

# The Parish Press

Newsletter of the Saint Raphael Parish Family  
Milford, Connecticut

September 2024



## Coffee And September 7/8

Sip and snack with the parish family when we gather for Coffee And after weekend Masses on September 7/8. Stop in to Saint Gabriel's Parish Hall or the Saint Ann Parish Center and get in on the buzz of parish conversation. If you're at the Parish Center don't miss the exquisite collection of Madonnas on display and choose a greeting card from the shop's reasonably priced inventory.

## Last Call for HomeFront Volunteers

HomeFront Day, Saturday, September 14, is fast approaching, and the team has issued a call for enthusiastic volunteers.



Most needed: Masons, and carpenters for a back deck and fencing; painters, including some who can climb ladders for painting the second floor. If you can assist in this great program that helps a low-income Milford resident with free home repairs, please call volunteer coordinator Carrie Nocerino at 203-878-5566. Thank you for your kindness.



## Celebrate Saint Raphael!

### Triduum Begins on Friday, September 27

The Feast of the Archangels, Raphael, Michael and Gabriel, falls on Sunday, September 29. As a way to celebrate our patron we will honor Saint Raphael with a triduum, three days of prayer that precede his feast.

The triduum begins at Saint Ann's on Friday evening with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Adoration, the time during which parishioners will lead us in the Rosary and the Litany. Adoration concludes with Benediction: Father John, holding the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, will bless all those who have gathered.

In special recognition of Saint Raphael, "health of the sick," we'll be handing out apples after all weekend Masses. An apple a day keeps the doctor away!

## A Sacramental Month for 2 Young Parishioners

Congratulations to Brandon Sebastian Valencia and Leo Paul Valencia, who received First Reconciliation on Monday, August 5 at Saint Ann Church and First Communion on Sunday, August 18 at Saint Gabriel Church. May God bless you always.

## Here We Go A-Picnicking!

### Don't Miss the Parish Picnic

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

Join us at the Saint Ann Church grounds for the fun-filled food fest (or food-filled fun fest?) that has become a September tradition. Lasse's picnic specialists will offer their tasty picnic fare, supplemented by fried dough (very popular last year) and Micalizzi's Italian ice. Our two-fold assignment: Come with family and friends, pray for no rain.

The committee will need a head count for Lasse's. Please use the flyers you'll find at the church doors to let us know you'll be there, or respond via [srrpicnic@gmail.com](mailto:srrpicnic@gmail.com). Kindly break down the attendance numbers: adults, children ages 5-13, children under 5. For setup and safety reasons there will be no parking in the lot behind Saint Ann Church on picnic weekend. You may park on the street or in the lot across Church Street.

As always, sincere thanks to Father John for providing what the committee calls "this yummy and fun filled day."

## Triduum Schedule

### Friday, September 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Exposition and Adoration  
of the Blessed Sacrament  
Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary  
Litany of Saint Raphael  
Benediction

### Saturday, September 28

4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass  
With special prayers to our patron

### Sunday, September 29

The Feast of the Archangels  
Michael, Gabriel and Raphael  
Special prayers to our patron  
during all Masses  
3:00 p.m. Encore presentation of the  
choir's July concert (Saint Ann Church)

## Rosary Notes

Join the Knights of Columbus as they pray the Rosary on the last Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Parish Center. Tuesday noontime Rosary, currently on hiatus, will begin again in October in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.



## Donna's Creation Care Corner The Season of Creation Has Begun

The season began on the first day of September, recognized by many Christian churches and other faith communities around the world as the Feast of Creation. This year's theme is *To hope and act with Creation*.

Hope is like a muscle: we must use it or will atrophy, and we must use our hope today. Hope is made up of many "acts of prophetic anticipation." To act is to plant trees, to mindfully refuse single-use plastics and much more. To act, in this season of Creation, is to conserve biodiversity, the variety of all living things and their interactions; to treat all creatures with compassion, and to ensure climate justice for all peoples. (Climate justice focuses on the unequal impacts of climate change on marginalized or otherwise vulnerable populations.)

Such actions might seem overwhelming, more than we can handle, until we realize that we are not alone in trying to save the world. Instead, we should consider all such efforts as "acts of worship in hope that Christ will take our humble offerings and transform them as part of the glorious renewal and restoration of all things." Just as Christ fed 5,000 with 5 barley loaves and 2 fish (John 6:5-13) he can transform and multiply our meager offerings as well.

The mysteries of Creation, Incarnation, and Redemption, are the very foundations of our faith. Yet, Creation is the neglected one. Pope Benedict XVI once pointed out, "The Redeemer **is** the Creator and if we do not proclaim God in His **full** grandeur – as Creator **and** as Redeemer – we diminish the value of the Redemption."

Creation is waiting for us – for you and for me ....

For more information, visit [SeasonOfCreation.org](http://SeasonOfCreation.org).

## An "Oh, Dear . . . Deer!" Report from the Food Pantry Garden

Elizabeth Simonetti filed this report just as we were going to press. The week's bounty included 2 bags of beautiful eggplants, a few tomatoes and some green beans. Lots of yellow blossoms in the garden mean cukes and squash will be coming soon. Not to be outdone, the eggplants are sporting their gorgeous purple flowers, a promise of future eggplant bounty. And the green bell peppers and jalepenos are blooming too!



Sadly, we lost our pumpkins to borer worms (Elizabeth "smooshed them to smithereens!"). We'll try again next year.

The gate to the garden fell over, victim of a recent storm, and the deer had a field day - chewed up the tomato plants and cucumber leaves, and devoured every leaf from our beans. Thankfully, they didn't seem to care for the flowers, so we should see a good green bean harvest soon.

*Saint Isidore, please watch over our little plot, keep it free from varmints and pests, and continue to send soft rain and sunny skies so we may provide fresh produce for our neighbors.*

## The Importance of a Pro-Life Ministry

What can be more important for a Catholic parish than protecting the infinite dignity of every human person? Infinite Dignity commands us to consider all human life as precious, regardless of physical development or stage of life.

As one Catholic commentator has written, "*being truly pro-life means A) believing in and respecting the dignity of the human person and B) acting on this attitude in one's day-to-day life and interactions and, where possible, one's social and political life.*"

The Pastoral Council's Human Concerns Committee members are asking for your help as they strive to create a formal pro-life strategy and action plan to protect and promote human dignity. Their mission: To create a culture in Saint Raphael Parish that embraces the definition of pro-life and influences others to demonstrate support for the infinite dignity of every human in every action and word.

If you would like to be part of this new and critical ministry, please plan to participate in an upcoming introduction, sharing, and listening meeting where everyone can share ideas about how to help. Email Human Concerns Committee Chair Wally Hauck ([wally@wallyhauck.com](mailto:wally@wallyhauck.com)) or give him a call (203-874-8484). Wally will keep you informed about the date and time of the meeting. Thank you.

## The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for September *Respect for the Planet's Resources*

*We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.*

**GIFT Sacramental  
Program Overview Sessions**

**First Reconciliation/First Communion**

**For Parents/Guardians**

Saturday, September 7

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

or

Tuesday, September 10

6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Confirmation**

**For Parents/Guardians and**

**First Year Candidates**

Monday, September 16

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

or

Tuesday, September 17

7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

All sessions will be held in a  
Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom

*Note: GIFT program registration is  
required for families who wish to  
participate in our Sacramental program.*

*Questions? Contact Maria Tomasetti  
[atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598.*

**Saint Raphael Parish Website**

[saintraphaelmilford.org](http://saintraphaelmilford.org)

**GIFT - Growing in Faith Together  
Theme for 2024/2025: The Nicene Creed**

Throughout this GIFT season we will learn about the Nicene Creed, the Profession of Faith that we say and pray every week at Mass. *I believe*, we begin, and every line that follows expresses important truths of our Catholic faith.

During GIFT's six sessions we will deepen our understanding of the Trinity, our belief in one God who is three persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Some sessions will focus on Jesus, one person with two natures, fully human and fully divine. We will explore some truths about Jesus, his Incarnation and his Passion, and the reason for his life, suffering, death and resurrection. We will also learn more about the four "marks" of the Church: "one, holy, catholic, and apostolic."

In September we will introduce the sections of the Nicene Creed and focus on God the Father and the Trinity. GIFT sessions are open to people of all ages, from 5 - adult. Children and teens attend with at least one parent/guardian, enabling important learning to continue at home. We welcome the participation of couples and single adults.

After opening activities (and a pizza dinner!) groups meet in age-appropriate break-out sessions like Families with children through Grade 4; 5th and 6th graders; teens (Grade 7 and older); and adults of all ages.

GIFT and GIFT Sacramental program information and registration forms are available at the doors of Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel churches.

**Introduction to  
The Nicene Creed**  
Sunday, September 22  
12 Noon-2:15 p.m.  
or  
Tuesday, September 24  
6:00-8:15 p.m.  
Beginning with pizza in  
the Saint Ann  
Parish Center Hall

**SCUBA Summer Camp Thank You**

From July 22 through July 26, 35 beautiful children ages 4-10 enjoyed an undersea adventure as part of our Summer Camp, SCUBA: Diving into Friendship with God. Amid coral reefs and sea creatures the campers learned how God is a friend who's real, who loves, a friend we can trust - forever and for everyone! Thanks, God!

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing SCUBA team (more than 45 teen and adult volunteers!) who shared their hearts and talents and worked very hard to make this camp happen: our set-up/decorating team, nurse, small group leaders, and activity center leaders and assistants in Deep Bible Adventures, Reef Recreation, Crafts & Imagination, Music & Dance, Sticky Scripture, and Tidal Treats. Thank you again for helping our youngest parishioners and friends dive into friendship with God!



**A Madonna Collection, An Exquisite Gift to the Parish**

Christmas time, 1948. Elizabeth Boni's daughter Helen had passed her RN exam, was now earning a paycheck and wanted to get something special for her mother. Knowing how devoted Elizabeth was to the Blessed Mother, she chose a ceramic head of Mary with a golden lining for her veil. That piece, pictured below, was the beginning of Elizabeth's collection, which grew with every holiday and special occasion, especially the birth of grandchildren. When her mother died Helen inherited the collection and added to it until she had to purchase a larger display case. The madonnas have provided "so many happy memories" for Helen, who is now in "the sunset of her life." Her children have chosen their favorites, and Helen has donated the rest, some 50 madonnas and their display case, to the people of Saint Raphael Parish. (They are currently on display in the Card & Gift Shop.). Thank you, Helen, and may God bless you for your kindness and wonderful generosity.





**September Highlights: Parish Picnic,  
Celebrate Saint Raphael and More!**

We're a busy parish this month! The pace picks up after what we hope is a restful Labor Day weekend. We'll gather for Coffee And on the 7th/8th, help a family in need on the 14th, then picnic with the parish family on the 15th. From the 27th through the 29th we'll honor Saint Raphael (and apples will be part of the celebration!).



GIFT and its Sacramental Programs resume this month. Read about an exquisite gift, and offer congratulations to Father John.

On 9/17 look for September's Harvest Moon. (Do you feel a song coming on??)

***The Parish Press***

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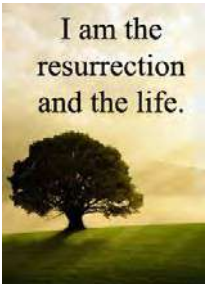
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***Choir's Encore Presentation - A Beautiful  
Closing to our Celebration of Saint Raphael  
Sunday, September 29 at 3:00 p.m.***



**In Memoriam**



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of .

Stefana Salomone Lucy Sinchak  
Susan Katz Daniel Leary

May angels welcome them to Paradise and may their families take comfort in knowing that we share in their sorrow.

**Bereavement Support Meeting  
Sunday, September 8**



The parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, September 8th at 2 o'clock in the Children's Chapel. Please plan to be with us if you are grieving the loss of someone you love. Let us walk with you on that very difficult path from grief to healing.

If you would like additional information you may call Joanne (203-877-4020). May God give you peace.

**Submit Parish Press Info by September 13**

Submit your news and notes for October's newsletter to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) by Friday, September 13 or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!

**We Welcome With Love . . .**

the newest members of our parish family,

Tessa Bianchi  
Ivy Roach  
Scarlett Pimentel



who received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, August 18 at Saint Gabriel Church. God bless you, little ones. May you feel the warmth of His love every day of your lives.



**Congratulations, Father John!**

Archbishop Coyne's letter arrived in August. As Father John had requested, the Archbishop was "pleased to appoint him Pastor of Saint Raphael Parish for another term of six years." The role of the Pastor, the Archbishop wrote, is "to be the proper shepherd of the parish entrusted to him, exercising pastoral care. . . by teaching, sanctifying and governing." Archbishop Coyne, deeply grateful for Father's pastoral leadership, wrote in closing, "Please be assured of my prayers for you and all the members of Saint Raphael Parish." Congratulations, Father John! May God bless and guide you as you continue to shepherd the people of Saint Raphael Parish.