



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

October 2023



Healing Mass Sunday, October 1, 2:00 pm at Saint Ann Church



On Sunday afternoon, October 1 Father John will celebrate a Mass of Healing which will include the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. How appropriate - our parish patron saint is Raphael, whose name means *God heals*.

Since the Second Vatican Council the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has undergone a transformation. Once called "Last Rites" or "Extreme Unction," it is no longer just for those in imminent danger of death, but for all Catholics whose "health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age." Because it is the entire community, the People of God, who pray for God's help for the sick person, Anointing is often celebrated, as it will be at this Mass, with family and friends in attendance. The focus is on trust in God, for whatever happens, and on healing, in whatever form that may take.



When the priest anoints a person's forehead with blessed oil he prays, "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit." When the hands are anointed, he says: "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up." The sick person responds, "Amen."

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).



Parish

The Tag Sale Is On!

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

MaryJo and her team are grateful for your "gently used" donations. Have more to give? Terrific! The collection crew will be at the doors of the Parish Center on Tuesday, the 3rd (10 am -noon) and on Thursday, the 5th (5:30-7 pm).

If you'd like to join the Tag Sale Team and help with this major parish fundraiser, please call MaryJo at 203-710-0471. Sorting, where the team could really use your help, begins the week before the sale. The crew also has openings on sale day for greeters and table minders. (Rumor has it that part-time slots are available!)

From MaryJo and her hard-working team to everyone who extends a helping hand: Thank you for supporting Saint Raphael Parish.

From the *Before You Know It* Department

The Saint Raphael Christmas Fair
Saturday, December 2
9:00 am - 3:00 pm
Saint Ann Parish Center.

Be sure to mark your calendars!

Note to vendors: An 8'x 6' space is \$50.00. You may contact Maureen (mhanson808@gmail.com) for a contract and guidelines

International Rosary Tuesday, October 10, 7:00 pm Saint Gabriel Church Pray the Joyful Mysteries for World Peace



Please plan to be with us at Saint Gabriel's on Tuesday evening, October, 10 for the beautiful International Rosary, whose many languages speak eloquently of the Church Universal. Listen as multi-lingual parishioners lead each decade in a different language: French, Italian, German, Spanish, and Vietnamese, then respond with the congregation in English

This year, in the face of continuing war and violence, we will pray the Joyful Mysteries for World Peace, which includes prayers for peace by Pope Saint John Paul II. We will sing Marian hymns in honor of Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Rosary. The evening will close with refreshments in Saint Gabriel Hall. Come with a friend. All are welcome!

First Saturday Rosary Recitation Begins October 7 at 11:00 am

We continue the Fatima tradition of First Saturday Rosary recitation beginning on Saturday, October 7, the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. Join us at 11:00 am at Saint Ann Church. Come and be part of this very special devotion on the first Saturdays of October, November, December, January and February.

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

Is it Time to Stand Up to Protect God's Children? An Invitation from *Protect Connecticut's Children Project*



Are you concerned that our children and grandchildren are being barraged today with confusing, often inappropriate messaging from all directions? Are you concerned that public schools in Connecticut are promoting transgenderism?

What about K-12 schools and public libraries providing our children with materials supporting the transgender ideology? Did you know that educators and public officials need not share information with parents about their minor children's gender identities?

How can we, as Catholic Christians, respond to what's happening in our schools and in the public forum?

We can take action. There are healthy responses we can make based on sound scientific evidence and Catholic teaching and important steps that we can take to protect our children, God's children, from the potential dangers these transgender ideologies present. Many of these children, and their families, are in pain as they struggle with gender dysphoria. All of them are God's beloved children. We must treat them with respect, justice and compassion.

Protect Connecticut's Children Project is a group of Catholic Christians from various parishes in Connecticut and beyond, drawn together out of concern for an in

creasingly difficult cultural situation. We believe that the Bible makes a strong case for defense of children and the family and that a society can be judged by how it treats its children. We invite people of all faiths to join us!

We believe silence in the face of evil is evil itself. We can help each other gather the courage and focus to rid our society of this terrible scourge.

Jesus in Matthew 22 is asked, "*Which is the greatest commandment in the Law?*" And Jesus responds: "*You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment.*" Jesus didn't say, "*You shall love the Lord your God when it's safe and convenient.*"

Standing as a community faith in support of our children and families offers us an opportunity to demonstrate love for our Lord with all our hearts and minds. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "Parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children." (2223) We cannot surrender that responsibility to the government.

Will you please reach out and tell us how you feel, what you think and if you would like to participate in a meeting to learn more? Our group includes Wally Hauck, a member of the Saint Raphael Pastoral Council, and Deacon George Sartor. Send your email to Wally Hauck (wally@wallyhauck.com) or call 203-874-8484. Thank you. We look forward to hearing from you.

Special Guests at Coffee And on October 14 Meet Members of the *Lovers of the Holy Cross of Go Vap*

The story begins some years ago in Professor Jack Sopchak's Psych class at Housatonic Community College. Sr. Elizabeth and Sr. Lihn were undergrads pursuing degrees toward fulfilling the mission of their order, Lovers of the Holy Cross of Go Vap of Vietnam. Founded in 1670, the order now serves in dioceses around the world as the sisters vow to follow Christ through lives of prayer, sacrifice and service, especially to the poor, the needy, women and children. Jack's students and a handful of other sisters live near Saint Augustine Cathedral where they serve the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Jack got to know the sisters, who are, he told our reporter, "delightful, not of this world." He and his wife Kathy, after dinners at the convent, invited (and finally convinced) the sisters to "break bread at our house." They share a "wonderful relationship." The sisters have been frequent guests at "Uncle John" and "Auntie Kathy's" lake house in Middlefield.


"Our parishioners need to see these sisters," Jack decided. One teaches at Kolbe Cathedral, others provide comfort and care to the elderly at Saint Joseph Manor. They are women of prayer, who exude an aura of peace and serenity,

and they'll be with us at the Vigil Mass and at Coffee And on Saturday, October 14.

Please stop by the Saint Ann Parish Center where you can meet our very special guests. Sip and snack and enjoy the warmth of their beautiful smiles.



Coffee And October 14/15

Don't miss the first Coffee And of fall after all the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15.  Visit with the members of the parish family at Saint Gabriel's Hall or the Saint Ann Parish Center and sample your choice of hot and cold drinks and tasty snacks.

The holidays are coming, so purchase or order your Scrip cards now and be sure to check out the shop's new line of greeting cards.

Food Pantry Garden Update

The garden continues to produce full "banana boxes" of produce even as our faithful gardeners are planting beets, lettuce, kale and spinach for fall harvest, and garlic for next spring.

The crew has planned a "compost drive" for late November. Please save some of your compost for late fall, when they will add compost before winter. We continue to thank Saint Isidore for his intercessions!

***The Sacraments
Overview and Baptism***

Sunday, October 22
12:30 to 2:15 pm

or

Tuesday, October 24
6:30 to 8:15 pm
Beginning inside
Saint Ann Church

**GIFT - Growing In Faith Together
October - The Sacraments: Overview and Baptism**

When we gather this month, GIFT participants will review the seven sacraments of the Catholic Church: Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony (Marriage), and Holy Orders, then focus on the Sacrament of Baptism.

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church (1213) we learn that "Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access

to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God. We become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission."

October's session will begin at Saint Ann Church with opening prayer, song and activity and continue in the classrooms at the Parish Center with age-appropriate, interactive sessions: Families with children through Grade 4, children in grades 5/6, teens in grades 7 and older (including Confirmation candidates), and adults of all ages.



Haven't yet registered for GIFT, our parish faith formation program? It's not too late! Participation at weekly Mass and in GIFT every month can help our young people recognize that God is important in their lives - in the midst of our very busy schedules. We also provide take-home materials to continue important learning at home.

For questions, registration or more information contact Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

**GIFT
Sacramental
Program Schedule**
Meet in a Saint Ann
Parish Center Classroom

***First Reconciliation
Session #1***

Saturday, October 7
10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
For children with
a parent/guardian

***Confirmation
Prayer Life,
Including the Mass***

Sunday, October 15
12:30 - 2:00 pm

or

Tuesday, October 17
6:30 - 8:00 pm
(beginning with pizza!)

Required for
Confirmation candidates

**Confirmation at Cathedral of Saint Joseph
Sunday, October 29**



Fourteen Saint Raphael Parish teens, along with candidates from other parishes across the Archdiocese, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford on Sunday afternoon, October 29.

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in prayer as they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church. May they be transformed by the Holy Spirit, stay close and committed to Jesus and remain strongly connected to the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may they have the strength to live as Catholic Christians in today's troubled world.

**12th Annual Milford Trick or Trot
to Benefit Beth-El Center
Saturday, October 28 at Lisman Landing
Join the Saint Raphael Parish Team!!**

Walkers, runners, and volunteers of all ages, sign on to our parish 5K team and support Beth-El Center's food and shelter programs

Registration opens at 7:30 am at Lisman Landing. 5K Run/Walk begins at 9:00 am and follows 3.2 mile scenic route through Milford. There will be awards to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners by age group and - come in costume! - best costume prizes for individual, group and pet.

Registration fees: \$35 for the first 150 registrants, \$37 for additional registrants to receive a race number and t-shirt. Fee is \$25 for participants 18 and younger. Register by October 14 to be guaranteed an event t-shirt. The *free* Kids' Fun Run starts at 8:30 am. (Parents/guardians can run with younger children) All participants are asked to bring nonperishable food items as a donation to Beth-El Center.

Please register online at [Sign Up Today! 12th Annual Milford Trick or Trot Virtual 5K Race](#). (Paper registration forms and pledge sheets are available on request.) Questions? Contact Maria Tomasetti, as above.

T4S and Box of Joy

Once again this holiday season our Teens For Service group will participate in Box of Joy, a Cross Catholic Outreach program that brings smiles, hope and a reminder of God's love to impoverished children in Guatemala, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, Grenada, and other developing countries.



A Box of Joy is a Christmas shoe box, packed with *new* small items like toys, clothing, school supplies, and hygiene items. Each gift represents Christ's love and may be the only gift these children are blessed to receive. Also in the boxes: prayer cards and friendly notes.

We are grateful to our GIFT families and to all the generous parishioners who help fill the boxes with a variety of treasures: dolls; cars, trucks or boats; small plush animals; balls (deflated) with pump; jewelry; sunglasses; purses or wallets; handheld toys; hair accessories; crosses, rosary beads and watches. We *cannot* accept food, beverages, medicines, vitamins, liquid toiletries (shampoo, nail polish, etc.), gels (hand sanitizer, etc.), military/police toys, toy weapons, glass or breakables, knives or tools. Thank you for your kindness. Questions? Please contact Maria, as above.

Healing Mass, International Rosary, Special Visitors, Tag Sale, Lots More!

October calendar highlights include the Healing Mass with Anointing of the Sick, First Saturday recitation of the Fatima Rosary, the many languages of the International Rosary - all within the first two weeks of the month! - as well as the treasure trove that is our Tag Sale.



Look for special visitors on the Saturday of Coffee And weekend. Read about the Food Pantry garden's autumn harvest and join the parish team for the 12th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Walk/Run. Inside you'll also find an invitation from a group with deep concerns about protecting our children.

Enjoy October, a month dedicated to the Rosary One of its birth flowers is the cosmos, a symbol of joy, love and peace.

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:
Sister Helen Ruane, RSM
Margaret "Nancy" Stewart
Linda Ruzbarsky
Susan L. Duffy
Doris Chaco

May they find the fullness of joy, peace and glory in God's everlasting kingdom.



Bereavement Support Sunday, October 8

The parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, October 8, at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Please consider joining us if you are struggling because of the death of someone you love. Let others who have known the pain of loss help you on your journey to healing. For additional information call Joanne (203-877-4020).

Social Gathering Team Meeting
Tuesday, October 17, 6:30 p.m.
Saint Ann Parish Center

All Saints Day
Wednesday, November 1

Holy Day Masses:
8:00 am - Saint Gabriel Church
7:00 pm - Saint Ann Church

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family,
Mia Dominique McAloon
and
Vincent Anthony Tomlinson



who were baptized on Sunday, September 17 at Saint Ann Church God's warmest blessings on you, little ones, and on your families.

Love and Best Wishes

as you begin your married life together. . .



Sean and Lauren (Valentine) Taylor
Eric and Stephanie (Brelsford) Grindrod
Giovanni and Tiffany (Coleman) Mazullo

All three couples were married at Saint Gabriel Church: Sean and Lauren on Friday, August 25, Eric and Stephanie on Saturday, August 26, and Giovanni and Tiffany on Saturday, September 16.

Congratulations! May almighty God, with his Word of blessing, unite your hearts in the never-ending bond of pure love.

Submit Parish Press Info by October 13

Send your news, notes, suggestions and photos for November's newsletter to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Friday, October 13. Thank you!