



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

July 2024



Sunday Afternoons with *The Chosen* Episodes from Seasons 3 and 4

July 7, Season 3, Episodes 7 and 8
Ears to Hear and Sustenance

July 28, Season 4, Episodes 1 and 2
Promises and Confessions

We close out season 3 of this very popular series and begin the long-awaited and highly anticipated Season 4. The curtain goes up at 2:30 in the Parish Center's screening room. Everyone is welcome so come with friends. There is no admission charge.

For further information about the series call Cindy Sissick (203-874-0746) or Rose Cox (203-878-6427), or email Maria (atomasetti@snet.net).

Support HomeFront's Bakeless Bake Sale

The parish team is gearing up for HomeFront, the annual one-day home-repair blitz that will help a local family in need. This community-based, volunteer-driven program provides free repairs while allowing homeowners owners to remain in their homes, now with an improved quality of life. HomeFront 2024 is scheduled for Saturday, September 14.



Beyond sharing their time and skills, every HomeFront team is responsible for a sponsorship fee to help cover the costs of insurance and supplies, the materials like lumber, paint, and fencing needed for the project. Please be aware that some costs are covered by HomeFront's major sponsors, foundations and grants and by product and service contributors.

One of the team's fundraising efforts was June's traditional - and delicious - pork roast dinner. A second parish fundraiser is July's Bakeless Bake Sale. We encourage you to purchase (read *make a donation for*) virtual (read *imaginary*) baked goods, guaranteed no-calorie treats. Look for order (read *donation*) forms in the bulletin or at the church doors. Please return your completed forms via the collection basket in an envelope labeled HomeFront. Checks should be made payable to Saint Raphael Parish, with HomeFront on the memo line. Thank you, as always, for your generosity.

A Second First Communion Weekend

On May 26, during our second weekend of First Communions, four young parishioners received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time. The entire Saint Raphael parish family celebrated with them as they approached the Lord's table and received the Bread of Life.

With love we congratulate our second group of First Communicants.



Autumn Jean Merrill
Ryan James Mitchell
Aurelia Putnam
Ruby Halu Winter Weiss

Please worship with us often and receive Jesus in Holy communion, the meal of God's family.

Enjoy Coffee And After Masses July 13 and 14 Come Sip, Snack, Socialize!



Share tasty treats and refreshing drinks when you gather with the members of the parish family at Coffee And after all the Masses on July 13 and 14.

If you're a Vigil Mass attendee or like the midmorning Sunday liturgy, stop in to the Parish Center. While you're there browse the Card & Gift Shop's selection of quality, reasonably priced greeting cards for all occasions. Prefer Sunday Mass in our beautiful church along the shore? Come enjoy coffee and conversation at Saint Gabriel's Hall.

Coffee And offers a great opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones, to share vacation plans, talk some baseball, get to know those terrific folks, the members of Saint Raphael Parish. Hope to see you there!

A Peek at the Parish Picnic

The word is out: The parish picnic returns in September. Here are the pertinent details:

**Sunday September 15
Noon - 3:00 p.m.**

**Saint Ann Church Grounds
Catered by Lasse's**

Italian ice by Micalizzi's

**Back by popular demand: Fried Dough!
Children's Activities**

**The Picnic Committee is praying for
NO RAIN this year.
(Please add your prayers to theirs.)**

So circle the date. Invite the whole crew. It is, after all a great family event. Watch the bulletin and the August newsletter for updates.

First Reconciliation

Autumn Jean Merrill and Ruby Halu Winter Weiss met Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, May 20 at Saint Ann Church.



What a special day for you, Autumn and Ruby! Remember always how much God loves you and how Jesus calls you to follow him.



Donna's Creation Care Corner
Long Live the Queen!



The queen bee is truly one of God's amazing creatures. She earns her title as "queen mother" because she is, quite literally, the mother of hundreds of male drones and 20,000 to 80,000 female worker bees. Throughout her life, "ladies-in-waiting" follow as she makes her rounds and officiously groom and feed her.

But how does a female bee reach this illustrious station? The reality is that all female worker bees are "born equal" in that they begin life with the same genetic makeup; in fact, any female larva has the potential to become a queen. What determines which bee gets to be "her highness" is her diet.

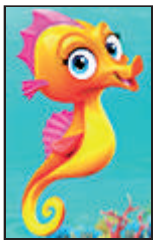
When the honeybee colony senses that it needs a new queen, nurse bees choose 10 to 20 newly hatched female larvae and then feed them a nutrient-rich diet of royal jelly, a milky white secretion that flows from the tops of the nurses' heads. This special formula activates the female larvae's reproductive system; thus, all 20 larvae become queens-to-be.

Once she is ready to pupate, each queen larva is then ensconced in her own, private chamber, a "queen cell." Although there are 10 to 20 potential queens, only the first bee to emerge from her cell wins the coveted title. Her ability to "win the race" is God's way of ensuring that the strongest and fittest queen reigns. She will be able to meet the challenges of keeping her dynasty alive and well for years to come.

We may never see a queen bee since she lives exclusively in her hive, but we can protect bees if we refrain from the use of pesticides. Neonicotinoids are particularly insidious because they are absorbed by plants; therefore, they are present in both pollen and nectar. All bees are God's creatures, and we need to take care of them.

For more information or to discuss "the beauty and the bees," please call Donna DiMassa at 203-444-4285 or email her at dm.dimassa@prodigy.net.

A Reminder from Winnie:
Last Call for SCUBA Campers . . . and Volunteers!!



Camp Schedule:

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.

Please register campers as soon as possible. We welcome adults and young people ages 12 and older to share their time, skills and talents as camp volunteers. For further information, to register or to volunteer contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 (cell) or atomasetti@snet.net Winnie says thank you!

SCUBA: Diving into friendship with God

Bible Points

- Day 1: God is a friend who's real.
- Day 2: God is a friend who loves
- Day 3: God is a friend we can trust.
- Day 4: God is a friend forever.
- Day 5: God is a friend for everyone.

Food Pantry Garden Notes

Oh, the highs and lows of gardening! Among the highs: The joy of watching as "seeds sprout and grow and [the] land yields fruit" (Mark 4:27-28), the gardening crew's stewardship of our little plot, and the continuing generosity of our parishioners. We request, you respond. (Thank you for the tomato cages. We're using them already!) The lows: The bugs and varmints who have feasted on our beans, pea plants and tomato leaves.

To learn more about the garden, created to provide fresh vegetables for the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, or to join our crew reach out to Elizabeth Simonetti at elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com.

Saint Isidore the Farmer, pray for us.



Food distribution:
 Thursdays beginning at 10:00 a.m.
 by appointment only.
 Call 203-878-3075 to schedule an appointment or to make a donation.

In addition to foodstuffs, the pantry needs hygiene products, hand and bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, dishwashing liquid and laundry detergent (small size). You may leave your donations in the vestibule of either church. Gift cards are always welcome. Thank you for your kindness.

Pray the Rosary

K of C Evening Rosary
 Thursday, July 25
 7:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Parish Center

Daily Rosary Recitation
 Before the 8:00 a.m. Mass
 Monday and Friday
 at Saint Ann Church.
 Tuesday and Thursday
 at Saint Gabriel Church.

Men of Saint Joseph

Tuesday evenings
 7:00 - 8:15

Saint Gabriel Hall
 For men over 18
 seeking:

to grow in holiness
 encounter fellowship, \
 love for Scripture
 spiritual insight.

Questions? Contact John Marmolejo
 203-375-2912
jmarmolejo@snet.net

More Class of 2024 Graduates and Their Plans

Like Topsy, the list of Saint Raphael Class of 2024 graduates “just grewed” since last month’s newsletter went to press. Wow! Congratulations and felicitations to the graduates below. May God bless them always.

Middle School Graduates

Grace Hutchison
Catholic Schoolhouse
Home School program
*Catholic Schoolhouse
program for HS*
*This summer Grace will be
attending a competitive
program with the School of
American Ballet in NYC.*

Sophia Empric
Engineering and Science
University Magnet School
*Engineering and Science
University Magnet HS*

Stephen Sokol
Hamden Hall Middle School
Hamden Hall HS

Melanie Tabra
John C. Daniels School of
International Communication
Platt Technical HS

Leyah Cupole
Shelton Intermediate
Shelton HS

Ana Sofia Riano
West Shore
*Jonathan Law HS and
ECA in New Haven for
the theater program*

Janelle Dimaya
Danielle Kotansky
Patrick Mulligan
Marcos Tepetl
West Shore
Jonathan Law HS

High School and College Graduates

Jonathan Law HS
Emily Buchino
*Housatonic
Community College
Art Studies for
Secondary Education*

Lily Greenwood
*Finalizing her plans
for next year*

Aiden Hanks
*The University
of Connecticut
Physics*

Lissette Soto
*Will explore
the electrical trade*

Aliana Tepetl
*Southern Connecticut
State University
Major: Public Health
Minor: Marketing*



Other High Schools

Dylan Fedorchak
*The Fairchild Wheeler
Information Technology HS
Champlain College (VT)
Animation and
Visual Communication*

Angelina Riggione-Hartmann
*Joseph A. Foran
University of Mississippi HS
(Ole Miss)
Biological Sciences*

College Graduates

Ericka M. Biagioni
*East Carolina University
PhD in Bioenergetics
and Exercise Science,
concentration in Cellular and
Molecular Bioenergetics*

Angelina Wargo
*Sacred Heart University
BS in Psychology
Minor in Business Analytics
Will pursue a Master’s degree
in Public Health at
Sacred Heart University.*

K of C Tinto Council 47 Scholarships



Congratulations to Danielle D’Avignon, Kieran Wilson and Isabella Gecaj, this year’s recipients of the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council 47 scholarships. The Council has awarded scholarships for many years to students from local schools. Danielle and

Kiernan are Saint Raphael parishioners, and both will be headed for college in the fall, Danielle to Providence Kiernan to Springfield. Isabella is a Class of 2024 graduate of Jonathan Law. Best wishes from Tinto Council, Danielle, Kiernan and Isabella. May God continue to bless you.

Saint Raphael Parish Website

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

36th Annual Mayor's Youth Awards Congratulations to Saint Raphael Parish Nominees!



Thirty-four Saint Raphael parishioners were part of an outstanding group of young people nominated for the 36th Annual Mayor’s Youth Awards. All the nominees were recognized for their dedicated service in the Milford community at an awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 7 at the Parsons Veterans Auditorium. Before he presented their certificates, Mayor Anthony Giannattasio congratulated the honorees for their leadership, for serving others and for “growing the community.” He encouraged them to continue to serve and thereby “become the best version of yourselves.” The names of our parish nominees appear below, along with a list of the ministries and service projects they were a part of. Thank you, nominees, for your service to Saint Raphael Parish and to our Milford community!

Saint Raphael Parish Nominees

*Bianca Armellino
Brenda Abrantes
Brian Abrantes
Nora Burns
Emilio Contreras
Janelle Dimaya
Jon Dimaya
Chris Dowling
Julian Ekeh
Eli Ekeh
Christian Galligan*

*Connor Heinmiller
Grace Hutchison
William Hutchison
Camille Irby
Camryn Irby
Paige Kantor
Vaughn Kraynak
Michael Merchant
Ryan Mitchell
Austin Moral
Caitlyn Murphy
Everly Murphy*

*Jonah Putnam
Liam Putnam
Nate Pandiscia
Owsley Quinn
Angelina Riggione
Logan Rivera
Isaac Rodrigues
David Santos
Lia Scepaniski
Julian Sevillano
Paulo Tutunjian*

Their ministries and service projects

*Altar Server Ministry
GIFT classroom activity helper
Summer VBS Camp
Parish Tag Sale Parish Choir
HomeFront
Coffee And Christmas Fair
Lenten Supper
Souper Bowl of Caring drive-thru
Thanksgiving food bags
Christmas Boxes of Joy
Christmas Giving Program*

More Graduation Notes, Mayor's Award Nominees, Peek at the Picnic

Parish young people are front and center this month. Look for more Class of 2024 graduates, scholarship award recipients and Mayor's Award nominees, and beam with joy as we celebrate so many fine young parishioners.



Fireworks have been part of July 4th Independence Day festivities since 1777, a great way to mark the 248th birthday of our fair republic. Milford, like a lot of towns, had a pre-birthday, late June fireworks display, but other locales, and PBS, will light up the skies on the 4th.

Look inside for notes about late May 1st Communion, the upcoming parish picnic and a feature on the amazing queen bee.

Enjoy every one of July's 31 days!

The Parish Press

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Happy 248th, USA!

In Memoriam



St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Victoria Bennett	Roger Rottkamp
Gregory Clukey	Donna deRecinos
Gloria Cabeen	Sherry King
George Hoppes	Willie Mays
Rev. Cyriac Maliekal	Edward Alvarez
Anthony Yarochowicz, Sr.	
Sharon Blawie Mallico	

May God's love and mercy surround them and bring them to his everlasting kingdom.

Bereavement Support: Sunday, July 14



Please gather with our parish Bereavement Support group on Sunday, July 14 if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. You are welcome to join us at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel.

In the quiet of this prayerful space share your feelings, tell your story if you can, and feel the warmth and concern of others who have known the pain of loss. For additional information call Joanne (203-877-4020).

Parish Press Deadline Friday, July 12

Information for the August newsletter is due in our editorial offices by Friday, July 12. Kindly send your news, ideas, comments, suggestions and photos to parishpress06460@gmail.com, or you may call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thanks very much. We'd love to hear from you!

Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Mass Scripture Review
Thursdays, 10-11:30 a.m.
Saint Ann Parish Center

Come join others who are eager to study the Bible. Under the guidance of Catholic Biblical School alum Pat Pavlucik review the Scripture passages for the upcoming weekend liturgy. Ask questions, discuss what you've read, learn about context and genre and come to Mass with a greater understanding and appreciation of the beauty and meaning of God's Word. The group invites you to be with them at the Parish Center any Thursday morning.

Study Paul's Letter to the Romans
Wednesday Morning Sessions Begin
September 11 at Saint Gabriel Ministry Center

Using the excellent Ignatius Catholic Study Bible with its commentary, notes and study questions we will look at Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome, the one that holds pride of place and the longest of the apostle's letters. For further information call Ann Eden (203-874-8744).

The Holy Father's
Prayer Intention for July
The Pastoral Care of the Sick

We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer on those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for everyone.

