrence** One of the 7 deacons of Rome martyred in 258 under the Emperor Valerian. When the emperor demanded that Lawrence hand over "the Church's treasures" the deacon presented the destitute, the orphans, the blind and the lame. For this, according to an ancient story, Lawrence was roasted on a gridiron.

**August 24: Saint Bartholomew** One of the 12, traditionally identified with Nathanael. In John's Gospel Jesus refers to him as "a true Israelite. There is no guile in him."

## Prepare to Picnic, Parish Family!

**Sunday, September 10**

**12 Noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**Saint Ann Church Grounds**

*Food, pleasant, and carefree* are part of Merriam-Webster's dictionary definition of *picnic*. Add *fun-filled* and *family* (some suggest *fantastic*, too) and you've got it: the Saint Raphael Parish family picnic. We invite parishioners newborn to ninety-nine to be part of our September festivities.

Picnic chair Cathy Coda is still looking for volunteers for the planning committee. Send your *I'm in!* email to [cathy.coda@att.net](mailto:cathy.coda@att.net), if you can help or come to the Picnic Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Saint Ann Parish Center.

**SAINT ANN CHOIR**  
**SUMMER CONCERT**  
**JULY 30**  
**SUNDAY • 6 PM** *FREE!*

Enjoy beautiful music on a summer Sunday evening.



Creation-Care-Corner

## Donna's Creation Care Corner

Foxglove Beardtongue -  
A Pollinator With An Intriguing Name

Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*), a perennial native to Eastern North America, is wonderful for pollinating insects.

It can grow up to three feet tall with each stem producing up to 75 flowers. Its profusion of tubular, bright-white flowers on strong stems are magnets in May and June for many types of beneficial insects. This pollinator keeps gardens in bloom for a long time. It is one of the first to attract bees after the flowers of the trees have bloomed. Furthermore, it covers a "blooming gap" between the end of spring flowers and the start of summer flowers. Mike and I saw no bees in our garden this year until the foxglove had bloomed!



Foxglove Beardtongue

And its intriguing name? According to folklore, foxes used the plant's blooms to keep dew off their paws. Another story claims that foxes wore the blooms in order to walk without making a sound allowing foxes to sneak up on prey with ease.

Others say 'foxgloves' comes from 'folks' gloves' as in fairy folk, and the idea of fairies wearing or living in these flowers is widespread in some countries. According to others, the spots inside the flowers are marks left by fairies that have touched them, and witches use foxgloves to help them fly. It's also thought that foxglove juice will keep fairies from trying to steal children; there is even a tradition in Scotland where foxglove leaves are put into a newborn's cradle to protect the baby from being bewitched!

What about beardtongue? The name comes from the physical appearance of the flowers. Each has five stamen, four fertile and the fifth sterile. The tiny hairs on that fifth stamen give it a tongue-like appearance, thus "Beard Tongue."

Plants from the foxglove family are critical in both medicine and science. The ancient Romans used foxgloves as a heart tonic. The modern drug digitalin, which is used to treat heart conditions, is derived from foxgloves. Other chemicals found in the plant can detect DNA in lab samples. These uses underscore the importance of keeping all native plants healthy and thriving for their beauty, the nectar they provide for birds and insects, and their yet-to-be-discovered medicinal uses.

Pope Francis, in his monumental encyclical *Laudato Si* states that it is our "moral imperative" to assess "the impact of our every action and personal decision on the world around us." These actions and decisions include the space surrounding our own homes. We cannot wring our hands over climate change and the destruction of the Amazon rainforest, if, at the same time, we fail to recognize the deleterious effects on pollinators, their food sources and habitats caused by chemical fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides used on our yards and lawns. Preserve the beauty of God's creation and plant native flowers for pollinating insects!

Please visit the "powered-by-plants" garden behind the former Saint Ann rectory! If you have questions, reach out to Donna DiMassa at [dm.dimassa@prodigy.net](mailto:dm.dimassa@prodigy.net) or 203-444-4289.

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

## First Yield from our Food Pantry Garden

Elizabeth Simonetti's update on our Food Pantry Garden came in just under deadline with a great photo and several exclamation points. Pictured below - and it is a photo, not a still life - is, to quote Elizabeth, "this week's bounty!"

Last month we had reported on lots of yellow blossoms in the garden and asked if the squash could be far behind. First yield: not only squash, but peppers, eggplant, tomatoes (& peas, almost ready to harvest).



Elizabeth thanked all those "who faithfully water and check in on our little plot." The update also mentioned weeds - the bane of every gardener's existence. Taking them down (now that sounds serious!) is "a work in progress."

What we harvest from the Food Pantry garden, beginning with the crop seen above, will provide fresh vegetables for the families served by the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry.

For additional information about the Food Pantry Garden or to be part of the terrific team that maintains it (as a weed puller, perhaps?!) contact Elizabeth at [elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com](mailto:elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com). She would be happy to hear from you.



**Saturday, October 21**  
**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Saint Ann Parish Center**

Back by popular demand - the Parish Tag Sale! Check your closets, cabinets, attics and garages and start setting aside your "perfect but we haven't used it in 5 years" items until Tuesday, September 5. (No items will be collected prior to that date.)

Want to be part of MaryJo's great crew? Send her an email ([maryjodowns@gmail.com](mailto:maryjodowns@gmail.com)), give her a call (203-710-0471), or stop in to the Tag Sale committee meeting on Wednesday, August 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Library.

**It's Official and It's Happening!**  
**The Saint Raphael Christmas Fair**  
**Saturday, December 2**  
**9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**Saint Ann Parish Center.**

Vendors, take note: Spots fill up fast. A word to the wise vendor: Book early (An 8' x 6' space is \$50.00) Interested? Please contact Maureen at [mhanson808@gmail.com](mailto:mhanson808@gmail.com) for a contract and guidelines. Gosh! It's beginning to look a lot like . . . a Christmas Fair is coming. Great stuff!

## Update for GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) and for GIFT Sacramental Programs

Classes for our GIFT and GIFT Sacramental programs will begin in October, but mailings for both programs will go out this month. Anyone who does not receive this important information by August 12 should contact Maria, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text). Overview meetings for the Sacramental Programs will be held in a Saint Ann Parish Center classroom next month according to the schedule below.

### ***First Reconciliation and First Communion***

Parents/guardians of children in our First Reconciliation/First Communion program are required to attend one of these meetings:

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*or*

Friday, September 15, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Children are not required attend, but a catechist will be available to supervise a separate children's activity if childcare is needed.

### ***Confirmation***

Parents/guardians *and* first year candidates in our Confirmation program are required to attend one of these meetings:

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

*or*

Monday, September 25, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

During monthly GIFT sessions in 2023/2024 participants will learn about and discuss the seven sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Penance/ Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders. Monthly GIFT gatherings always include a breakout session for adults of all ages. If you would like to learn more about these beautiful sources of God's grace at an adult level of understanding, please plan to be with us.

GIFT Program representatives will also be available after all Masses the weekend of September 16/17 to answer any questions you might have about our faith formation/religious education programs. Should you need additional information please reach out to Maria, as above.



### **Adult Faith Formation**

Are you, or is someone you know, interested in becoming Catholic? Or are you an adult Catholic who has never received the Sacraments of Holy Communion (Eucharist) and Confirmation? If this is the right time for you to take the next step on your journey of faith or if you have questions about that step, you might want to consider our parish RCIA program, which begins in September.

RCIA (the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is the process through which people join the Catholic Church or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. The RCIA is designed for:

\* People who have not been baptized

\*People who were baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church

\*Baptized Catholics who were never formed in the Catholic faith and have not completed their initiation (who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation)

We will also offer an adapted version of the RCIA program for teens or children (above the age of reason) who have not been baptized and want to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you have questions or would like further information, please contact Maria (as above).

### **Check Out the New Look Children's Chapel**

Some much-needed roof repairs, a fresh coat of paint and the Children's Chapel is once again a parents' room, meeting space and gallery - home to the late Doris Malota's *Jesus Loves ALL the Children* and Violet Dsouza's needlework *Face of Christ*. Kudos to Facilities Manager Lou Servideo and his great team!

### **Late August Adult Confirmation Program**

The parish is planning for a six-session Adult Confirmation program beginning in late August. The program is open to Catholic adults (ages 18 or older) who have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion (Eucharist) but *not* the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Adults who participate in this program will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday, November 7 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, Hartford, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Please contact Maria (as above) to express interest and receive a copy of our Adult Sacrament Information Form.



### **Congratulations, Steve Staurovsky!**

During the Vigil Mass at Saint Ann Church on June 24, Steve was commissioned as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. The congregation prayed for God to bestow his blessings on Steve that "he may give the bread of life to your people."

### **Sacramental Celebrations in June**

Alexa Rosati received the Sacrament of First Reconciliation on Saturday, June 17 and the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Friday, June 23.

Victoria Aragon received the Sacrament of First Eucharist on Friday, June 30.

Congratulations, Alexa and Victoria! May God bless you always and may you grow closer to Jesus every day of your lives.

## August: Feasts and Foxgloves, GIFT Notes, Picnic Prep and More

It's August. Sunflowers are starting to bloom - look up at them and smile! We've harvested the first crop from the Food Pantry Garden and in the Pollinator Garden there's a focus on foxgloves



Circle the date for this month's holy day and discover the difference between a *solemnity* and a *feast* on the Church's calendar. (We have both during August.)

Check out the themes and dates for the upcoming GIFT programs and sign on, if you can, as a volunteer for events in September, the Parish Family Picnic and HomeFront 2023, an opportunity to use your time, gifts and talents to serve our neighbors in need. Enjoy this last full month of summer.

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

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Milford, Connecticut  
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## SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

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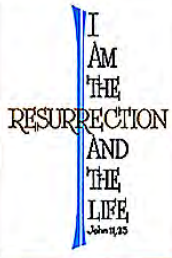
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### **In Memoriam**

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Patrick Rooney  
Marion Cicero  
Carol Romano  
Jeanne C. Flynn  
Joan Kirker

May they enjoy the fullness of eternal life with God in heaven.



### **Bereavement Support Sunday, August 13**



If you are grieving the loss of someone you love, please consider meeting with our Bereavement Support group on Sunday afternoon, August 13 at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Let us walk with you, if only for a little while, on the difficult road from grief to healing. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) for details.



### **Coffee And August 12 and 13**

Sip and snack, rub elbows with those fascinating folks, the members of the Parish family at Coffee And after Mass the weekend of August 12/13. Visit Saint Gabriel Hall or the Saint Ann Parish Center, where you can buy Scrip cards or find a treasure the Card and Gift Shop.

**Social Gathering Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 8, 6:30 p.m.  
Saint Ann Parish Center

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

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Amelia Anderson  
Layla Loschiavo  
Vincenzo Ferraiolo  
Nathan Eric Laneuville  
Layne Cameron Lampo  
Nolan Ryan Lampo



Amelia and Layla were baptized on Sunday, June 25th at Saint Gabriel Church. Vincenzo, Nathan, Layne and Nolan received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, July 16 at Saint Ann Church.

Warmest blessings, little ones. May you live and grow always in the light of God's love.



### **Love and Best Wishes**

as you begin your married life together. . .

Claus and Tina (Cairo) Offerson

who were united in marriage at Saint Ann Church on Friday afternoon, July 21.

May you always share love and laughter.

### **Submit Parish Press Info by August 15**

The information deadline for the September issue of *The Parish Press* is Tuesday, August 15. Please send your news, photos, notes and suggestions to our editorial offices ([parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com)) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you very much!