



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

November 2023



All Saints' Day Wednesday, November 1

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

On the Solemnity of All Saints Catholics around the world honor those who have gone before us and live now forever with God in heaven. The liturgical calendar includes celebrations of saints whose names and virtues challenge and inspire us and of

saints whose names are not really familiar. Everyone in heaven is a saint, and the Church commemorates all of them on All Saints Day.

Parish Mass of Remembrance

The Saint Raphael Community of Faith invites parishioners, families and friends to our annual



Mass of Remembrance to remember and to celebrate all the members of our parish family who have died during the past year.

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on Sunday, November 5, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

The Mass of Remembrance will be streamed live via <https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

November Concerts: Steve Angrisano With the Saint Ann and Saint Mark Choirs Sunday, November 12, 3:00 p.m. and Monday, November 13, 7:00 p.m.

Internationally recognized Catholic composer and passionate music missionary Steve Angrisano will share his unique blend of humor, story and song in a two-performance concert at Saint Ann Church on November 12 and 13. Our own Saint Ann Choir and the choir from Saint Mark's in Stratford will join Steve for an afternoon and an evening of uplifting music. Always one for collaborating, Steve has teamed with Sarah Hart, Jesse Manibusan and Curtis Stephan to write familiar parish favorites like *Alleluia! Love Is Alive, Many and One* and *High Above Our Way*.



Steve Angrisano

Concert tickets are \$12 if purchased in advance. Look for the choir's smiling weekend ticket agents at the doors of both churches, or call the parish office (203-874-0634). Newsletter staff recommends the advance purchase option, if possible. Tickets are \$17 at the concert doors.

Enjoy Coffee And After Mass on Veteran's Weekend



WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

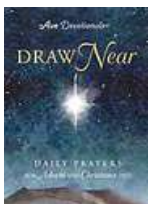
Visit with the parish family after Mass on Saturday or Sunday, November 11 or 12. Sip, snack, chat at either of these great spots: the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall.

While you're there on this Veteran's Weekend, consider making a tax-deductible donation to Wounded Warrior Project whose programs and services help bring independence back to our nation's most severely wounded veterans. Thank you.

Your Gift for the New Liturgical Season:

Draw Near! Daily Prayers for Advent and Christmas 2023

From the first Sunday of Advent through the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, *Draw Near!*, the new booklet of prayers and reflections from Ave Maria Press, will guide you on your journey.



Each day opens with a psalm, prayer, antiphon or response, like this beautiful line from the Church's Morning Prayer: *Your light will come, Jerusalem; the Lord will dawn on you in radiant beauty. You will see his glory within you.* The entries include a brief spiritual reflection, prayers for morning and evening and a "Traveling Question" that will help you open yourself to God.

The booklets, a gift from Saint Raphael Parish, will be available at the doors of both churches beginning Thanksgiving week.

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Reserve Your Place for the Advent Luncheon Sunday, November 19 at Saint Gabriel Hall Following the 11:00 a.m Mass

Advent begins this year on the first Sunday of December, but the Advent luncheon is set for Sunday, November 19 after the 11 o'clock Mass.

No tickets required for this special event, but there is an entrance fee: a *new, unwrapped* winter item (hats, gloves, scarves, socks, other essentials for adults and children) **plus** a non-perishable food item for the parish food pantry.



All the winter items will be donated to local charities including Beth-El Center and Boys and Girls clubs.

Luncheon menu selections include chicken and vegetable soups, tuna and ham and cheese sandwiches, chips, condiments, coffee, tea and finger desserts.

"Reservation desks" are open in the church vestibules after weekend Masses. Please stop by and reserve your place - our planning specialists need to know how many guests we'll be serving!

If you have questions or would like to be part of the luncheon crew, please call Rose Marie Marmolejo, our hard-working chef, at 203-378-5508. Look forward to seeing you there!

Inquiring Catholics Want to Know: What Is the Synod on Synodality?

(The explanation that follows is drawn from a number of different sources.) A *synod* is a journey of discernment rooted in the Holy Spirit. The *Synod on Synodality*, initiated by Pope Francis, is a 3-year process of listening and dialogue.



Frequent Areas of Diocesan Concern

Liturgy
Marriage and Family Life
Youth
Catholic Education
Evangelization and Communication
Parish Life and Viability
Clergy
Vocations
A Welcoming Church
An Inclusive Church Community

Since October of 2021 Catholics across the globe, clergy and laypeople, have participated in diocesan listening sessions discussing the future of the Church and how we, the whole people of God, walking together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, can fulfill Christ's commission to announce the Gospel to all nations. (See areas of concern at left.)

Once synthesized, the diocesan responses went to national then continental stages and became the working document for last month's global assembly at the Vatican. 363 delegates, including 54 women, will decide on the Church's next steps, decisions that will form part of the Synod's summary report, presented at next year's closing assembly.

Synod Logo

A majestic tree, Christ's cross, reaches for the sky, carrying the Eucharist, which shines like the sun. Horizontal branches, open like wings, suggest the Holy Spirit. God's people are on the move, *walking together* (*syn-hodos* in Greek), from all generations, origins, life situations. There is no hierarchy. They are walking together toward a synodal Church, toward Communion, participation and mission.

Please continue to pray for the success of the Synod as we strive to be a "Church of sisters and brothers in Christ who listen to one another and who, in doing so, are gradually transformed by the Spirit."



Donna's Creation Care Corner Pollinator-friendly Tips for Your Winter Yard or Garden

The iconic Monarch butterfly, perhaps our favorite pollinator, migrates south to overwinter in Mexico. Other insect friends hunker down in a dormant state (diapause) that allows them to

withstand the cold of a New England winter. Most do so, not as adults, but in fragile stages of development as larvae, pupae or eggs. They must be able to shelter safely until spring, and you can help make that happen.

Here's how to make your yard or garden a haven for overwintering pollinators and beneficial insects:

- 1. Leave the leaves.** They provide nutrients, insulation and important cover for caterpillars and eggs. Rake, if you must, extremely gently into one corner, so as not to disturb insect life.
- 2. See some soil.** A sunny spot of bare, mulch-free soil can host ground-nesting pollinators, like bumblebees.
- 3. Be a late bloomer.** Grow late-blooming plants, like asters and goldenrod, that keep their flowers well into fall, ensuring food for pollinators when other sources are scarce. Grow the flowering plants in clusters, where pollinators can find them easily and conserve energy in gathering food.
- 4. Save some stems.** Stems and twigs provide nesting sites for solitary bees and other insects. No pruning or snipping until late spring (temps should be +50 for a week) or just let stems decompose naturally.
- 5. Let "sleeping logs lie"** to provide shelter for insects.
- 6. Save some snags.** Both snags (dead trees or stumps) and logs provide burrowing chambers for insects and attract winter birds.
- 7. Stack some sticks - make a brush pile.** Doing so creates cover for many songbirds, small mammals, reptiles and amphibians when natural cover is limited. Brush piles provide areas for nesting, resting, escape from predators, and protection from harsh weather conditions.

Keep in mind that by doing *less* in readying your garden and yard for winter, you are actually doing *more* for pollinators. After their "long winter's nap" the pollinators will be rested and ready for next season's vital work in growing foods and flowers.

Questions? Need tips or information about maintaining a pollinator garden? Reach out to Donna DiMassa (dm.dimassa@prodigy.net).

An Update from Protect Connecticut's Children Project

Based on the positive response to our first notice in October's newsletter, *Protect Connecticut's Children Project* has scheduled our first Zoom meeting. (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3750816663>).

Everyone who is interested is invited to join us on Thursday evening, November 9 at 7 o'clock.

During the session we'll present a short video on gender ideology facts and dangers then share a) what is happening currently in Connecticut schools and b) possible healthy responses and actions. Please share this link and information with all those you know who might also be interested. All are welcome.

Do you have questions? Need more information? Contact Wally Hauck at wally@wallyhauck.com or 203-874-8484.

Our project's mission statement: "*Save our precious children from the evil of Gender Ideology through education and activation of parents, grandparents, and parishioners.*" Standing as a community of faith in support of our children and families offers us an opportunity to demonstrate love for our Lord with all our hearts and minds



**The Sacraments
Eucharist**

Sunday, November 12
12:00 to 2:15 pm

or

Tuesday, November 14
6:00 to 8:15 pm

Saint Ann Parish Center
(Sessions begin with
a light dinner.)

**GIFT - Growing In Faith Together
November - The Sacraments: Eucharist**

The focus of November's GIFT session is the Eucharist, the source and summit of our journey of faith. Eucharist invites us into our most perfect expression of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and calls us to witness to the world our call to be healers and reconcilers. Eucharist challenges us to be faithful to our vocational commitments. This beautiful Sacrament of Initiation nourishes us, gives us the strength to become more Christ-like as we live out our baptismal commitment as sons and daughters of God. Eucharist is about becoming more and more who we are: the Body of Christ.

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

**First Reconciliation
Session #2**

Saturday, November 4
10:00 am - 12:00 Noon
For children with
a parent/guardian

**Confirmation
Church Years:**

Seasons and Feasts
Sunday, November 5
12:30 - 2:00 pm

or

Wednesday, November 8
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Required for
Confirmation candidates



This month we will remember and gain a greater understanding of what it is that we say *yes* to, that we say *Amen* to, each time we receive Eucharist. Together we will explore how we are called to live, die, and rise with Jesus through the celebration of Eucharist. We will pledge ourselves to be people who, through the power of the Eucharist, are called to transform the world.

This session is required for families with young people in our First Communion and Confirmation programs and strongly encouraged for *all* GIFT families. Couples and single adults are welcome to come as our guests. After our meal and opening you will have the opportunity to reflect on and discuss the Sacrament of Eucharist with other adults. We hope you can join us!

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

T4S

November 6 Meeting to Pack Boxes of Joy



Teens in grades 7-12 are invited to an "assemble and pack" T4S session on Monday evening, November 6, 7:30-8:45 in a Saint Ann Parish Center classroom. Come put together Boxes of Joy, Christmas shoeboxes filled with small gifts, reminders of Christ's love, which will be sent to

Guatemala, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, Grenada, and other developing countries. For some impoverished children these may be the only Christmas gifts they will receive. Please plan to be with us, teens, and bring a friend!

The teens welcome donations (new items only, please) from parishioners who would like to be part of this Cross Catholic Outreach project. You will find suggestions in the box at right. As you may have read in October's newsletter, 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.

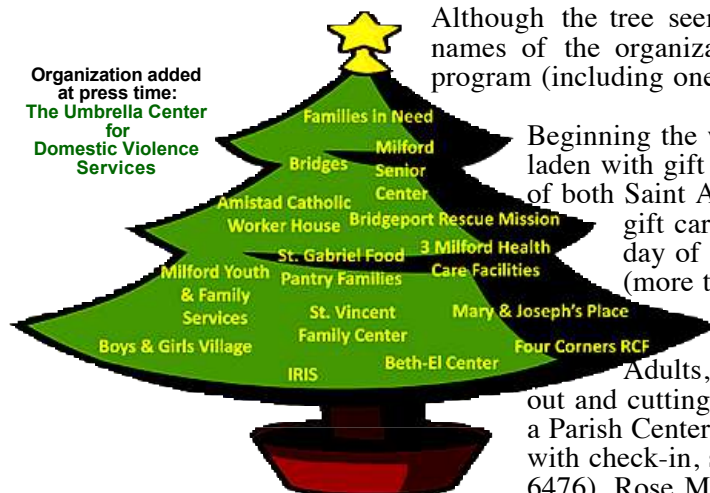
**Wish List for Box of Joy Donations
(Small enough to fit into a shoebox!)**

- Balls, Deflated balls w/pump*
- Dolls, Plush animals, Hand-held toys*
- Cars, Trucks, Boats*
- Mini puzzles, Binoculars, Jump ropes*
- Harmonica, Yo-yo, Craft kit*
- Pencils, Erasers, Pencil Sharpeners*
- Crayons, Rulers, Notepads, Stickers*
- Coloring books, Pencil case*
- Socks, Shorts, Underwear*
- Simple dress, Shirt, Hat, Wrist watch*
- Drawstring bag, LED flashlight*
- Sewing kit, Purse, Wallet, Rosary*
- Jewelry, Sunglasses, Hair accessories*
- Hard candy (sealed in Ziploc bag)*
- No chocolate or Jolly Ranchers**

Saint Raphael Christmas Giving Program 2023

The pudgy little "Christmas tree that could" is back, marking the beginning of this year's Christmas Giving Program.

Although the tree seems less than majestic, its true beauty is in its ornaments, the names of the organizations/families the parish plans to help through this year's program (including one added just as we were going to press).



Organization added
at press time:
The Umbrella Center
for
Domestic Violence
Services

Beginning the weekend of November 25/26 you will find a Christmas tree laden with gift tag ornaments - and some additional gift tags - near the doors of both Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel churches. Each tag will list an item or a gift card meant for someone in need or intended to brighten the day of a resident in a health care facility. Please take a gift tag (more than one, if you can) and return the gift(s), with tag(s) attached, by December 10, to be delivered by Christmas.

Adults, teens and children, we'd appreciate your help in writing out and cutting out gift tag ornaments. (Meet Monday, 11/20, 6:30 p.m. in a Parish Center classroom - all are welcome!) We'll need weekend help, too, with check-in, sorting, delivery. Questions? Contact Kathleen (203-606-6476), Rose Marie (203-378-5508) or Maria (as above). Thank you!

Honor the Saints, Remember Our Loved Ones, Give Thanks to the Lord

Our busy November calendar begins with All Saints Day, followed by the very special Mass of Remembrance on Sunday, the 5th. Also on the schedule, two concerts featuring two choirs and singer/songwriter Steve Angrisano. (Get your tickets early!)



Look inside for details on our Advent Luncheon, an annual event where you provide your own ticket in response to Jesus' commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you."

Take a copy of our new Advent booklet, available later this month, reflections for the season that begins December 3rd.

Have a beautiful Thanksgiving. Praise and thank God for his many blessings and pray for the gift of his 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

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Happy Thanksgiving!



In Memoriam

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Raymond Tarzia Walter Kras, Jr.
Bridget Knudsen Steven Rose
Lorretta Dugan Francis Fanzutti
Carol Schuler Mark Kuba
Daniel Massey Joseph DiDia
Joseph Langdon, Jr
Tereza de Jesus Santiago Brito

May they be welcomed into the peace and happiness of everlasting life in heaven.

Bereavement Support Sunday, November 12



If you are struggling to cope with the death of someone you love, please consider meeting with our bereavement support group on Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel.

Let us walk with you on that very difficult road from grief to healing. If you have questions or need additional information, call Joanne (203-877-4020). May God give you peace.

Social Gathering Team Meeting
Tuesday, November 14, 6:30 p.m.
Saint Ann Rectory

Fall Back - Adjust Your Clocks
Daylight Saving Time Ends
at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 5

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Braxton Sean Swan
Nicholas Jordyn Gonzalez
Ava Ablan Milburn



Braxton was baptized on Saturday, October 14 at Saint Ann Church. Nicholas and Ava received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, October 15 at Saint Gabriel Church. May God bless you, little ones. Live always in the light of His love.

Early Holiday Deadline for December's Newsletter

Please submit your news, notes, comments and suggestions for the December issue of *The Parish Press* by Thursday, November 9. Send them via email to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks very much.



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 23
9:00 a.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

Father all-powerful, your gifts of love are countless and your goodness infinite; as we come before you on Thanksgiving Day with gratitude for your kindness, open our hearts to have concern for every man, woman, and child, so that we may share your gifts in loving service.