



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

December 2023



## Don't Miss the Christmas Fair!

**Saturday, December 2**

**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Saint Ann Parish Center**

The Saturday Spectacular that is the parish Christmas Fair returns on December 2. Come with friends, meet old friends, make new friends (and don't forget your Christmas list!) as you stroll through the beautifully decorated Parish Center. Look for skilled artisans, creative crafters, 3rd party vendors and, of course, that jolly old elf S. Claus.

Come early. Snack or dine at the food court. Check out every space - there are great gift possibilities beyond the main hall. Stop at the bakery, its shelves stocked with delectable goodies, or the Card and Gift Shop, where you'll find Scrip cards and other stocking stuffers. And don't miss the raffle room with its array of stunning, charming and "I've got to have this!" items. Take a chance - take several. You might go home a winner. And thank you for supporting this major parish fundraiser.

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

**Friday, December 8**

**Holy Day Masses**

**8:00 a.m.**

**Saint Ann Church**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Saint Gabriel Church**

On this feast we honor Mary Immaculate, patroness of the United States.



Please take a copy of *Draw Near!*, a booklet of prayers and reflections, an inspiring guide as you journey through Advent and Christmas. You will find copies at the doors of both of our beautiful churches.



## Lighting the Advent Wreath

As we light the candles on the Advent wreath we mark our journey to Christmas and the coming of the Lord, the Light of the World. Besides representing the "light that shines in the darkness" (John 1:5) each of the candles has a specific, symbolic meaning.

The purple candle we light on this First Sunday of Advent, "The Prophet's Candle," is a symbol of hope. Old Testament prophets waited in hope for the coming of the Messiah.



## Christmas Schedule

### Confessions

Monday, December 18

10:00-10:30 a.m. at Saint Ann

Tuesday, December 19

3:00-3:30 p.m. at Saint Gabriel

Wednesday, December 20

7:00-7:30 p.m. at Saint Ann

Saturday, December 23

3:00-3:30 p.m. at Saint Gabriel

### Christmas Masses

#### Christmas Vigil

**Sunday, December 24**

4:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel

4:00 p.m. at Saint Ann

8:00 p.m. at Saint Ann

#### Christmas Day

**Monday, December 25**

9:30 a.m. at Saint Ann

11:00 a.m. at Saint Gabriel

## The Giving Trees are up - Ornaments are Available!

Through the spirit of Christmas and the loving generosity of our parishioners, every ornament on the Giving Trees that you see in the vestibules of both churches can become a gift for someone in need or a day-brightener for a resident of a health care facility.

Please take an ornament (more than one if you can) and return the requested gift/gift card, with the ornament attached, on the weekends of December 2/3 and 9/10\* (We want to be sure our elves can make deliveries by Christmas!)

\*You may use the following direct-ship link to the holiday wish list registry for gifts for Boys & Girls Village: <https://www.myregistry.com/organization/bgv-toy-drive-2023-milford-ct/3955572/giftlist>.

To be part of CGPC (Christmas Giving Program Crew) - checking gifts in, sorting them for delivery, perhaps acting as a delivery elf - or if you have any questions please contact Kathleen ([kbuchanan203@gmail.com](mailto:kbuchanan203@gmail.com)), Rose Marie (203-378-5508) or Maria ([atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598). Thank you sincerely for your kindness.



## The Great Missalette Exchange, December 1 at Saint Ann Church

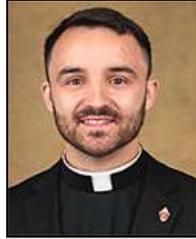
Advent, the season of preparation for Christmas and for Christ's second coming at the end of time, also marks the beginning of the Church's liturgical year. The *Breaking Bread 2024* missalettes are here and it's time for the Great Exchange! Please help remove the old books from their covers and insert the new ones on Friday, December 1 at 8:45, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Ann's. Great group. Great fun. Thanks a lot!



## Tinto Council #47 Sponsoring a Seminarian

For the Knights of Columbus, and for Tinto Council #47 of Saint Raphael Parish in particular, charity means supporting an incredible variety of projects, within the parish and the City of Milford. As part of the K of C's Faith in Action mission Council #47 recently reached out to the Archdiocese of Hartford's Vocation Program and is now sponsoring a seminarian. Mitchell Kendrioski. With the sponsorship the Council made a commitment to provide moral, financial and spiritual support to Mitchell at all stages of his formation.

Mitchell grew up in Guilford, graduated from Xavier High School in Middletown, studied Electro-mechanical Engineering at Boston's Wentworth Institute of Engineering for five years, then worked for two years as a software engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton. He had begun to "practice his faith again" while studying in Boston, but "never thought he'd enter seminary," which he did in 2019. He studied philosophy at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit (at that point the farthest west he had ever traveled) and is currently continuing his formation a bit farther west at Saint Paul Seminary in Minnesota. Mitchell is an avid sports fan (Yankees and Patriots), played three years of college soccer, and enjoys chess, pinochle, spades, hearts and euchre.



Mitchell Kendrioski

The Knights of Tinto Council #47 invite and encourage parishioners to join them in supporting Mitchell on his journey to priesthood. Please keep him in your prayers. Drop him a card, perhaps, or a note of encouragement at Saint Paul Seminary, 2260 Summit Ave., St. Paul, MN 55105. Thank you.

## ChosenCon in Dallas, TX, *The Chosen* in Milford, CT

More than 3500 fans, including parishioner Rose Cox, her daughter Marie and daughter-in-law Sue, were in Dallas, TX in mid-October for ChosenCon, a celebration of *The Chosen*, the extremely popular film series that depicts the life and ministry of Jesus through the eyes of His followers: a charismatic fisherman drowning in debt, a troubled woman wrestling with real demons, a gifted young man ostracized by his family. Jesus reaches all of them, and many more, as He works His first miracles. The series was created and co-written by filmmaker Dallas Jenkins.

ChosenCon, a two-day conference, gathered fans from around the world, some from as far as Australia and South Korea. Rose, Marie and Sue met the people behind the show, attended panel discussions and got an exclusive first look at *The Chosen's* upcoming and highly anticipated Season 4. They had access to meet-and-greets with Dallas Jenkins (see the photo below), cast members, workers and crew. It was, Rose told our reporter, "an amazing weekend! We were so blessed to have been there!"



The Cox *Chosen* fans (l-r): Sue, Rose and Marie with Dallas Jenkins at ChosenCon in October.

## Chosen Watch Parties on the Calendar

### *Christmas With The Chosen*

(2 short films created by Dallas Jenkins: *The Messenger* and *The Shepherd*) will be shown at  
The Saint Ann Parish Center  
Sunday, December 17 st 2:30 p.m.  
Everyone is invited!

### *I Have Called You by Name*

(Episode 1 of *The Chosen*, Season 1) will be shown at  
The Saint Ann Parish Center  
Sunday, January 7, 2:30-4:30 p.,m.  
Everyone is invited!  
Come and See!

## Donna's Creation Care Corner Caring for God's Earth at Christmas

As we celebrate the wondrous gift of the Christ Child this Christmas we exchange presents and enjoy wonderful holiday meals. Downsides: We waste food; and tons of wrapping paper, ribbons and bows, wind up in our landfills. As Catholics we are called to take care of God's Earth.

To cut down on food waste we can: **1.** Buy it loose! Purchase what we need rather than "cheaper" huge bags with extra plastic. And, bring our own bags when we shop. **2.** Have a plan! Be realistic, not emotional, about what we need. **3.** Love the leftovers! They can be another dinner, or sandwiches, soups, smoothies. **4.** Compost! Peelings, vegetables, fruits go into the compost bin. **5.** Donate your savings to our food pantry!

To cut back on paper waste: **1.** Reuse gift wrap, gift bags. **2.** Upcycle newspapers, paper bags, maps, magazine pages, etc. into gift wrap. Embellish with last year's bows and ribbons. **3.** Use Mason jars or reusable tote bags - bonus gifts for recipients. **4.** Give memberships, park passes, tickets, gift cards/certificates.

Let our actions reflect our love for our lovely, earthly home.

## An Update from *Protect Connecticut's Children*

We held a very enthusiastic first meeting via Zoom on November 9. The purpose was to inform and educate parishioners about the dangers of Gender Ideology. We presented Abigail Shrier's video, *Why Girls Become Boys*, about the exponential growth of gender dysphoria among pre-teen and teenage girls caused by social media and the favorable presentation of these ideas within the schools. The discussion that followed focused on what is happening in our schools and within our government. Participants were especially concerned about Attorney General Tong's endorsing policies that keep parents in the dark about their children's dysphoria.

We have begun to collaborate with other groups with like missions in Missouri, California, Guilford and Woodbridge CT. Our mission is to *Save our precious children from the evil of Gender Ideology through education and activation of parents, grandparents, and parishioners.*

We will meet again via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 7. Everyone interested is welcome to join us at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3750816663>.

**The Sacraments:  
Confirmation**

Sunday, December 10  
12:00 to 2:15 pm

or

Tuesday, December 12  
6:00 to 8:15 pm

Saint Ann Parish Center  
(Sessions begin with pizza  
in the Parish Center Hall.)

**GIFT - Growing In Faith Together  
December - The Sacraments: Confirmation**

During this month's sessions we will explore the Sacrament of Confirmation, which, together with Baptism and Eucharist, form the Sacraments of Initiation. Reception of this Sacrament completes our initiation into the Catholic Church.

In the Sacrament of Confirmation, we will learn, the baptized person is "sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit" and strengthened for service to the Body of Christ. We will see how this Sacrament is our individual Pentecost.

We will also look at the Rite of Confirmation, the signs, symbols, words and actions of the liturgy than convey the meaning of this beautiful Sacrament. We will focus in particular on the Renewal of Baptismal promises, the Laying on of hands, and the Anointing with chrism (holy oil).

Please plan to be with us. The session is required for Confirmation candidates with a parent/guardian but we encourage all GIFT families to join us. We welcome single adults and couples as our guests. You will learn more about the Sacrament and have the opportunity for discussion with other adults. For questions or additional information contact Maria, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

**Congratulations to the Confirmandi!**

Twelve parish teens received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, October 29 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford. Archbishop Leonard Blair, Principal Celebrant, anointed our candidates:



*Charlotte Francis of Assisi Baldieri  
Alexandra Bernadette Soubrious Cooper  
Jon John Bosco Dimaya  
Gabriel Greenwood  
Eva Cecilia Kubik  
Molly Teresa of Calcutta Lynch  
Austin Augustine Moral  
Owsley Cecilia Quinn  
Aidan Michael Rascati  
Madison Mary Magdalene Rascati  
Angelina Francis of Assisi Riggione-Hartmann  
Christian Michael Tabra*

During a prayer service on Sunday, November 7, also at the Cathedral, the Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne, Coadjutor Archbishop of Hartford, anointed three parish adults:

*Rebecca Rose of Lima Dearborn  
Vanessa Anne Dearborn  
Myriam Teresa of Avila Jean*

Let us pray with and for the newly confirmed  
*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your  
faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.*

**Thank You, Fall Cleanup Team!**

To paraphrase Gypsy's Mama Rose, you were swell! You were great! You were there on a drizzly Friday morning with everything we asked for - clippers, rakes, gloves, gardening tools, and your smiles and enthusiasm.

The only thing better than the terrific results of your hard work (Just look at the grounds around Saint Ann Church!!) was feeling your sense of community, all of you working together for the good of Saint Raphael Parish. Thank you, and God bless.

**First Reconciliation at Saint Gabriel Church  
Saturday, December 9, 1:00 p.m.**

Children in the Saint Raphael sacramental program will meet Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday, December 9 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel Church. Please keep these little ones, their families and their catechists in your prayers on this very special occasion.



**GIFT Advent/Christmas Open House and Celebration  
Tuesday, December 19 (anytime between 6 and 8 p.m.)  
Saint Ann Parish Center**

GIFT families and their guests are invited to pause a bit in the flurry of pre-Christmas activities to remember the true reason and meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons. There will be something for everyone at this celebration/open house, including pizza and snacks!

You will also enjoy Advent wreath and Nativity crafts, a Jesse Tree, puzzles for the Advent and Christmas seasons, an Advent video from *Busted Halo*, coloring sheets and an opportunity to design and create religious cards for parishioners who are ill or homebound. Listen to the Bible story of Jesus' birth, then gather for the traditional closing, Christmas carols around the crèche.



**35 Christmas Boxes of Joy Are On Their Way!**

Thanks to the hard work of our parish teens and the kindness of many parishioners, 35 Boxes of Joy are on their way, bringing some Christmas magic to boys and girls in developing countries.

At the Cross Catholic Screening Center in Doral, FL each box will be matched with the child who will receive it, and a Story of Jesus booklet in the child's language will be tucked inside. All of our boxes included Christmas cards signed by our teens and by children in the GIFT program. Girls and boys who receive them will know they came from Saint Raphael Parish in Milford, CT.

Please continue to pray for the recipient children and their families. Thank you for helping to spread Christmas joy one box at a time!

**Enjoy Coffee And on Saturday and Sunday,  
December 9 and 10, after all the Masses.**

## Christmas Fair, Advent Begins, We Await the Coming of Our Savior

The festive glitter of the Christmas Fair on December's first Saturday gives way to the soft light of the Advent wreath's first candle on December 3. We celebrate two Holy Days this month and continue our long-held tradition of bringing Christmas joy to people in need.



Meet the seminarian Tinto Council #47 is supporting and mark the dates for GIFT's Advent celebration and for a screening of *Christmas With The Chosen*, created by Dallas Jenkins.

During this Advent season, we, like the Magi, are on a journey, following the star that has risen in the east and will lead us to Our Savior. May you know God's peace and joy this Christmas and throughout the new year.

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

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## *Gloria In Excelsis Deo!*

### **In Memoriam**

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Mary Jane Kosa Nate Kuhlman  
Janet Romano Russell Pisacane  
Eric Furtado Paul Dempsey

May they rejoice forever in the presence of the Lord, and may their families take comfort in knowing that we share in their sorrow.

### **Bereavement Support Sunday, December 10**



Our Bereavement Support Group will meet on Sunday afternoon, December 10 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. If you are grieving the death of a loved one we invite you to join us. Share your thoughts and feelings with others who have known the pain of loss.

If you have questions or if you would like further information please call Joanne (203-877-4020).

### **Help Decorate Saint Ann's for Christmas!**



Please join us after the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, December 24. Make our beautiful church reflect the joy of the season. Thank you.

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

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

. . . the newest member of our parish family,  
Christopher Rea, Jr.

who was baptized in October. God's warmest blessings on you, Christopher, and on your family.



### **Love and Best Wishes`**



as you begin your married life together. . .  
Guillermo and Allison (Shea) Everett  
who were married at Saint Gabriel Church on Saturday, November 11. Congratulations, newlyweds! May you always share love and laughter.

**First Saturday Fatima Rosary**  
**December 2, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Saint Ann Church**



**Monday, January 1**  
**Solemnity of Mary,**  
**The Mother of God**  
**(No Vigil Mass)**  
**Holy Day Masses**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Saint Ann Church**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Saint Gabriel Church**