

St. Raphael Parish, Milford – GIFT Program – 2024-2025

Faith Formation for People of All Ages – Information Sheet

What is GIFT?

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together – is open to all members of Saint Raphael Parish as well as non-parishioners -- from age 5 through adult.

It is our Saint Raphael Parish faith formation program. It is the way our parish educates children and teens about the basics of our Catholic faith. It is also designed for adults – to answer their questions about the Catholic faith, explain religious traditions, and help them grow in relationship with God. Single people and couples without children and teens are welcome and encouraged to join us for one or more sessions.

Through GIFT, we build community by involving people of all ages in the life of the Church. Materials are provided for parents/guardians to continue learning at home with their families— between sessions.

GIFT Theme

Our GIFT theme for 2024-2025 is the Nicene Creed. Each GIFT session will focus on a section of the Nicene Creed

GIFT In-Person Class Schedule – 2024-2025

- * Sept 22, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Sept 24, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Nicene Creed Overview, God the Father and Trinity
- * Oct 20, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Oct 22, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Jesus Christ, Son of God
- * Nov 17, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Nov 19, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Holy Spirit
- * Dec 15, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Dec 17, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Advent/Christmas Celebration
- * Jan 26, 12 noon to 1:30 pm or Jan 28, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm – VIRTUS: Empowering God’s Children (for families with children in Grade 1 & older and teens) – *required by Archdiocese of Hartford*
- * Feb 23, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Feb 25, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Jesus’ Death and Resurrection
- * Tuesday, March 25, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm or Sunday, March 30, 12 noon to 2:15 pm – The Church
- * April 27, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or April 29, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – One Baptism, Resurrection of the Dead, Life of the World to Come
- * April/May 2025 – Easter Season Celebration – *date to be determined*
- * Note: We begin each GIFT session with a shared dinner, e.g., pizza dinner, for the first 30 minutes.

We offer age-appropriate sessions for families with children through Grade 4, young people in Grades 5/6, teens in Grade 7 or older, and adults on these dates. Adult participation is essential to our monthly faith formation program so at least one parent/guardian per family is required to come to GIFT with children and teens.

* Adults who attend with children through Grade 4 usually participate in our family sessions.

* Adults who attend with young people in Grade 5 or older or who attend without young people participate in our adult breakout sessions.

GIFT Sacramental Program – 2024-2025

Any families with young people eligible to prepare to receive the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation will receive a separate Sacramental program mailing by the second week in August. ***Registration in the GIFT program is required for families participating in our Sacramental program. There are no separate registration fees for the Sacramental program.***

* First Reconciliation and First Communion Overview Session for Parents/Guardians.

Choice of:

- Saturday, September 7 from 10 am to 11 am

or

- Tuesday, September 10 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location – Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave.

* Confirmation Overview Session for Parents/Guardians and incoming Confirmation Candidates. Choice of:

- Monday, September 16 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

or

- Tuesday, September 17 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Location – Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave

Questions? Please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell phone – voice or text).