

St. Raphael Parish, Milford – GIFT Program – 2023-2024

Faith Formation for People of All Ages – Information Sheet

What is GIFT?

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together – is open to all members of Saint Raphael Parish as well as non-parishioners -- from age 5 through adult. It is our Saint Raphael Parish faith formation program. It is the way our parish educates children and teens about the basics of our Catholic faith. It is also designed for adults – to answer their questions about the Catholic faith, explain religious traditions, and help them grow in relationship with God. Single people and couples without children and teens are welcome and encouraged to join us for one or more sessions.

Through GIFT, we build community by involving people of all ages in the life of the Church. Materials are provided for parents/guardians to continue learning at home with their families—between sessions.

GIFT Theme

Our GIFT theme for 2023-2024 is The Sacraments. The GIFT sessions will focus on one or more of the Seven Sacraments.

GIFT In-Person Class Schedule – 2023-2024

- * Oct 22, 12:30 to 2:15 pm or Oct 24, 6:30 to 8:15 pm – The Seven Sacraments Overview and Baptism
- * Nov 12, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Nov 14, 6 to 8:15 pm – Eucharist
- * Dec 10, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Dec 12, 6 to 8:15 pm – Confirmation
- * Jan 21, 12 noon to 1:30 pm or Jan 23, 6 to 7:30 pm – Child/Teen Lures Safety Program (for families with children and teens)
- * Feb 25, 12 noon to 2:15 or Feb 27, 6 to 8:15 pm – Reconciliation
- * March 10, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or March 19, 6 to 8:15 pm – Anointing of the Sick
- * April 21, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or April 23, 6 to 8:15 pm – Marriage and Holy Orders
- * Note: We will begin with a pizza dinner from Nov 2023 through April 2024.

We offer age-appropriate sessions for families with children through Grade 4, young people in Grades 5/6, teens in Grade 7 or older, and adults on these dates. Adult participation is essential to our monthly faith formation program so at least one parent/guardian per family is required to come to GIFT with children and teens.

- * Adults who attend with children through Grade 4 usually participate in our family sessions.
- * Adults who attend with young people in Grade 5 or older or who attend without young people participate in our adult sessions.

Note: There will be other lifelong faith formation events in addition to our sessions on the seven Sacraments, e.g., Advent/Christmas event (December), Pentecost event (June), concerts, and opportunities to pray together as a family.

GIFT Sacramental Program – 2023-2024

Any families with young people eligible to prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation will receive a separate Sacramental program mailing. ***Registration in the GIFT program is required for families participating in our Sacramental program. There are no separate registration fees for the Sacramental program.***

* First Reconciliation and First Communion Overview Session for Parents/Guardians.

Choice of:

- Tuesday, September 12 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

or

- Friday, September 15 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location - Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave.

* Confirmation Overview Session for Parents/Guardians and incoming Confirmation Candidates. Choice of:

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

or

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

Location – Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave

Questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell phone – voice or text).