



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

May 2024



A First Saturday Visit to Four Corners Saturday, May 4, 11 a.m. to 12 noon



Come share Easter joy during our spring visit (11 a.m. - 12 noon) to Four Corners Residential Facility, 306 Naugatuck Avenue in Milford. Bring the sunshine of your smiles to the residents and join them for

Spring charades and a front-room sing-a-long of patriotic songs and old-time favorites. We invite children, teens, and adults to be with us for an hour of music and fun.

Connecting with friends old and new is something the residents really enjoy. What to talk about on a spring Saturday? Bird watching? Gardening? Baseball, perhaps? The Yankees were leading the AL East and the Mets were hot, but Boston was struggling, all as we went to press.

There will be other visits to health care facilities on the parish calendar and we hope you'll plan to be part of them. Watch for information in the newsletter and the weekly bulletin. Please contact Maria - 203-988-8598 (voice or text) or atomasetti@snet.net - for information and details. Thank you.



Parish

The Tag Sale Is On! Saturday, May 18, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saint Ann Parish Campus

Still have items to donate? It's not too late! Donations of new and/or gently used items (no glass or large furniture) will be accepted at the Parish Center entrance on Thursday, May 2, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 7, 10 a.m.-noon and on the final day, Thursday, May 9: 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Available to help with sorting, set-up, greeting, table monitoring? (Bless you!) Call MaryJo (203-710-0471 or 203-882-0695) or reach her via email at maryjodowns@gmail.com. Sign on to her team and help support a major parish fund-raiser. Thanks,

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

Pentecost, Easter and the Sacraments of Initiation

Pentecost marks the close of the Easter season, and what a joyous season it was! During Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil of the Holy Night, on the night when Christ "broke the prison-bars of death and rose victorious," seven people were fully initiated into the Catholic Church.

Four catechumens, Travis Jon Brazeau, D'Ana Mari Lascari, Patrick Dillon Mulligan, and Eleanor Stefani Rothberg were baptized with water blessed this night "so that all who have been buried with Christ by Baptism into death may rise again to life with him." Two candidates, Allyson Catherine Kelly and Tiffanie Elizabeth Rodenberg, who had been baptized in another Christian faith, made a Profession of Faith and came into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Julienne Marie Jean, a baptized Catholic, completed her initiation into the Catholic Church.

All seven were confirmed, "anointed with the Chrism of salvation," and all seven received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion.



Congratulations, Travis, D'Ana, Patrick, Eleanor, Allyson, Tiffanie and Julienne. Saint Raphael Parish embraces you and welcomes you with joy into the fullness of new life in Christ. May God bless you always.

May Celebrations

**The Ascension
of the Lord
Thursday, May 9**

Holy Day Masses

8:00 a.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

7:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Church



May Crownings

The month of May is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth and our mother. On Mother's Day, May 12, we will honor the Blessed Virgin by crowning the statues of Mary at each of our churches with a wreath of lovely flowers.

We invite you to join us after the 9:30 Mass at Saint Ann's when we will crown the statue of Mary that is outside the church. Gather round and sing with us!

Mary will be crowned at Saint Gabriel Church before the 11 o'clock Mass begins. As he has in the past, Tom Croteau will donate the crown of flowers in memory of his beloved sister, Michelle Papin. Jesse Kirkham will crown Mary and Huxley Quinn will bear the flower bouquet.

The Feast of Pentecost Sunday, May 19



The Feast of Pentecost, fifty days after the Feast of the Resurrection of the Lord, celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit, who came upon the Apostles and disciples with transforming fire, empowering them to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. Pentecost is the birthday of the Church.



George Romer with Archbishop Blair

Congratulations to George Romer Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation Recipient

Congratulations to George Romer, who received the Saint Joseph Medal of Appreciation during a moving prayer service at Hartford's Cathedral of Saint Joseph on Sunday afternoon, March 10.

Twelve years ago, in response to an announcement from Father Maroney, George volunteered to help Joe and Barbara Johnson at the Saint Gabriel's Food Pantry. Today, he is co-coordinator, along with Donna Hicks, of that very important outreach to people in need. George is in acquisitions, faithfully picking up food from various suppliers and bringing it to the food pantry for Thursday distribution.

A retired pharmacist and a long-time parishioner, George remembers Masses in the basement church at Saint Ann's. He and his wife, Judy, a retired nurse, have two daughters, Saint Gabriel School alums Cynthia and Sherri, and are button-popping proud of their four grandchildren: David, who graduates this month from Embry-Riddle in Florida; Lisa, a student at the University of South Florida; Tyler, at Fairfield Prep and Sadie, a student Saint Thomas Aquinas in Fairfield.

A newly minted pickleball aficionado, George likes to work in the yard and has shared his landscaping talents as part of the fall cleanup crew at Saint Ann's. Because he is a 3rd generation George - grandfather George, dad George, Jr. - he's known to many as Larry (short for Lawrence, his middle name).

George was "honored" to receive the Saint Joseph's medal. "I had no idea!" he told our reporter. Asked about special people who have influenced his life, George responded without a moment's hesitation, his beloved mother Lillian.

Thank you, George, for serving the parish so faithfully and so well. May God bless you always.



Donna's Creation Care Corner Dandelions and No Mow May

It's May, time to mow the lawn - or not! During May pollinators like bees, moths, butterflies and grasshoppers emerge from hibernation and search for food (nectar) and shelter (longer grasses).

Among their favorites, and important for the survival of these insects, so vital to our ecosystem: early bloomers like dandelions and white clover, not found in grass-only, perfectly manicured lawns.

Consider being part of No Mow May. Leave your lawn mower in the shed this month and help the bees and other pollinators. Begin mowing later in the spring and less frequently all summer and fall. You'll have more time to sit back, relax and thank God for the splendor of creation.

If you have questions, please call Donna DiMassa at 203-444-4285 or email her at dm.dimassa@prodigy.net.

Notes from the Food Pantry Garden Come Plant Seeds and Seedlings May 11

Thank you to the gardening crew that helped spread topsoil during April's work Saturday in the Food Pantry Garden. The soil is now dark, rich, fertile and filled with earthworms, perfect for planting the seeds and seedlings we received from generous parishioners. We'll be doing that on Saturday, May 11. If you can help, join us behind the former rectory building on Naugatuck Avenue.

Much to the delight of our faithful watering team we have a new hose, longer, lighter, more manageable, easier to use. For additional Garden information reach out to Elizabeth Simonetti at elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com.

Sunday Afternoons with *The Chosen*

May 5, Season 2, Episodes 7 and 8
Reckoning and *Beyond Mountains*

May 19, Season 3, Episodes 1 and 2
Homecoming and *Two by Two*



Curtain goes up in the Saint Raphael Parish Center at 2:30. There is no admission charge. Call Cindy Sissick (203-874-0746) or Rose Cox (203-878-6427) for additional information or email Maria (as on page 3).

Come with friends and family. Everyone is welcome

We Also Congratulate . . .

***Shaina Amoroso**, Teacher of the Year at Milford's Meadowside School. Shaina's connection with and love for her third grade students were abundantly apparent as they smiled and applauded in delight at the surprise presentation in their classroom. The daughter of John and Jan Birch, Shaina and her husband Tanner live in West Haven. Her beaming and very proud grandmother, parishioner Janet Armour, shared the exciting news with our staff.

***Amy Ekeh**, whose recently published booklet *Come to Me, All of You: Stations of the Cross In the Voice of Christ*, has been named a finalist in the Association of Catholic Publishers 2024 "Excellence in Publishing Awards."

***Monica and John Judge**, recipients of the 2024 Iona University Legacy Award. On Thursday, April 25, Iona honored distinguished alumni during its annual Trustees Scholarship Award Gala. According to a University press release, Monica (Class of '70) and John (Class of '71) have both been great ambassadors for Iona. Monica has served as president of the Iona University Alumni Board of Directors and John is vice president and chief financial officer of Coaches Cure CF. "On behalf of Iona," said President Seamus Carey, Ph.D., "I would like to congratulate Monica and John and thank them for their steadfast support. Our distinguished alumni continue to champion the Iona mission and pave the way for future generations of Gaels."



The Parish Family Celebrates First Communion Weekends May 18/19 and May 25/26

There is something so special about First Communion Masses. Families come together in joy to welcome their children to the table of the Lord. During parish weekend Masses on May 18/19 and May 25/26 some twenty of the youngest members of our Saint Raphael faith community will receive Jesus in Holy Communion for the very first time, and we have been invited to rejoice with them as they receive this Sacrament of Initiation.

The presence of the parish community is a wonderful reminder to our young families of how important it is to receive Jesus in Holy Communion every week. First Communion Day is special because it is first, but it is just as special the second, third, fourth, or 4000th time, more special, perhaps as we and the young people grow in faith. The Eucharist, Holy Communion, is the most precious gift that Jesus gave us. We believe that in the Eucharist the whole Christ is truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine. This is the Jesus who loves us, the glorified Christ who died for us and rose from the dead (USCCB).

We thank and congratulate the First Communicants and their families for allowing us to share the joy of these special days. Please worship with us often and receive Jesus in Holy Communion, the meal of God's family.

Help Wanted: Lots of Volunteers for Summer Camp SCUBA: *Diving into friendship with God* Volunteer Kickoff Meeting Friday, May 31, 7 to 8 p.m.

We need volunteers, adults and young people ages 12 and older for Camp Week (mornings, week of July 22), help with camp planning (beginning in June), and with setup and decorating on some evenings prior to the start of camp (weeks of July 8 and July 15). Please share your talents and skills with us so that our campers can learn more about God safely, while having lots of fun! We have openings for:

- *Activity center leaders (adults and older teens) for Deep Bible Adventures, Crafts & Imagination Station, Reef Recreation, Music & Dance, Sticky Scripture, and Tidal Treats
- * Activity center helpers for all of the above (adults and youth volunteers)
- * Small group leaders (adults and teens grade 9 or older), and assistant small group leaders (preteen volunteers)

Waylon the Whale Shark Says, "Register today for SCUBA Camp!"



"I'll be your Bible buddy while you dive into friendship with God!"

Monday - Friday, July 26 -28
9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Parish Center and Grounds

For campers ages 4-11

\$25/child, \$5/day (suggested)

Scholarships available.

Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 (cell)
or atomasetti@snet.net



Graduate Recognition Celebration Sunday, June 2 11:00 a.m. Mass at Saint Ann Church Reception with Lunch to follow in the Saint Gabriel Hall

This year's celebration honors the members of the Class of 2024, 8th grade, high school and college/post-secondary school graduates. We hope the graduates, their families and friends will be able to participate!

Please RSVP to Maria, as above, by Tuesday, May 28 to register the graduate and confirm the number of family members and friends who will be with us. Include the name of the school your graduate is currently attending and plans for next year, e.g., high school, college/major, post-secondary/technical school, military, work. We'd also like an electronic copy of a photo for the Class of 2024 photo board. If there are any special dietary requirements for your family or guests, please let us know and we'll plan accordingly. We look forward to seeing you on June 2.

News from the Knights: Focus on COR



The Knights of Columbus, according to the organization's website, "empowers men to live their faith and serve their family, parish, community and country." Like councils across the country the Knights of Saint Raphael Parish have embraced a new KofC initiative called Cor, Latin for **heart** and the root of the word **courage**. Cor's mission is to refocus Catholic men on Jesus Christ and to form and strengthen them in faith and virtue through a brotherhood committed to prayer, formation and fraternity.

Cor is open to **all** the men of the parish. Parish Cor gatherings began in April with a presentation that focused on the challenges a man of faith faces in today's world. The presentation for May will be "Brotherhood" and men needing a "band of brothers" they can rely on. After each presentation there is discussion, time for prayer, and refreshments. The next gathering is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 at 8:00 a.m. in the Saint Ann school auditorium. Any man who's interested can join in, whether he's attended the first session or not.

Coffee And After Masses May 4 and 5



Stop in after Mass the first weekend of May for tasty treats and refreshing drinks at the Parish Center, where the Card & Gift Shop will be open, or at Saint Gabriel Hall.

At either location you can, if you wish, make a donation to support the good work of Boy & Girls Village. Thank you for your kindness.

Celebrate May!

The lovely month of May - a time for celebrations and congratulations at Saint Raphael Parish. We will celebrate a holy day, a birthday and mothers, and pay special tribute to Mary, the Mother of God and our mother, too. We extend congratulations to medal and award recipients and nominees and to the seven parishioners who received Sacraments of Initiation during the beautiful Easter Vigil.



Hawthorn blossoms, one of May's birth flowers, are a symbol of hope and joy. Even the lowly dandelion gets a shoutout in our Creation Care Corner. We have News from the Knights, SCUBA and tag sale reminders, and more.

May God bless all mothers this month and keep them always in His tender care.

The Parish Press

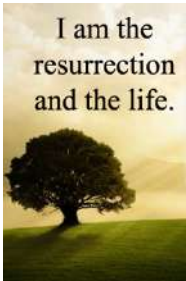
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Blessed Mother Mary, pray for us.

In Memoriam



I am the
resurrection
and the life.

St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Barbara Ruotolo	Sandra Hegyi
Susan Parnoff	Barry Baker
Joseph Lieberman	Shirley Weaver
Michael Roe	Lucas O'Neil
Margaret McHugh	Gregory Sorrentino
Jocelyne Soderberg	Maria King
Deacon Calvin Croll	Shirley Balascak

May they rest in peace in the fullness of God's grace and mercy.

May 5th Meeting for Bereavement Support



Our Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, May 5th at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. (Please note the change, for this month only, from the 2nd to the 1st Sunday of the month.)

We welcome all those who are struggling to cope with the death of someone they love. Call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you would like more information.

Parish Press Info Due By Monday, May 13

Please submit your news, photos, notes, comments and suggestions for the June issue of the newsletter by Monday, May 13. Send them through cyberspace to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you.

We Welcome With Love . . .

the newest members of our parish family,

Joseph DePalma, Jr.
Cooper Charochak

Joseph received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, April 14 at Saint Gabriel Church. Cooper was baptized at Saint Gabriel's on Sunday, April 21. God bless you always, Joseph and Cooper. May you grow in faith, in joy, in wisdom and in the love of the Lord.



Social Gathering Team
Tuesday, May 21
6:30 p.m.
Saint Ann Parish Center

K of C Evening Rosary
Thursday, May 30
7:00 p.m.
Saint Ann Parish Center

News from the Blue Mantle Ministry

Meetings have resumed: Monday mornings (10-12) and Monday nights (7-9) in the St. Gabriel Ministry Center. All who knit and crochet (or want to learn!) are welcome to join us. We create warmth and comfort in the form of lap robes, blankets, hats, mittens and more, all of which are blessed before we send them to nursing homes, the VA and children in need.

There is a great need for this rewarding ministry, and it's a lot of fun. So come, bring a friend and spread the word. The more the merrier! If you are interested please leave a message for Lynn Perry at 203-878-1376. Lynn will get back to you.