



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

August 2024



Coffee And Weekend August 10/11

Stop in to the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Parish Hall after Mass the weekend of August 10/11. Savor a cuppa (hot or cold) and some tasty snacks. Hobnob with those terrific folks, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family. What are your plans for the rest of the summer? Vacation? Staycation? Or some lazy days at Silver Sands? Note of interest: August 13 is International Left-Handers Day. Celebrate!

Feast of the Assumption Thursday, August 15

Holy Day Masses
8:00 a.m.
Saint Gabriel Church
7:00 p.m.
Saint Ann Church



Infinite Worth, Infinite Dignity Why We Are Pro Life

For the past two months Saint Raphael Parish has had a Pro-Life focus. It began in the first week of June with bulletin notices about Bryan Mercier's upcoming Pro-Life presentation. The following weekend Deacon George distributed the Catholic Answers booklet *Why We're Pro-Life* and spoke eloquently in his homily about the booklet and about Bryan's June 18 visit.

Everyone who gathered in Saint Ann Church on that Tuesday evening heard Bryan deliver a succinct and powerful message: *Every Life Has Infinite Worth*. Infinite: boundless, endless, without limits.

The word appears in the first line of *Dignitas Infinita, On Human Dignity*, a Vatican Declaration approved by Pope Francis and published in April of this year. The line reads: "Every human person possesses an infinite dignity, inalienably grounded in his or her very being, which prevails in and beyond every circumstance, state, or situation the person may ever encounter."

That dignity, the Declaration continues, "belongs to the person as such simply because he or she exists and is willed, created, and loved by God." And "A human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development."

Inspired by Bryan's *infinite worth* message and the Vatican's breathtaking reminder of our *infinite dignity*, the Pastoral Council's Human Concerns Committee has decided to form a Pro-Life ministry that will work to recognize, promote and protect the dignity and the worth of every human being.

The committee is planning an introductory meeting where we can exchange ideas about how to move forward. If you would like to be part of this very important ministry, please reach out to Human Concerns Chair Wally Hauck at 203-874-8484 or wally@wallyhauck.com. Thank you.

Volunteer for the HomeFront Team!



Share your professional or DIY skills as part of our HomeFront team during the one-day repair blitz on Saturday, September 14 for a local family in need. Call site coordinator Carrie Nocerino (203-218-0644).



August Sundays With *The Chosen* Episodes from Season 4

Join us in the Parish Center screening room on the following August Sundays. Curtain goes up at 2:30. There is no admission charge.

August 11, Episodes 3 and 4
Moon to Blood and *Calm Before*

August 25, Episodes 5 and 6
Sitting, Serving, Scheming and *Dedication*

If you have questions or need further information call Rose Cox (203-878-6427) or Cindy Sissick (203-874-0746) or email Maria (atomasetti@snet.net).

Meet Olivia Daniels Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Welcome to Saint Raphael Parish, Olivia Daniels! Since July Olivia has served us as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. A CPA who has been in banking for 45 years, Olivia had lived in Charlotte, NC for several years until a family health crisis brought her back to Connecticut. (Listen and you'll catch a bit of Carolina softness in her voice.)



Olivia Daniels

Olivia and her daughter Joy, who is now part of the Saint Ann choir, had been parishioners at Saint James in Stratford until it occurred to them that they would "drive past Saint Ann Church every Sunday on our way to Mass in Stratford." They made the decision to "stay in the neighborhood," and we are delighted that they have become part of the Saint Raphael Parish Family.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study Explore Paul's Letter to the Romans

Come and study Paul's Letter to the Romans, what some have called "a master work of a master craftsman." Weekly Wednesday morning sessions will begin on September 11 in the Saint Gabriel Ministry Center.

Our text will be the outstanding Ignatius Catholic Study Bible with its commentary, notes and study questions. To sign up or if you would like additional information please call Ann Eden (203-874-8744).



Donna's Creation Care Corner Celebrate the Season of Creation

On September 1 the Church celebrates the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, first proclaimed by Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitros I in 1989 as the Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation. The World Council of Churches extended the celebration through October 4, the feast day of Saint Francis of Assisi. And in 2015 Pope Francis made this ecumenical Season of Creation official for the Roman Catholic Church. Christians around the world mark the season with both prayer and action to protect our common home.

The theme of this year's celebration is *To Hope and Act with Creation*. Its symbol, called *The first-fruits of hope* (shown above), comes from Romans 8:19-25. During this Season, we are called to think more deeply about the mystery of Creation – to consider not only what it is but also what it is not.

Creation is not an accident, an incidental formation that we find eminently useful. Nor is it merely a static resource to be used carelessly or exploited. Creation is not an alien entity for us to mold and shape as we please. Creation has no door that we can open at will then shut, and so keep God's work outside of our personal lives.

Creation, God's created order, is His perpetual mystery, the foundational mystery of our Christian faith, a cosmic gift given to us freely by our generous Creator. Creation is, at this moment, "already worshipping God eloquently as every creature, and even mountains, rivers and trees worship the Lord simply by doing what God created them to do." Creation and humanity are "conceived from the beginning in Christ and, therefore, are entrusted to each other." (Quotations from the *Season of Creation Celebration Guide*)

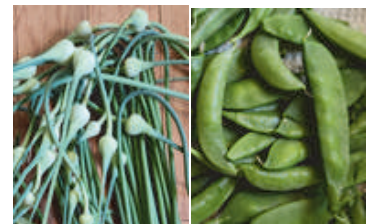
We have been entrusted with a precious, incredible gift. It is our responsibility to care for it, to act in hope and keep God's gift safe for future generations. This year's Season of Creation is a good time to start. Some suggestions:

- * Seek and find God's presence in all of Creation (sights, sounds, wonders and weeds).
- * Weave care for Creation into the daily fabric of your lives.
- * Recognize creation care as a collective mandate and responsibility. (We are all in the same boat.)
- * Read or reread Pope Francis's encyclicals *Laudato Si (Praise Be to You)* and *Laudate Deum (Praise God)*
- * Hope . . . but also act.

As Professor Michael Abs, Secretary General of the Middle East Council of Churches has written, "We should not disappoint the Creator by spoiling His creation, with which He entrusted us from the dawn of the times." And from *Laudate Deum* (65), "The world sings of an infinite Love: how can we fail to care for it?" For additional information, visit SeasonOfCreation.org.

How Does our Pantry Garden Grow?

Elizabeth Simonetti responded to our question with this great report: "With everyone's help, the seeds and seedlings are growing really well: peas, beans, eggplant, tomatoes, hard squash and cucumbers. Thanks to the steadfast members of our bucket brigade, and this beautiful weather (thank you St. Isidore!), we've already harvested some garlic scapes, peas, and a few green beans for the pantry. We're up to date on weeding, too, and the garden looks beautiful. We added some donated fertilizer to the plants and staked more tomato plants with the additional donated cages (thank you!)



Harvested scapes and peas



The Food Pantry requested more squash (both summer squash and butternut squash), so we replaced the peas with squash seeds. There are lots of yellow blossoms on our squash and cukes, and purple flowers on the eggplant, so stay tuned for harvest updates!!!

[And, Elizabeth's signature closing:] *Saint Isidore the Farmer, pray for us.*"

The garden is located behind the former Saint Ann Rectory on Naugatuck Avenue. For additional information or to be part of the terrific team that maintains the garden, reach out to project coordinator Elizabeth Simonetti at elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com.

September's Coming! Don't Miss the Parish Picnic!

Sunday September 15 Noon - 3:00 p.m. Saint Ann Church Grounds

Menu, Catered by Lasse's:

Grilled burgers, hot dogs, boneless chicken, veggies, veggie burgers, sausage patties
Green salad, fruit salad, watermelon, coffee

PLUS: lemonade, iced tea, cookies, fried dough, Micalizzi's Italian ice
AND, if our prayers are answered, NO RAIN! See you there!

Most Needed Items

Peanut Butter - small sizes
Cookies, Crackers
Cereal, Coffee
Spaghetti Sauce in jars

Kindly leave donations in the vestibule of either church.

Food distribution:
by appointment only.
Call 203-878-3075 to schedule
an appointment or to make a
donation.



August Confirmation Program For Catholics 18 and Older

Our Adult Confirmation program will begin this month for Catholics 18 or older who have made First Communion as Catholics but who have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation.

Adults who participate in this 6-session program will be preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, November 3 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford. Please contact Maria, 203-988-8598 (voice or text) or atomasetti@snet.net to express interest and receive a copy of our Adult Sacrament Information Form.

GIFT

Religious Education Programs Begin in September

Our monthly GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) program as well as Sacramental preparation programs for First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation will begin in September.

Families registered with the parish or active in our GIFT program will receive a GIFT mailing and Sacramental program mailing (if applicable) in early August. If you do not receive this mailing or if you are new to our parish or faith formation program, please contact Maria Tomasetti, as above, for more information. Faith formation materials will also be available at the doors of both churches this month.

First Reconciliation June 17

Robby (Robert) Kornberg met Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday, June 17. Congratulations, Robby! May you always find comfort in the loving forgiveness of the Good Shepherd, who seeks out the lost.

As Summer Starts Winding Down We're Collecting New Backpacks and School Supplies for Milford Students in Need - Can You Help?

Milford Youth & Family Services has asked for our help in providing new backpacks and school supplies for local students in need. If you can, please consider donating items from the lists below by Sunday, August 11. You may bring them to the parish office or when you come to weekend Masses. *Note: Milford Youth & Family Services prefers to pack the supplies in the backpacks.* Questions? Check with Maria, as above, and thank you for your generosity.

Elementary School

- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Pencil Case
- Colored Markers
- Colored Pencils
- Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Small Scissors
- Pocket Folders
- 1-Subject Notebooks (Spiral or Composition) (wide-ruled)

Middle and High School

- Pocket Folders
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Pens
- Highlighters
- Index Cards 3"x5"
- Mechanical Pencils
- Colored Markers
- Colored Pencils
- 3-ring Binders
- 1-subject Notebooks (college ruled)



For Everyone:

- Small Packets of Tissues
- Backpacks (for any grade level)

OCIA: Order of Christian Initiation of Adults A Journey of Faith

Are you or is someone you know interested in becoming Catholic? Or are you an adult Catholic who has never received the Sacraments of Eucharist (Holy Communion) and Confirmation? If you are ready to take the next step on your journey of faith you might think about being part of our parish OCIA (formerly RCIA) program.

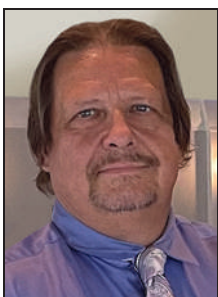
OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is a formation program through which people join the Catholic Church or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church. Through OCIA you are invited to participate in the life of prayer, worship, and personal conversion that characterizes the life of a Catholic Christian and to attend a series of classes to explore and learn more about the teachings and practices of the Catholic Church.

The OCIA is for:

- * Those who have not been baptized
- * Those who were baptized into another Christian denomination and wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church
- * Baptized Catholics who were never formed in the Catholic faith and have not completed their initiation, that is, who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation

The parish may also offer an adapted version of the OCIA program for teens who have not been baptized and want to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

If you have questions about OCIA please reach out to Maria Tomasetti, as at left above.



Tom Onze

From the Knights of Tinto Council #47: Notes and the Knight of the Year

End of fraternal year highlights for the very busy Tinto Council included election of officers and a perfect weather, well-attended Walnut Beach pavilion picnic. Congratulations to newly elected officers Melvin Moral (warden) and Chad Twombly and Frank Lacerenza (guards).

Tom Onze, at left, was honored as Knight of the Year at the Council's June 30th luncheon. A faithful Knight since 1985, Tom currently serves as Bingo treasurer. He has volunteered countless hours at Olympic town in support of the K of C Special Olympics, a cause that is close to his heart. Knight of the Year - a well-deserved award, Tom. Thank you for your faithfulness and dedication to the Knights, your faith and your community.

Backpacks and School Supplies Knight of the Year and More!

Check out the first harvest report (with photos) from the Food Pantry Garden, see what's on the menu for September's parish family picnic and read about the formation of a Saint Raphael Pro-Life ministry. You'll also find August dates for screenings of *The Chosen*.



Learn about the *Season of Creation* coming up next month and consider how to care for God's sublime gift, exemplified by the Silver Sands shoreline, shown here.

We honor Mary this month on the feast of her Assumption, a holy day of obligation, and as we celebrate her Queenship. Ask for her intercession as we continue to pray fervently for the gift of peace in our war-torn world.

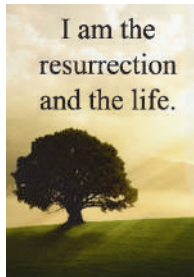
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In Memoriam



St. Raphael's mourns the recent loss of:

Mary L. Hanson	Nuria Marmolejo
Francesca Pawelzik	Tom Loizzi
Pat Leary Gribbon	Eleanor Benefico
George W. Cerny, Jr.	Dennis Vai
Lisa Gill	Anna Waddell
Theresa Milhalov	Bob Newhart

May they be at peace forever in God's loving presence.

Bereavement Support Meets Sunday, August 11



The parish's Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, August 11, at two o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. If you are struggling to cope with the loss of someone you love, please join us.

Let us walk with you, if only for a little while, on the difficult road from grief to healing. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

Submit Parish Press Info by Monday, August 12

Please submit your news, notes, comments and photos for September's newsletter by Monday, August 12. Meet us in cyberspace (parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you.

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

We Welcome With Love . . .

the newest members of our parish family,

Noah Rotella
Layton Hart
Mia Vingo

who received the life-giving waters of Baptism in June at Saint Gabriel Church. God bless you, little ones. May your lives always be a reflection of God's loving kindness.



Love and Best Wishes

as you begin your married life together. . .



John and Jessica (Moore) Carone
Peter and Emily (Jennings) Jamison
Nicholas and Tinfanie (Rodenberg) Patino

John and Jessica were married on Saturday, June 22 in Immaculate Conception Church in Terre Haute, Indiana. Peter and Emily exchanged marriage vows in Saint Gabriel Church on Friday, July 12. Nicholas and Tinfanie were married in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on the campus of Sacred Heart University on Sunday, July 14.

God's warmest blessings on all our married couples. May they always share love and laughter.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for August For Political Leaders

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.