



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

September 2023



## From Parish Picnic Central

**The Picnic is On! It's Going to be Great! Don't Miss It!**

**Sunday, September 10 Noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**Saint Ann Church Grounds**

It's a family event - fun, festivities, and food from Lasse's picnic specialists. No charge for attendance - the parish is treating. What to bring? Your family and your smiles.

We will need a head count for Lasse's. Please use the flyers at the church doors to let us know you're coming, or send your response to [srpicnic@gmail.com](mailto:srpicnic@gmail.com). Kindly break down the attendance numbers: adults, children ages 5-13, children under 5.

For setup and safety reasons there will be no parking in the lot behind Saint Ann Church on picnic weekend. You may park on the street or in the lot across Church Street.

Come picnicking with the parish! Hope to see you there.

## Explore the Gospel of Matthew with Deacon George

Beginning on Wednesday evening, September 27 Deacon George will lead an exciting exploration of the Gospel of Matthew. Using the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible's excellent text and footnotes and the Catholic Church's own guidelines participants will look closely into Matthew's Gospel, proclaimed on most Sundays this year.



Saint Matthew by Rembrandt

Weekly sessions, via Zoom Meeting, are from 7-8 p.m. Copies of the Study Bible will be provided. Please contact Deacon George Sartor for details (203-848-7285 / [georgesartor@hotmail.com](mailto:georgesartor@hotmail.com)).

## Celebrate Saint Raphael September 29

In what has become a parish tradition, we will celebrate Saint Raphael on Friday, September 29, the feast day he shares with Michael and Gabriel.

Please be with us if you can for the Feast of the Archangels 8:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Ann Church when we will "pay honor to the angelic creatures in whom the Lord delights." After Mass, as you leave, you'll receive a "breakfast to go" bag, tasty treats we hope you'll enjoy.



## Mass of Healing October 1

Father John will celebrate a Mass of Healing with Anointing of the Sick on Sunday afternoon, October 1 at 2 o'clock at Saint Ann Church. How fitting that the Mass will be offered in a church of Saint Raphael Parish. The very name of our patron, Raphael, means *God heals*.

We encourage all those who are ill or facing surgery to attend this special liturgy. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick during the Healing Mass, please call the parish office (203-874-0634).

## Sign On for HomeFront 2023

**Saturday, September 16**



It's not too late to join Saint Raphael's hard-working HomeFront team, a group of dedicated volunteers who offer their time and talents to provide free home repairs for a local family in need.

John Marmolejo, House Captain, and Carrie Nocerino, Coordinator of Volunteers, have recruited both skilled and unskilled workers for this year's project in Devon. Scope of work reads like a soup-to-nuts menu: painting, carpentry, plumbing, fencing, yard work, food service, cleanup and more. John and Carrie are hoping that adults and teens 14 and older will come on board to assist in what is truly a labor of love.

HomeFront Day is Saturday, September 16, rain or shine, beginning at 7:00 a.m. If you can help, please reach out to Carrie ([carrietvl@yahoo.com](mailto:carrietvl@yahoo.com) or 203-878-5566). Thank you.

## Donate Tag Sale Items After Labor Day



Please donate gently used or new items: artwork, collectibles, jewelry, décor, kitchen household and garden items, furniture, toys, games, baby and toddler items, electronics, tools, sporting goods, books and *clean* clothes. NO glass, large furniture, tube TVs or monitors. Donations accepted through October 9. Tag sale set for Saturday, October 21, 9-3, on the Saint Ann campus.

Questions? Contact MaryJo Downs, event coordinator, at 203-882-0695 or [maryjodowns@gmail.com](mailto:maryjodowns@gmail.com). Thank you!

CATHOLIC RECORDING ARTIST AND SONGWRITER

# IVÁN DÍAZ

*with the Saint Ann Choir*



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 3:00 PM  
ST. ANN CHURCH  
501 NAUGATUCK AVENUE  
MILFORD, CT

For Tickets: Call the parish office 203-874-0634

Ticket in advance \$12

Ticket at the door \$17



Ticket on Eventbrite \$15



Bees collecting nectar from a coneflower.

## Donna's Creation Care Corner

### Here's the Buzz:

#### Bees Love Coneflowers!

Inspired by the *Laudato Si'* challenge to "care for God's creation" in Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, parishioner and gardener Donna DiMassa, assisted by her husband Mike, planted a pollinator garden last year behind the former Saint Ann Rectory.

They have faithfully tended and watered a variety of native plants like asters, goldenrod, Black-eyed Susans and a late-season addition, coneflowers, to attract beneficial insects, like butterflies . . . and bees.

Think bees, think honey, but bees, of all animals, are the most dominant pollinators of wild and crop plants. In their search for food (nectar and pollen) bees visit over 90% of the world's top 107 crops. Studies indicate that some 75% of crops produce better yields if bees help pollinate them. And bees, as noted above, *love* coneflowers, which provide food, shelter and respite to these buzzing beauties, one of God's most amazing and necessary creatures.

The coneflower (genus *echinacea*) is a lovely but deceptive plant. It appears to be a single flower, but is, in fact - here's the deception - a composite: *hundreds* of tiny flowers packed together in two distinct categories on the flower head, called a *receptacle*.

Each pink "petal" in the photo above is, in reality, a *ray flower* with a "strap" that looks like a normal petal. There may be as many as 21 ray flowers on a single coneflower. The vertical, spiny, dark-orange, cone-shaped face of the coneflower is composed of *disk flowers*, as many as 200-300 tiny cylindrical petal-less blossoms that look like a single flower. (Oh, the wonders of God's creation!) To Saint Francis of Assisi this remarkable plant/animal duo may have been "Sister Coneflower" and "Brother Bee."

We encourage you to care for God's creation by setting aside a portion of your property to give back to God and to nature. Fill that space with native flowering plants and avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides. Choose plants that support essential insects like butterflies . . . and bees! We cannot survive without this extraordinary insect!

After Mass at Saint Ann's or as part of a stroll down Naugatuck Avenue, amble over for a visit to the Parish Pollinator Garden behind the old rectory. Praise the Lord for the beauty of creation and enjoy one of God's favored insects in action – the bee!

Reach out to Donna DiMassa ([dm.dimassa@prodigy.net](mailto:dm.dimassa@prodigy.net) or 203-444-4289) if you have questions or to learn more about starting or maintaining your own pollinator garden.

### Praying the Rosary - A Beautiful Tradition

When we pray the Rosary, Mary's beautiful and traditional prayer, we give honor and praise to our Blessed Mother, Queen of Heaven and Earth. Our prayers rise like incense as we reflect on the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous mysteries which center on events in the life of Mary's son, Jesus Christ. The gentle repetition of the words helps us enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells.

The Rosary is recited a half-hour before the 8 o'clock morning Mass at Saint Ann's (Monday and Friday) and at Saint Gabriel's (Tuesday and Thursday). Other opportunities to pray the Rosary are printed at right. Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us



## The Latest from the Pantry Garden: Veggies by the Bagful, A CRS Grant

More exclamation points on the mid-August pantry garden report: during one week alone the team "donated 4 bags of veggies to the food pantry!!!" How great is that?

The photo below was taken just before the veggies were whisked off to the Saint Gabriel food pantry to be distributed among the 20+ families the pantry supports each week.



And the great news kept coming! The team had applied for and will receive a \$400 grant through CRS Rice Bowl.

Every year during Lent Saint Raphael's participates in the Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl program. 75% of parishioners' generous donations, as you may recall, support the work of CRS around the world. 25% goes into the CRS Rice Bowl Local Grant Fund, where it is used to support programs to alleviate hunger and poverty within the Hartford Archdiocese.

The team's application, submitted to the Office for Catholic Social Justice Ministry, has been approved. The grant money will be used to offset the cost of fencing and garden infrastructure.

### Opportunities to Pray the Rosary

**Tuesdays at Noon**  
**in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel**  
Call Joanne Judd (203-877-4020)  
for additional information

**Pray with the Knights of Columbus**  
**the Fourth Thursday of every month**  
**7:00 p.m. at the K of C Shrine near the**  
**St. Ann Church Naugatuck Ave. entrance**  
Bring a lawn chair.

In case of inclement weather,  
meet in the Parish Center.

**Pray the International Rosary**  
**Tuesday, October 10**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Saint Gabriel Church**  
Further information in  
the October edition of  
*The Parish Press.*





## Saint Raphael Faith Formation 2023/2024 GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) and GIFT Sacramental

GIFT, the parish's family-based faith formation program, recognizes and respects the fact that parents/guardians are the primary and most important teachers of the faith for their children and teens. As a program that incorporates education for adults of all ages as well as for children and teens, we can help with this important, often daunting responsibility.

GIFT is also an invaluable source of information and discussion about the Catholic Faith for adults who have no children and for teens. As we pursue the study of the Sacraments, our theme for 2023/2024, adults might like to learn more about the Church's current teaching on the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick, especially in light of October's Mass of Healing. A discussion of Holy Communion might prompt reflection on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist during this second year of the National Eucharistic Revival.

GIFT registration runs through Sunday, September 17. Program materials are available at the doors of both Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel churches. Monthly program sessions begin on Sunday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 24 and will focus on an overview of the seven Sacraments and on the Sacrament of Baptism.

If you have questions or need more information, reach out to Maria, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).



### Our *Shine Jesus' Light!* Summer Camp: STELLAR Indeed!

What a great week! 26 beautiful children participated in our Summer VBS camp. These 4-11 year old campers had fun as they learned about Jesus and how to *shine Jesus' light*, whatever is happening around you: When life feels dark or people don't get along, when good things happen, even when people are sad or need help.

Thank you to our amazing team, more than 35 stellar teens and adults, who shared their hearts and talents and made STELLAR happen because of their hard work. Kudos to our set-up/decorating team, our nurse and small group leaders. High-Fives all around to STELLAR's incredible activity center leaders and assistants: in Bible Adventures, All-Star Games, Crafts & Imagination, Music & Dance, KidVid Cinema, and Galactic Snacks. (Now that's an impressive list!) Thank you so much for shining Jesus' light for our youngest parishioners and friends! Finally, warm and special thanks to Maria Tomasetti, camp facilitator, who shines Jesus' light brightly through all her many parish activities.

When you're in the Parish Center this month, for the picnic, Coffee And or a meeting, check out our "God Sightings" Bulletin Board next to the water fountain. All through the week, campers were encouraged to share where they see God, at camp and in their daily lives. They shared these God sightings with their small group leaders during each day's opening celebrations and posted them on the board.

**"The heavens proclaim the glory of God" (Psalm 19:1)  
... and so do we!**

### Sacramental Program Sessions (Meet in a Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom)

#### *First Reconciliation and First Communion*

Parents/guardians of children in these programs are required to attend *one* information session:

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 can participate in an activity with a catechist if childcare is needed,

#### *Confirmation*

Parents/guardians *and* first year candidates in this program are required to attend *one* overview session:

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

*or*

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

### ??? Do you have Questions ??? About RCIA or Adult Sacraments?

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. To learn more about Saint Raphael's RCIA program or about receiving Adult Sacraments, please contact Maria Tomasetti, as at left.

### Yvonne Torsiello Chosen Vice Minister of Franciscan Fraternity

When her St. Mary of the Angels Fraternity of Secular Franciscans gathered for elections in July Saint Raphael parishioner Yvonne Torsiello was elected Vice Minister, a post she will hold for three years. The fraternity does not use the terms *President* or *Vice President* for its officers, but rather *Minister* or *Vice Minister*. The term *Minister*, from a biblical point of view, means *We serve*.

Through articles in the newsletter some four years ago the parish walked a bit with Yvonne on her spiritual journey and learned that being professed as a Secular Franciscan means living the gospel life, following the path of peace, service and humility forged by Saint Francis of Assisi.



Yvonne Torsiello

Congratulations , Yvonne. May the Lord bless and guide you in your new role as servant leader. May God give you peace.

## Parish Picnic, HomeFront, A Celebration of St. Raphael . . . More!

Lots of activity this month! We'll picnic on the 10th, help a family in need through HomeFront on the 16th and celebrate our patron saint on the 29th. Additional notes inside about donations for the Tag Sale, a concert on the 24th and an October 1st Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick.



September's flower is the aster, but bees, those marvelous pollinators, just *love* coneflowers, highlighted in this month's *Creative Care Corner*.

We have great news from the Food Pantry garden and a *Stellar* report from July's VBS camp. After a summer hiatus Tuesday's noon recitation of the Rosary resumes on September 5th in the Children's Chapel. Have a busy, blessed September.

### ***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

### **In Memoriam**



St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:  
Shirley Hufcut  
Rev. Daniel James Sullivan  
Johanna Kurbus  
Arthur Landry, Jr.  
Paul Martanis

May angels lead them into Paradise, the new and heavenly Jerusalem. May they rest in peace.

### **Bereavement Support Sunday, September 17**



This month's Bereavement Support group meeting has been moved to the third Sunday, September 17, at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Please be with us if you are finding it difficult to cope with the loss of someone you love. Please call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

### **Coffee And September 16 and 17**



Stop in to the Parish Center or St Gabriel's Hall after Masses on September 16/17. Savor scrumptious snacks and refreshing drinks while you visit with the parish family. If the Parish Center is your destination, check out the new-look Card and Gift Shop inventory and pick up or order your Scrip cards!

**Social Gathering Team Meeting**  
Tuesday, September 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Saint Ann Parish Center

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

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Jack McCarthy  
Brooklyn Emily Coronado  
Thiago Johan Urichi Gallevo



Jack was baptized in July at Saint Gabriel Church. Brooklyn and Thiago received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, August 20 at Saint Gabriel's. God bless you, little ones, and keep you always close to his heart.

### **Love and Best Wishes**



as you begin your married life together. . .

Erik and Annie (Wendel) Johnson  
Paul and Olivia (Wendland) Harrington

Erik and Annie were married at Saint Gabriel Church on Friday, July 28. Paul and Olivia exchanged wedding vows at Saint Gabriel's on Saturday, August 19.

Congratulations! May you savor warm love, a new day every day and a long life together.

### **Parish Press Info Due September 15**

Please submit news, notes, comments and photos for the October edition of *The Parish Press* by Friday, September 15. Send them to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!