



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

January 2024



## The Saint Ann Choir Presents A Christmas Concert

Friday evening, December 29

7:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Church



You are cordially invited to the choir's concert of Christmas music, an annual gift to the parish. Come with your family and friends and let your hearts thrill to the beautiful music of the season.

*Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plain.*



## Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God Monday, January 1

Confessions: Saturday, December 30  
3:00 - 3:30 p.m., Saint Ann Church

### Holy Day Masses

9:30 a.m. at Saint Ann's

11:00 a.m. at Saint Gabriel's

(No Vigil Mass on New Year's Eve)

Mary's feast is both a Solemnity and a Holy Day, but because it falls on a Monday the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended.

## T4S to Host Drive-Thru Saturday on January 27

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Saint Ann Parking Lot

In support of Souper Bowl of Caring, the annual youth-organized effort to fight poverty and hunger in our local community, Teens for Service (T4S) will host Drive-Thru Saturday on January 27 in the Saint Ann parking lot between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.



What to bring when you drive through? Non-perishable food items, paper goods and personal hygiene products for this year's recipients: the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, Beth-El Center, Amistad Catholic Worker House and the Milford Food Bank. (Check January's weekly bulletins for each organization's most-needed items.) Drive into the parking lot up to the Parish Center's glass doors and pop your trunk. Our hard-working teens will unload your donations and sort them for delivery. Thank you in advance for your kind and generous support.

## Mark January 13/14 on Your Calendars: The First Coffee And Weekend of the Year



Come share your holiday stories and sample the taste treats at Coffee And after all the Masses on Saturday and Sunday, January 13/14. Our gracious Coffee And crews offer freshly brewed coffee as well as tea, soft drinks - wine, too, if you come in the afternoon! Meet the parish Bakers and Money Counters who will be on hand this month hoping for volunteers to join them in their ministries.

The Parish Gift Shop will be open (in the Parish Center) before and after Masses. You'll want to check out the shop's extensive new inventory of hard-to-find greeting cards at very reasonable prices. You can also purchase or order Scrip cards from hundreds of local and online merchants. Buying Scrip cards is a great way to support the parish.

## Come See *The Chosen* Sunday, January 7, 2:30 p.m. Parish Center Hall



Join us on January 7 for Season 1, Episodes 1 and 2 of the immensely popular series, *The Chosen*. Come and see Jesus through the eyes of the people who met him (like Simon, seen at left), who walked with him, whose lives were changed forever and who in turn changed the world.

Creators of the series have achieved a unique balance between faithfulness to the Gospels and imaginative storytelling. Backstories, some characters and dialogue have been added to bring Jesus and his followers to life, but the pre-show disclaimer encourages viewers to read the show's source material: the Gospels.

The January presentation, a "preview of possibilities," includes Season One's first two episodes, *I Have Called You By Name* and *Shabbat*. We can screen additional episodes, from Season 1 and beyond, depending on audience reaction.

If you have questions or would like additional details, please call Rose (203-878-6427) or Cindy (203-874-0746). We look forward to seeing you at the "Chosen Watch Party."

## Excerpts from the December 12, 2023 Statement on Ending Anti-Semitism issued by the Bishops of Connecticut

In recent weeks we have seen a disturbing and unacceptable emergence of anti-Semitism unleashed in many corners of our state and country. These demonstrations, speeches, and acts of intimidation against the Jewish people are profoundly evil and unacceptable.

While there should be civil discourse on issues concerning events at home and abroad, no allowances should be made to those who have taken to the streets, who intimidate others in the classroom, through social media, or in anonymous attacks against the Jewish people.

We know too well how the unthinkable can become acceptable if we are silent. Sadly, many of our Jewish brothers and sisters now live in fear to attend school, to speak freely in the public square, or face ostracism in their work or daily affairs.

We urge Catholics to pray for Jews everywhere, stand with them against those who wish them harm in words or deeds and call upon our elected leaders to speak and act forcefully to stop this practice in our midst.

We invite everyone to stand with Jews throughout our country and world. No one should feel threatened at any level for their religious beliefs. We urge political leaders to find solutions in the Middle East that satisfy the aspirations of both Israelis and Palestinians in that tormented part of our world.

Any form of discrimination, bigotry, racial animus against any person or group cannot be tolerated.

*Most Reverend Leonard P Blair, Archbishop of Hartford*

*Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of Bridgeport*

*Most Reverend Michael R. Cote, Bishop of Norwich*

*Most Reverend P. Paul Chomnycky, OSBM*

*Eparch of Stamford*

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



The group held its second successful meeting via Zoom on Thursday evening, December 7. Discussion focused on three significant realizations:

1. Gender ideology has its foundation in Marxism, a body of doctrine that is inconsistent with Christian teachings.
2. Other organizations, like [www.protectourkidsnow.org](http://www.protectourkidsnow.org) in California, are doing similar work.
3. Connecticut schools continue to promote gender ideology through libraries and curriculum.

We watched *The Triple Threat*, a short film produced by [www.protectourkidsnow.org](http://www.protectourkidsnow.org) and an interview on Fox News. The focus of the interview was a Granby CT parent who took his children out of the public school because of its Gender Ideology teachings that were hidden from parents. Members shared a list from [www.momsforamerica.us](http://www.momsforamerica.us) of action steps parents can take to protect their children. Our group continues to connect with organizations for collaboration.

It is our mission to *Save our precious children from the evil of Gender Ideology through education and activation of parents, grandparents, and parishioners.* When we stand together as a community we will be strong.

We meet next via Zoom on January 17 at 7:00 p.m. at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3750816663>. Contact Wally Hauck at [wally@wallyhauck.com](mailto:wally@wallyhauck.com) or 203-874-8484 if you have questions or would like additional information.

### **Donna's Creation Care Corner** **Try Composting:** **Create Black Gold at Home**

God, the Master Gardener, gets to work in the fall in forests and other wild places, transforming all the fallen leaves into a valuable fertilizer that enriches the soil for His garden of spring blossoms. God composts.

We can do the same, turning our food scraps, leaves and grass clippings into what farmers call "black gold" - an abundantly rich soil full of nutrients for gardening. Composting at home also means keeping our organic discards out of the municipal waste stream. Other benefits from at home composting:

\*Lessens Greenhouse Gases: In a landfill compost waste gets buried under massive amounts of often toxic trash, thus creating potent greenhouse gases.

\*Improves Soil Health/Lessens Erosion: Compost contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium, which increase the soil's water retention capacity, productivity and resilience.

\*Conserves Water: Thus minimizing the amount of irrigation we need for lawns and gardens.

\* Reduces Personal Food Waste: Americans waste an alarming amount of food, especially produce, every month. When we compost we tend not to waste so much and tend to take care that even the lowly banana peel - something we cannot consume - gets tossed into the compost pile, not into the garbage.

For details and/or backup statistics about home composting reach out to Donna DiMassa at [dm.dimassa@prodigy.net](mailto:dm.dimassa@prodigy.net) or 203-444-4289.



## First Reconciliation at Saint Gabriel Church

On Saturday, December 9, seventeen young parishioners met Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this beautiful Sacrament of Healing they came to know the loving mercy of our awesome God. May they remain close to the Lord throughout their lives. Congratulations to:

Meadow Bottigliero	Jessie Kirkham	Hudson Murphy
Natalia Eusebio	Greydon Lindsey	Huxley Quinn
Gabriel Forte	Logan Maurutis	April Quintero
Brayden Jacob	Ryan Mitchell	Marco Quintero
Rylan Jacob	Emmet Murphy	Isabella Santos
Chloe Kendall		Magdalene Twidwell

## GIFT Sacramental Program Dates

**Confirmation**  
**The Nicene Creed**  
 Sunday, January 7  
 12:30-2:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, January 9  
 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Required for candidates  
 Saint Ann Parish Center  
 501 Naugatuck Avenue.

## GIFT for January

### Child Lures and Teen Lures Prevention Program

#### Child Lures and Teen Lures Sessions in Parish Center Classrooms

Sunday, January 21  
 12:00 noon -1:30 p.m.

or

Tuesday, January 23  
 6:00-7:30 p.m.

The Archdiocese of Hartford continues to require that families with children and teens registered in our GIFT program (Grade 1 through Confirmation Program) participate in the Child Lures or Teen Lures Prevention programs, *even if they have attended in previous years*. Even one year can make a difference in level of understanding.

Child Lures is designed for children through grade 6 with a parent/guardian. Teen Lures is designed for preteens/teens grade 7 or older with a parent/guardian.

These age-appropriate programs introduce personal safety to children and teens and empower them to detect, avoid, and report inappropriate behaviors and unsafe situations. The 2024 in-person dates for the Child Lures and Teen Lures programs are posted at left.

We will be meeting in Parish Center classrooms.

All adults will receive a parent guide to help with continued reinforcement at home of these important personal safety tips. If you have questions, please contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net).

### Coffee And Schedule for 2024

Please mark your calendars.  
 Experience has taught us, however,  
 that dates are subject to change!

- January 13/14 (Meet the Bakers and Money Counters)
- February 10/11 (Get ready for Mardi Gras!)
- March 10/11 (Careful - the Ides are coming!)
- April 13/14 (Spring is in the air.)
- May 18/19 (Donations for Boys & Girls Village)
- June 8/9 (Don't forget Dad on his day - coming soon!)
- July 13/14 (Celebrate Bastille Day!)
- August 10/11 (Hope you're having a good summer!)
- September 14/15 (Everybody's back to school.)
- October 12/13 (Leaves are beginning to turn)
- November 9/10 (Donations for Wounded Warrior Project)
- December 14/15 (Do I hear sleigh bells?)

### We Have the Numbers from the Christmas Fair

December 2 was a really good day for the Saint Raphael Parish Christmas Fair - the numbers say so. Here's the breakdown:

Tag Sale	\$ 303
Bakery	\$ 908
Café	\$ 601
Raffle	\$ 2,662
Silent Auction	\$ 441
Saturday Total	\$ 4,985
Vendor Fees	\$ 1,750
Grand Total	\$ 6,735

Heartfelt thanks to our outstanding volunteers. You are, in a word SPECTACULAR. May God bless you for your dedication to Saint Raphael Parish.

### A New Year's Day Prayer

*Dear brothers and sisters, it is only by pondering in the heart, in other words, by piecing together and finding unity in all we experience, that, following Mary, we can penetrate the mystery of a God who was made man out of love and who calls us to follow him on the path of love; a love to be expressed daily by generous service to the brethren.*

*May the new year which we are confidently beginning today be a time in which to advance in that knowledge of the heart, which is the wisdom of saints.*

*Let us pray, as we heard in the First Reading, that the Lord may "make his face to shine" upon us, "and be gracious" to us (Nm 6: 24-27) and bless us.*

*We may be certain of it: if we never tire of seeking his Face, if we never give in to the temptation of discouragement and doubt, if also among the many difficulties we encounter we always remain anchored to him, we will experience the power of his love and his mercy.*

*May the fragile Child who today the Virgin shows to the world make us peacemakers, witnesses of him, the Prince of Peace. Amen!*

Pope Benedict XVI  
 January 1, 2008

### The Feast of the Epiphany - January 7

Magi come from the East bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the newborn king.



## Happy New Calendar Year!

In December, as Advent began, we marked the beginning of a new Liturgical Year. Another month, another new year's celebration - Welcome to 2024. What's happening at Saint Raphael Parish?

The year begins with the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, Two Holy Day Masses will be offered, but because the

**2024**

feast falls on a Monday this year the obligation to attend Mass has been suspended.

Mark January 27 as Drive-Thru Saturday for 2024's Souper Bowl of Caring. Details inside - prepare to pop your trunk! And congratulations to our Christmas Fair team, and to the 17 young people who made First Reconciliation in December.

God's warmest blessings on you and yours throughout the new year.

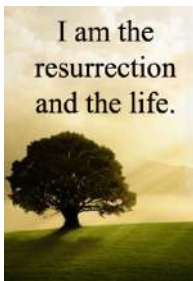
### ***The Parish Press***

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

## *Happy New Year!*



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

### **In Memoriam**

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

JoAnn Marie Foley    Roberta Cerrone  
Mary Lou O'Connell    Joan Zuscin  
Miriam Bull    Dorothy Doyle  
Richard DelVecchio    Barbara Cupole  
Russell Edwards, Sr.    Marie Speer  
Sister Mauryeen O'Brien, O.P.  
John Brenenstuh  
John "Jack" O'Connell

May they behold the face of Christ, who is the resurrection and the life.

### **Bereavement Support Sunday, January 14**



The parish Bereavement Support Group will meet on Sunday, January 14 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. The journey from grief to healing can be long and painful. If you are struggling because of the death of someone you love we invite you to share the burdens of your journey with others who have traveled that difficult road.

You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you have questions or need further information.

### **February Newsletter Information Due January 12**

News, notes, photos and comments for February's *Parish Press* are due in our editorial offices by Friday, January 12. Send them to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks very much!

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

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Aurelio Lopez  
and  
Hudson Zoufaly



who were baptized on Sunday, December 17 at Saint Gabriel Church. You have received the light of Christ, Aurelio and Hudson. May that light guide you all the days of your life.

**First Saturday Fatima Rosary**  
**January 6, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Saint Ann Church**

**Last Thursday of the Month Evening Rosary**  
**Pray with the Knights of Columbus**  
**January 25, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Saint Ann Parish Center**

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

### **Parish Policy for Daily Mass During Snowstorms**

If schools in Milford are *closed* or *delayed* because of adverse weather conditions, we follow their lead.

**Be aware, then, that daily Mass will not be celebrated if Milford public schools are closed or have a delayed opening.** We want all members of the parish family to be safe. Any Mass intentions will be rescheduled.