



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

October 2024



## Hail Mary (French/English)

*Je vous salue Marie, comblée de grâce,  
Le Seigneur est avec vous,  
Vous êtes bénie entre toutes les femmes,  
Et Jésus, le fruit de vos entrailles, est béni.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen*

## Pray the International Rosary

### Tuesday Evening, October 8 at Saint Gabriel Church

The International Rosary, a well-loved parish tradition that honors Mary during this month of the Holy Rosary, returns on Tuesday evening, October 8 beginning at 7 o'clock at Saint Gabriel Church.

This year we will pray the Luminous Mysteries for the intention of priests. A reflection, a prayer for priests and a Marian hymn will follow each of the Mysteries. Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, the Little Flower, wrote a prayer that



reads in part, "O Jesus, keep your priests within the shelter of your Sacred Heart, and let Your holy love surround them."

Multi-lingual parishioners will lead each decade in a different language and the congregation will respond in English. (See the French/English sample above.) In French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Vietnamese our prayers will rise like incense, reflecting the richness of the universal Church.

Please plan to be with us for this very special tribute to Our Lady of the Rosary. Come, and bring a friend. The evening will close with tasty refreshments in Saint Gabriel Hall.



## First Coffee And of the Season October 12 and 13

New season, but same great opportunity to mix and mingle with those terrific folks, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family. Stop in to the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall after any Mass the weekend of October 12/13. Coffee, tea, snacks, conversation - great stuff!

How are your teams doing? MLB? NFL? Law? Foran? Football? Soccer? Volleyball? Field Hockey? Lots to talk about; lots of car pooling to practices! If you can, visit the Card & Gift Shop in the Parish Center and admire Helen Boni's gift to the parish, a beautiful collection of Madonnas. You'll be glad you did.

## October Meetings

**Blue Mantle Ministry**  
Mondays at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.  
Saint Gabriel Ministry Center

**Creative Hands Ministry**  
Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.  
Saint Ann Parish Library

**Social Gathering Committee**  
Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 p.m.  
Saint Ann Parish Center

## First Saturday Rosary Recitation Begins October 6



In July of 1917, in a field called the *Cova de Iria*, near the small village of Fatima in Portugal, Mary appeared six times to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, three young shepherds. She identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary and asked the children to pray the Rosary "to obtain peace in the world." Our troubled world sorely needs that peace today.

She also encouraged a special observance on First Saturdays.

The people of Saint Raphael Parish continue to respond to Mary's call with First Saturday recitation of the Rosary from October through February, beginning October 6 at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Ann Church. Join us and be part of this well-loved devotion to Our Lady of Fatima.

## Notes from the Knights

As Tinto Council #47 prepared for July 1st and another fraternal year they savored Columbus-Connecticut State Council recognition and awards notifications:



- \*Among the "Top Ten Programs for number of Volunteers Hours" and
- \*Among the "Top Ten Programs for Donations"
- \*Met the requirements to earn the Columbian Award
- \*Will receive the Rising Star Award, presented once only to a council working towards the prestigious Star Award.
- \*\*Kudos, Tinto Council #47. Great way to start the year!\*\*



## Donna's Creation Care Corner Saint Francis and Creation

How fitting that the monthlong observance of the Season of Creation ends on October 4<sup>th</sup>, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Indeed, the year 2024 marks 45 years since Pope Saint John Paul II officially named Francis the patron saint of ecology.

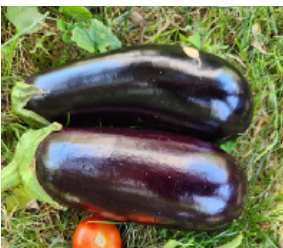
But there was much more to the young man from Assisi than his love of nature and animals. Francis took very seriously Jesus' words to the rich young man in Matthew's Gospel, "Go, sell what you have and give it to the poor. Then come, follow me." Francis and his companions, who became his "brothers," lived a life of radical poverty. As one biographer has written, "Francis did not try to abolish poverty; instead, he tried to make it holy." Because he wanted people to be able to visualize Christ's nativity he created the first creche. In his desire and need to be inclusive, he not only founded the Franciscan order for brothers, but also a religious community for women, the Poor Clares, and one for laypeople, the Third Order Regular. Extremely ill at the end of his short life - Francis died at 44 - in his suffering, he prayed to share in Christ's passion: as a result, he received the stigmata, the five wounds of Christ.

Today Francis is probably best known for his love of nature and of animals. But his relationship with the natural world was truly spiritual. It went much deeper than loving, caring for, respecting or admiring God's works. He believed firmly in the Creed of Saint Athanasius: "First, it is of faith that God is present by His Essence everywhere and in all things by reason of His Immensity." Genesis 1:31 revealed to him the metaphysical value of creation: "God saw all that He had made, and it was very good." Francis truly believed that God is present in nature, and that all of God's creatures, are intrinsically part of his brotherhood, and he lived his beliefs fully and deeply. He was known to have conducted a lecture for birds, to have freed rabbits from traps and fishes from hooks, cautioning them to be more alert, and not to get caught again.



The true homage Francis paid to the divine presence he found in nature occurred during an intense illness just two years before his death. Rather than focus on his ailments, his mind turned, as always, toward God and His presence in creation. It was then that he wrote "The Canticle of the Sun," an expression of his brotherhood with God's handiwork. "Praised be You, my Lord," he wrote, "with all your creatures."

To honor the Feast of Saint Francis, please read "The Canticle of the Sun," found at <https://franciscanfriarscresson.org/the-canticle-of-the-sun/>. You can read more about this remarkable saint at [https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint\\_id=50St](https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=50St). One way to honor Saint. Francis himself: Look for God's presence in His limitless, immeasurable Creation. Praised be!



### Veggies vs Varmints It's On In the Food Pantry Garden!

And it's not looking really great for the veggies! A couple of eggplants, a few tomatoes, cukes and jalepeno peppers were the highlights of Elizabeth Simonetti's most recent report.

There was, however, an undercurrent, or, perhaps, an undercard - that's a prizefight word, isn't it? "Despite all our efforts," the report went on, *varmints* (emphasis added) continue to feast on our garden." Results caused by "whatever makes it inside our fencing": the leaves and blossoms of most of the pepper plants and many of the tomatoes have been eaten off, leaving just stems. The squash, too, are gone, but some cukes are trying to grow.

Elizabeth did her best MASH impersonation, providing immediate, lifesaving care to casualties. We join her in hoping that we'll be able to harvest some veggies in the next several weeks. *Saint. Isidore, pray for us.*

### Paper Bags for Food Pantry Donations At Church Doors October 5/6

Bags, provided by Tinto Council #47, will have a list of Saint Gabriel Food Pantry's "most needed items." If you can, please take a bag and return it, with any of the items listed, to either Saint Gabriel or Saint Ann Church by October 12/13 (or any October weekend). Among the most needed items: Pasta (any shape), pasta sauce (any flavor), 24 oz. boxes of cereal, Knorr pasta and rice sides, soup, cake and brownie mix, toilet paper, facial tissues and small size laundry detergent.

Thank you, Tinto Council #47, for giving us an opportunity to minister in loving service to people in need.

## GIFT Sacramental Program Dates

### First Reconciliation

Saturday, October 5  
10:00 a.m. - noon  
and

Saturday, November 2  
10:00 a.m. - noon

Required sessions for children with a parent or guardian

### Confirmation

#### The Sacraments

Sunday, October 27  
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, October 29  
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Required for Candidates

All sessions will be held in a St. Ann Parish Center Classroom

## GIFT - for October

### Faith Formation for People of All Ages

If you haven't yet registered for GIFT, our faith formation program, it's not too late. We welcome families, couples and individual parishioners. Families whose children are in grade 3 and older and who have already received First Holy Communion should register for GIFT every year to continue family faith formation. Participation in weekly Mass and in our monthly GIFT sessions can help our young people to recognize that God is important--in the midst of our very busy lives. We also provide take-home materials, an excellent way to continue valuable learning at home. Please contact Maria with questions or for more information, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (cell).

### November 3 Confirmation at Cathedral of Saint Joseph

On Sunday, November 3, 22 teen candidates from Saint Raphael Parish, along with candidates from other parishes within the Archdiocese of Hartford, will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during a Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford

Please keep our Confirmation candidates in prayer as they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church. May they be transformed by the Holy Spirit, stay close and committed to Jesus and remain strongly connected to the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may they have the strength to live as Catholic Christians in our world today.

## The Nicene Creed

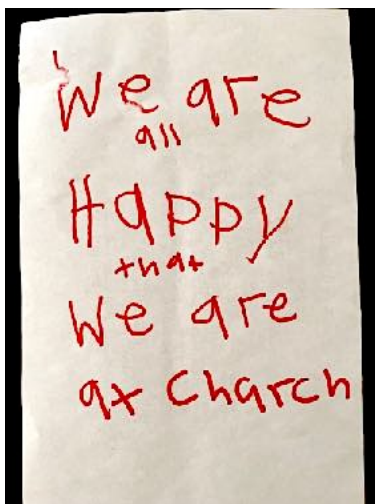
### Jesus Christ, Son of God

Sunday, October 20  
12 Noon-2:15 p.m.

or

Tuesday, October 22  
6:00-8:15 p.m.

Beginning with pizza in the Saint Ann Parish Center Hall



A delightful, heartwarming note left after Mass in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel. Thank you!!



## October, Time for T4S and Box of Joy®

### Every Child Deserves a Christmas Gift

This fall T4S, our Teens for Service group will mobilize to participate once again in the Cross Catholic Outreach Box of Joy® Program. In 2 decades of service this official Catholic ministry has provided material and spiritual blessings to those in need in more than 90 countries around the world. Box of Joy® reminds everyone who supports the program that love was born at Christmas.

Box of Joy® gifts are Christmas gifts - small items that will fit into a shoe box - sent to children in developing countries like Haiti, Malawi, the Dominican Republic and many more. Filled with toys, clothing, school supplies, a rosary and *The Story of Jesus*, these gifts represent Christ's love. Our donations will demonstrate Christ's compassion to a child who may never before have received a Christmas gift.

The teens thank you in advance for donating new small gifts like dolls, cars, trucks, boats, small plush animals, air pumps with needles for soccer balls (deflated), jewelry, sunglasses, purses or wallets, handheld toys, hair accessories, watches. We **cannot** accept food or beverages, medicines or vitamins, bubbles or bottled liquids (shampoo, nail polish, etc.), lotions, petroleum or gels (hand sanitizer, etc.), military/police toys, toy guns, glass/breakables, knives/tools. T4S members will be packing our donation boxes in late October. Please check the bulletin for donation details or reach out to Maria, as above. May God bless you for your kindness.

## 13th Annual Milford Trick or Trot to Benefit Beth-El Center, Saturday, October 26

Event begins at Lisman Landing (37 Helwig St.) at 9:00 a.m. Registration/check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Walk/run a 3.2 mile scenic route through Milford. Registration fee: \$37 for first 150 registrants, \$40 for additional registrants--to receive a race number and t-shirt. Ages 18 and younger: registration fee is \$25. Register by October 13 to be guaranteed an event t-shirt. Online: [Registration \(milfordtrickortrot.com\)](http://Registration(milfordtrickortrot.com)) Kids' Halloween dash, free for ages 10 and under, begins at 8:30 a.m. Please bring a non-perishable food item for Beth-El Center.





**Look Inside for Rosary Devotions, Focus on Saint Francis, Box of Joy, More**

We have *Coffee And* mid month, GIFT resumes, and you will love the note that turned up sometime last month in the Children's Chapel. The flower of the month, marigold, is decked out in striking autumnal colors, while there's a bit of a tussle going on in the Food Pantry garden. Plan to Trick or Trot before you go trick or treating and support Beth-El Center with your donation of a non-perishable food item (details inside).



Fun fact: October was the 8th month in the Roman calendar (750 BC), but kept its name after January and February were inserted in accord with the Julian and Gregorian calendar.

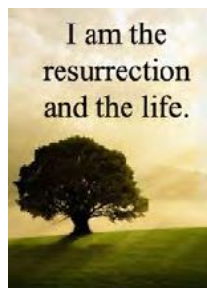
***The Parish Press***

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**In Memoriam**



I am the  
resurrection  
and the life.

Saint Raphael's mourns the loss of . . .

Kathleen Palumbo  
Sean Michael Shanley  
John Irish

Rose Marie "Margie" Bepko

May they enjoy eternal life through the mercy of our loving God.

**Bereavement Support: Sunday, October 13**

The parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, October 13th at 2 o'clock in the Children's Chapel. Please consider joining us if you are finding it difficult to cope with the loss of someone you love. Let others who have known the pain of loss help you on your journey toward healing. For additional additional information you may call Joanne (203-877-4020)



**Parish Press Info Due October 9**

News, notes, comments and photos for the November issue of *The Parish Press* are due in our editorial offices by Wednesday, October 9. Please send them to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!



**Love and Best Wishes . . .**

.as you begin your married lives together . . .  
Zachary and MaryKate (Marat) Usinger  
John and Amanda (Telesco) D'Elia

Zach and MaryKate were married on Friday, August 23 at Saint Ann Church. John and Amanda exchanged marriage vows on Saturday, September 6 at Saint Gabriel Church. God's warmest blessing on both our couples. May they grow in love and loyalty through long and happy marriages.

*All Saints Day*

**Friday, November 1**

**Holy Day Masses**

8:00 a.m. Mass - Saint Ann Church

7:00 p.m. Mass - Saint Gabriel Church

*Let us all rejoice in the Lord as we celebrate*

*The feast day of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.*