



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family  
Milford, Connecticut

March 2024



## Saint Raphael Parish Lenten Mission *In These Days of Lenten Journey* Ricky Manalo, CSP - Composer, Teacher, Paulist Priest

Father Ricky Manalo brings his dynamic presence and beautiful music to Saint Raphael Parish in his aptly titled mission, *In These Days of Lenten Journey*, which begins on Sunday, March 10. Each presentation (See schedule at right.) builds on the other, deepening our spiritual life and leading us through Lent's prayer and fasting to the joyous celebration of Easter. The Saint Ann Choir will join Father in some of his now-familiar hymns, like *Beyond the Days*; *Holy Mary, Revealing Your Son*; and *The God of All Grace*.

Fr. Ricky Manalo

**Sunday, March 10**  
4:00 p.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church

**Monday March 11**  
and  
**Tuesday, March 12**  
7:00 p.m.  
Saint Ann Church

Meet Father Manalo, theologian, author and award-winning composer, when he preaches at all the Masses on mission weekend, and plan to be with us for this very special Lenten event.

### Other Ways to Turn to the Lord on Our Lenten Journey

#### Seasonal Booklets

Care Notes, Prayer Notes and, perhaps, Fr. Joe Sica's classic *The Season for Healing Hearts*, are at the church doors.

#### Penitential Psalms for Prayer and Meditation in March

- 51: Prayer of an Afflicted Sinner
- 102: Prayer in Time of Distress
- 130: Prayer for Pardon and Mercy
- 143: A Prayer in Distress



#### Stations of the Cross

- Fridays at 3:00 p.m.  
Saint Ann Church (livestreamed)  
March 1  
All of You Drink of This  
March 8  
For Today's Disciples  
March 15  
Come to Me, All of You (In the Voice of Christ)  
Written by Amy Ekeh, Saint Raphael parishioner  
March 22  
Mary's Way of the Cross

#### Teen-Led Stations for people of all ages

- Friday, March 8  
6:30 p.m.  
Saint Ann Church (livestreamed)
- Friday, March 22  
6:30 p.m.  
St. Gabriel Church



#### Lenten Confessions

- Monday Evenings 6:00 - 6:30  
March 4 and 18  
Saint Ann Church  
March 11  
Saint Gabriel Church
- Holy Week  
Monday, March 25  
10:00 - 10:30 a.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church  
Tuesday, March 26  
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Saint Ann Church  
Wednesday, March 27  
7:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church

#### Celebration of the Easter Triduum

The summit of the Liturgical Year is the Easter Triduum — from the evening of Holy Thursday to the evening of Easter Sunday. Though chronologically three days, they are liturgically one day, unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. Our Lenten journey, which began in ashes, will end in Easter joy. The Triduum schedule appears at right. Due to parking and livestream considerations the Triduum liturgies will be celebrated at Saint Ann Church.

#### The Beauty of the Easter Vigil Liturgy

The Easter Vigil liturgy, the culmination of the Triduum, is "the greatest and most noble of all solemnities." On this holy night, the Church keeps watch, celebrating the resurrection of Christ in the sacraments and awaiting his return in glory.

During this year's Vigil we will welcome both catechumens and candidates into full Communion with the Catholic Church. Catechumens - those who have not yet been baptized - will be baptized with water blessed as part of the Vigil's Baptismal Liturgy. Both catechumens and candidates will receive the other Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and Eucharist.

#### Holy Thursday March 28

7:00 p.m.  
Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m.

#### Good Friday March 29

3:00 p.m.  
The Celebration of the Lord's Passion



#### Holy Saturday March 30

12 Noon  
Blessing of the Easter Food  
Saint Gabriel Church  
8:00 p.m.  
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

#### Easter Sunday March 31

Mass of the Lord's Resurrection  
8:00 a.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church  
9:30 a.m.  
Saint Ann Church  
11:00 a.m.  
Saint Gabriel Church



## The Chosen Continues with Season 2 Sunday Screenings: March 3 and 17

*The Chosen*, the immensely popular television series about the life and ministry of Jesus, is back by popular demand! Episodes from Season 2 will be aired in the Parish Center “theater” on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 until 4:30 beginning this month. On March 3 we present Episodes 1 and 2, *Thunder* and *I Saw You*. Coming on March 17, Episodes 3 and 4, *Matthew 4:24* and *The Perfect Opportunity*.

Admission is free. We hope you can join us. If you have questions please call Rose Cox (203-878-6427) or Cindy Sissick (203-874-0746) or email Maria (as on page 3).



### Together, We Can Make A Difference

**12 Noon - Rally at the CT State Capitol  
210 Capitol Ave., Hartford**

**1:00 p.m. - March for Life  
around Bushnell Park**

The 2024 Connecticut March for Life is a public event that is open to all pro-life people. To register and learn more, visit <https://marchforlife.org/connecticut/>.

The Knights of Columbus is sponsoring reduced fares for round-trip bus rides from locations throughout Connecticut. Sign up at [rally.co/ct-march-for-life](https://rally.co/ct-march-for-life).



### It's March - What's Your Favorite Sign of Spring?

For some the sight of robins means Spring has arrived. (And they've been spotted in Rivercliff, an actual driveway full.) Others look for a daffodil or a crocus, hiding timidly, perhaps, beneath our recent blanketing of snow. But for Elizabeth Simonetti and her dedicated crew, the first sign of spring arrived in early February, when Grillo Services delivered 8 yards of donated topsoil/compost for the parish Pantry Vegetable Garden! Elizabeth took photos, gave a shoutout to Grillo Services and asked Saint Isidore the Farmer for his intercession “as we start our new year!”



### Lisa D'Avignon and Sharon Lebowitz Commissioned as Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

During the 9:30 Mass on Sunday, February 4, Lisa D'Avignon and Sharon Lebowitz were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Sisters and long-time parishioners, both Lisa and Sharon had been moved when they witnessed or experienced Eucharistic visits to the homebound. That someone who was bedridden, or close to death, was able to receive the body of Christ is something neither has ever forgotten and they wanted to do that for others.



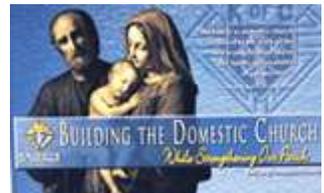
Lisa, Deacon George and Sharon

“God works slowly sometimes,” Sharon told our reporter, “but He had put that seed in my heart.” Lisa’s “strong desire to bring Holy Eucharist to others” remained and “once things began to return to normal” after Covid the sisters approached Deacon George, who guided them through the required training sessions. Father John commissioned them on that first Sunday in February.

Congratulations, Sharon and Lisa. May God bless you abundantly and may you find true joy in your ministry.

### A Knights of Columbus Initiative

The kiosk you've seen in the vestibule of Saint Ann Church - and one is coming soon to Saint Gabriel's - is part of an initiative of the Knights of Columbus to strengthen family life.



Providing exceptional religious education materials to all Catholics helps strengthen the domestic church (our families). The Building Our Domestic Church kiosks contain engaging, faith-based literature aimed at helping Catholics to live out the Church's vision for our families.

Each kiosk has copies of 15 different booklets with titles like *The Family Fully Alive*, *The Gift of Fatherhood*, *Prayer Time*, *A Spiritual Rosary for the Family* and *God's Plan for Love and Marriage*, to name but a few. The Kiosk was provided courtesy of the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council #47 of Saint Raphael Parish. Council members invite you to stop by, look at the booklets and take one or two home with you. May they help to strengthen the bonds of your families.

### Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick

Sunday, March 10  
12 Noon-2:15 p.m.

or

Tuesday, March 19  
6:00-8:15 p.m.

Sessions begin with a  
pizza dinner in  
the Parish Center.

### GIFT for March: Sacraments, Anointing of the Sick

We know from the Gospels of Jesus' compassion for the sick and how he healed them. After his ascension into heaven, the Church continued Jesus' ministry of healing. "Are any among you sick? They should summon the presbyters [priests] of the church, and they should pray over them and anoint (them) with oil in the name of the Lord, and the prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord will raise them up. If they have committed any sins, they will be forgiven. (James 5:14-15)

Since the Second Vatican Council the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick has undergone a transformation. 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." In the past, people often waited to the point of death before requesting this sacrament of healing. The Rite of Anointing tells us, however, that there is no need to wait until a person is at the point of death to receive the Sacrament. Pastoral care today emphasizes that it should be offered long before someone is in life's final stages, administered sooner rather than later when illness is of a serious or chronic nature.

The sacrament is now focused on trust in God, for whatever happens, and on healing, in whatever form that may take, physical (if it be God's will), emotional, spiritual. The primary effect of the Sacrament is a spiritual healing by which the sick person receives the Holy Spirit's gift of peace and courage to deal with the difficulties that accompany serious illness or the frailty of old age. (*United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*)

This March GIFT session will explore details of this Sacrament of Healing in age-appropriate ways and will consider how we can provide care and support for the sick. We hope parishioners will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about this often-misunderstood sacrament. If you have questions, please contact Maria Tomasetti, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (cell phone - voice or text).

### Register Soon for Summer VBS Camp SCUBA: *Diving into friendship with God*

Monday - Friday July 22 - July 26  
9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Saint Raphael Parish Center and Grounds

Campers ages 4-11 will enjoy a week of exciting undersea adventures at this summer's VBS Camp. The slate of Activity Centers includes Reef Recreation, Deep Bible Adventures, Tidal Treats and Sticky Scripture, to name just a few! Suggested donation: \$25 per camper (\$5 per day). Camp scholarships are available.



### We're Recruiting Camp Volunteers

#### Adults and Young People Ages 12 and Older

Exciting undersea adventures don't happen without a staff of terrific volunteers! We'll need:

- \* On-site help during camp week and assistance with camp set-up and decorations on some evenings during the weeks of July 8 and 15.
- \* Activity center leaders (adults and older teens) for Crafts & Imagination and Music/Dance as well as for the centers listed above.
- \* Activity center helpers for all of the above (adults and youth volunteers)
- \* Small group leaders (adults and teens grade 9 or older), assistant small group leaders (preteen volunteers)

To register, to volunteer, or for more details, contact Maria (as above). Adventures await!

### GIFT Sacramental Program Dates

#### First Communion

**Learning Session #2**  
Saturday, March 2  
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

#### Church and Sacristy Tours

Saturday, March 16  
1:00.-3:00 p.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

or

Saturday, March 23  
1:00.-3:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Church

Required for children  
with parent/guardian.

#### Confirmation

#### Catholic Social Teaching

Sunday, March 3  
12:30-2:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, March 5  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

For candidates only.  
Sessions begin with pizza.

All sessions at Parish Center  
501 Naugatuck Avenue.

### CRS Rice Bowl Lenten Almsgiving

Almsgiving, one of the three pillars of Lenten practice, is, according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, "a witness to fraternal charity" and "a work of justice pleasing to God." Donations to CRS Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' Lenten program, help provide lifesaving support to more than 250 million people in more than 120 countries around the world. 75% of what you give goes to support those efforts, while 25% supports hunger and poverty alleviation efforts in the Archdiocese of Hartford.



When you are ready, you can return your donations in several different ways:

- \* Put donations in the collection baskets at Mass (sealed rice bowl or labeled envelope).
- \* Bring your CRS Rice Bowl with donations to our March or April GIFT in-person sessions
- \* Return CRS Rice Bowl donations to our Parish Office Monday thru Friday during office hours
- \* Make a donation on the CRS Rice Bowl website online <https://www.crsricebowl.org>

May God bless you for your generosity.

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

## Parish Mission, Stations, Triduum, The Glory of the Resurrection

As March begins we are still on our Lenten journey, striving to change our hearts and turn them to the Lord. Walk with Jesus this month as he makes his painful way to Calvary. The schedule for Stations of the Cross is posted inside. Reflect on the Psalms. Pray with the Lenten booklets that you'll find at the church doors.

Don't miss Father Ricky Manalo's 3-day mission, *In These Days of Lenten Journey*, which begins on Sunday, March 10.

The Triduum, the high point of the Church year, celebrates the paschal mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. The Easter Vigil Gospel tells us that *the stone has been rolled back*. Christ is risen! Alleluia!



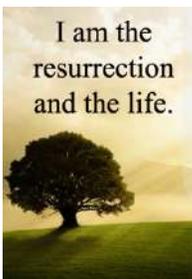
### ***The Parish Press***

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### **In Memoriam**



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Charles Grimshaw.  
Lisa Girard-Cloutier  
Eileen Daniel  
Anne Fox Gray  
Carmela DeGirolamo  
Edward Kaminski

May they find eternal peace in the kingdom of heaven.

### **Bereavement Support Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m.**



The Bereavement Support group will meet in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel on Sunday afternoon, March 10 at 2 o'clock. If you are struggling to cope with the death of someone you love please consider joining us. In this prayerful and confidential setting you may find the help you need on the difficult journey from grief to healing. Call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

### **Information for April's Newsletter Due March 15**

Got news to share with the parish? Notes from your ministry, perhaps, or great happenings within your family? Have a comment or suggestion for our staff? We'd love to hear from you! Please send your news, notes, photos, comments and suggestions to our editorial office [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you.

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



the newest member of our parish family,  
Leo Lisi

who received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, February 18 at Saint Gabriel Church. May you grow in grace and wisdom, Leo, and may you walk always in the light of God's love.

### **Coffee And March 9th and 10th**

Come sip and socialize at Saint Gabriel's Hall or the Saint Ann Parish Center after all the Masses on Parish Mission weekend. Treats courtesy of the parish bakers, conversation and camaraderie the hallmark of the parish family. Hope to see you there!



### **Card & Gift Shop Open During Coffee And!**

This Coffee And weekend come shop at the Shop – the Parish Card & Gift Shop, that is, your source for quality, reasonably priced greeting cards for all occasions.

We have Scrip cards, too – a great way to shop and a painless way to support the parish. Purchase cards from what we have in stock or order what you need from our extensive list of merchants. (Orders placed on the weekend will be filled by the following Friday.) All participating merchants give a percentage of your cards' value back to the parish, some as much as 10% or greater. Questions about Scrip? Please call our resident expert, Pat Dumas, at 203-878-2774. Thank you!