

Saint Raphael Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Agenda
April 8, 2024 7:00PM
St. Ann's Church

Attendance: Absent Paula D. and Terri D.

Opening Prayer- John A.

Acceptance of March 2024 meeting notes

Father John's Comments:

- Roof issues in parish buildings need to be researched and addressed. This includes St. Ann Church center roof and church roof, and St. Gabriel's Hall roof continues to need work to stop leaks (reapply tiles). The earthquake may have contributed to the issues at St. Gabriel's Church. Father will work with the parish finance committee to prioritize the projects.

Standing Committee Reports

Prayer and Worship Committee Report from Ann Eden

- **A Time for Prayer:** Initiative continues in the weekly bulletin. Council members and parishioners are welcome to submit prayers for publication. You may send yours to Ann Eden at parishpress06460@gmail.com. Thank you.
- **Lent:**
 - The Lenten booklet (*The Season for Healing Hearts*), the Lenten Care Notes and Prayer Notes booklets, and the Penitential Psalm and Reflection sheets were very well received.
 - Friday afternoon Stations of the Cross were well attended, in person and via live-stream. Mary Lee Frisbie was excellent, as usual, leading the Stations. We are grateful to Tom Jagodzinski, Frank Lacerenza, Pat Pavlucik and Cindy Sissick, readers whose voices brought the Stations to life. Exciting news: Amy Ekeh's very moving and newly published Stations booklet *Come to Me, All of You (In the Voice of Christ)*, which we used on March 15, has been named a finalist in the [Association of Catholic Publishers](#) 2024 "Excellence in Publishing Awards."
 - Maria Tomasetti coordinated Teen-Led Stations for people of all ages on Friday evenings.
- **Holy Week/Easter:**
 - Beautiful liturgies. Very well attended. Easter weekend attendance higher by 200 than last year.
 - Thank you, Deacon George, for presiding at Holy Saturday's Blessing of the Easter Food Baskets.
- **The Chosen:**
 - Sunday afternoon presentation of episodes from *The Chosen* continue to be popular. Kudos to Rose Cox and her committee, and to Maria Tomasetti, "calendar coordinator and technical advisor." Episodes are presented on alternating Sundays, 2:30-4:30, in the Parish Center.
- **Coming in May:** Mother's Day crowning of the Blessed Mother in both churches.

Social Justice/Human Concerns Committee

- **Garden Project**
 - A “how-to” article to be published in the Hartford Archdiocese newsletter is delayed.
 - Committee team worked to spread the topsoil that was donated by Grillo’s
- **Human Trafficking**
 - Elizabeth will invite a guest to help committee identify what we can do to support the efforts of the Order of Malta and The Underground New England. How can we begin to end sexual exploitation in Connecticut (www.theundergroundne.org).
- **Protect Connecticut’s Children Initiative**
 - Our next Zoom meeting to educate parents and grandparents on the evil of Gender Ideology will be on April 18 from 7PM- 8PM.
- **Request for new committee members:**
 - An advertisement for new members of the Human Concerns Committee appear in the bulletin for the next 5 weeks.
- **The Movie, The Letter to the American Church:** The council decided the showing of this movie might send a message that it’s endorsed by the Catholic Church and endorsed by St. Raphael’s Parish and that would take us away from the main purpose, encourage parishioners to speak up about evil.

CRS Rice Bowl: Our Annual Parish Lenten Project (Option for the Poor and Vulnerable)

- CRS Rice Bowl is the Lenten program of Catholic Relief Services, the official relief and development agency of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
- CRS Rice Bowl invites Catholics and faith communities in the United States to encounter God and our global family throughout Lent by practicing the pillars of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 120 different countries each year. Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. Since rice bowl donations are still coming in, we’ll have an update re: donations received for our May meeting.
- Saint Raphael Parish, Saint Gabriel Food Pantry. Catholic Transcript – Archdiocese of Hartford - Online article, St. Gabriel Food Pantry. We are currently serving 80 families each month (mostly individuals, couples and small families - a total of 200 people). Food for 30,000 meals is distributed to individuals/families in need each year. Parishioners are encouraged to donate items listed in the bulletin each week.
- Beth-El Center Dinner Teams. Our parish has had an evening dinner ministry at Beth-El Center for approximately 25 years (with lots of format changes over the years). With our current evening dinner to-go ministry, we have four teams that cover 12 monthly pizza dinners--for both Beth-El Center residents and the community. The Knights of Columbus is currently funding the pizza, and dinner team members cover fruit, salad, water, dessert and/or serving containers/supplies as needed. We have a fifth evening dinner team covering an extra Wednesday in May as well as a "family and friends" team covering two holiday lunches (Feb and June), serving both dinners-to-go and indoor dining. Over the next couple of months, we’ll be identifying additional volunteer needs at Beth-El Center so more parishioners will have the opportunity to help.
- Spring & Summer Social Visits to Local Health Care Facilities. Our first visit is on Saturday, May 4 at Four Corners RCF, 306 Naugatuck Ave. Other visits are being scheduled. We welcome people of all

ages--children, teens, and adults--to join us and residents for an hour of music and fun, including Spring charades, a sing-a-long with old-time favorites, hymns & patriotic songs and conversation. Residents love connecting with old friends and new friends!

- HomeFront 2024 - Confirming Saturday date in September

Social Gathering - Rose Marie Marmolejo rmarmolejo@snet.net

- Homefront fundraising Pork Roast dinner is scheduled for Sunday June 23rd

Parish Life-Cathy Coda

- Distributed a survey in the bulletin to identify preferences for social activities of the parishioners.
- The picnic date will be chosen soon ideally in September.

Faith Formation-Maria Tomasetti

- At the Easter Vigil, four people entered the Catholic Church and were fully initiated into the Church, receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Two people were received into the Catholic Church. They and one other person, baptized as Catholic, came into Full Communion with the Catholic Church, receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Our monthly GIFT program for adults and young people continues in April with a focus on the two Sacraments of Service, Marriage and Holy Orders, on April 21 and April 23. We'll be asking families to sign up for the Vocation Prayer Chalice program in May and June 2024.
- For 2024/2025, our monthly GIFT program will focus on the Nicene Creed. The GIFT faith formation mailings will go out in late July/early August. To save on mailing costs, the mailing only goes to families with school-age children and teens. However, registration materials will also be available in the church for parishioners of all ages.
- Our First Communion and Confirmation classes also continue. First Communion is scheduled for regular weekend Masses on May 18/19. The following weekend (May 25/26) is the back-up First Communion weekend (one family so far). Our Confirmation classes also continue in June with a few make-up classes in August.
- An Easter Season celebration for our GIFT families and friends is scheduled for Friday, April 12 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Saint Ann Parish Center.
- Reminder...our Summer Camp is scheduled for Monday, July 22 thru Friday, July 26 from 9:00 am to 12 noon (for campers ages 4-11). The theme will be SCUBA, diving into friendship with God. Registration is open. Thanks for helping to spread the word!

Open Forum

Council Selection Committee:

- Paula and Cathy are the two members of the selection committee for 2024-2025. The process will begin after Easter. See process: Bulletin and Mass Announcement request for Nominations starting March 30/31 until April 20/21. Nominees are verified April 29 week. Orientation of new members May 6, 2024.

"Why We're Pro Life" led by Deacon George was tabled until the May 13th meeting.

NEXT MEETING: May 13, 2024 ST. Gabriel's Hall 7PM