



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

November 2024



Parish Mass of Remembrance Sunday, November 17

The Saint Raphael Community of Faith
invites parishioners, families and friends to
our annual



Mass of Remembrance
to remember and to celebrate all the
members of our parish family who
have died during the past year
(October 2023 through mid-October 2024).

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on
Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The Mass of Remembrance will be live-streamed via
<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>.



All Saints' Day Holy Day Masses Friday, November 1

8:00 a.m. - Saint Ann Church
7:00 p.m. - Saint Gabriel Church

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, As we celebrate the
feast day in honor all the Saints.

First Saturday Rosary Recitation November 2

The tradition of First Saturday Rosary Devotion to Our Lady of Fatima continues on Saturday, November 2 at Saint Ann Church. Please join us at 11:00 a.m. to pray the Rosary and meditate on the Luminous Mysteries, which focus on the public ministry of Jesus. Be with us again for this very special Marian devotion on the first Saturdays of December, January and February.

Sip and Snack at Coffee And November 9 and 10



Tasty snacks and steaming hot beverages (or cold ones, if you prefer) await when you drop in to Saint Gabriel Hall or Saint Ann Parish Center after Masses on November 9 and 10.

On this Veterans' Weekend you will have the opportunity to make a donation to Wounded Warrior Project whose no-cost programs and services improve the lives of millions of wounded service members and their families.

Help for Hurricane Victims: Can and Bottle Drive Saturday, November 9

You have seen the photos and heard the stories of the devastation and heartbreak left in the wake of Hurricanes Helene and Milton. On **Saturday, November 9, 9 a.m. until noon** the parish will have a can/bottle drive in the Saint Ann parking lot to help the victims of these violent storms. Cash donations will also be accepted. (Make checks payable to Saint Raphael Parish, with Hurricane on the memo line.) Please continue to pray for hope and healing for all those who have suffered grievous loss.

Fall Cleanup at Saint Ann's Grounds Friday, November 15, 9 a.m.

All volunteers, welcome to our grounds crew! Come with your clippers, rakes, gloves, gardening tools and smiles. We have leaf bags. Rain date: November 22. Info: Kathleen at kbuchanan203@gmail.com. Thanks.

November 9 and 10: Jesse Manibusan in Concert With the Saint Ann and Saint Mark Choirs

Renowned Catholic singer and composer Jesse Manibusan brings his beautiful music and infectious spirit to Saint Raphael Parish for two November concerts with the Saint Ann and Saint Mark choirs. Concert dates are Saturday, November 9 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 10 at 3:00 p.m., in Saint Ann Church.

An old friend, Jesse has sung with us before, and we have become familiar with hymns like *All Are Welcome*, *Open My Eyes*, *Alleluia! Love is Alive* and *Hold On To Love*, some solo compositions, some collaborative efforts, all memorable and uplifting. Don't miss the chance to see and hear this engaging and generous performer. Advance tickets (\$12) are on sale in the church vestibules after weekend Masses or through the parish office (203-874-0634). Tickets at the door: \$17.

Advent & Christmas Reflection Booklet Available November 23/24

Beginning the weekend before Thanksgiving look for this year's seasonal booklet, Jessie Bazan's *Waiting in Joyful Hope*, a series of stories and reflections to inspire you and enrich your prayer life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The booklets, a gift from the parish, will help us prepare our hearts for the new life that is Christ. You will find them at the church doors.

Thanksgiving Day Mass Thursday, November 24, 9 a.m. at Saint Gabriel Church

Come and gather with the parish family around the table of the Lord.
*Sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts, always
thanking God for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Sincere Thanks



Heartfelt Appreciation

A Note from the Knights



Saint Raphael's Knights of Columbus Tinto Council #47 sponsored its first-ever food drive last month, in support of the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, and the Knights were a bit overwhelmed at the generous response. The Council supplied the grocery bags and the list of most needed items. Parishioners brought their donations to both St. Ann and St. Gabriel churches - a total of 200 bags of groceries! (And donations were still coming in as we went to press.) The Knights posted a note of thanks on their Facebook page.

A Note to the Knights

Thank you, Tinto Council #47 for organizing the "Support the Food Pantry" project. Through your efforts the Saint Raphael parish family was able to extend God's compassion and kindness to those in need. We fed the hungry, a Corporal Work of Mercy. We helped stock the shelves at the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, noted for its dedication to serving the community. (See at right.) Well done!

A Note to the Parish

The Food Pantry operates year round, and the need grows as winter approaches. You may leave donated items in the vestibule of either church. Staples on the pantry's Most Needed Items list include: boxed cereal, pasta (any shape), jarred pasta sauce (24 oz.), coffee, Knorr pasta and rice sides, soup, Mac and cheese, canned tomatoes, pudding and Jello, canned fruits and vegetables, facial tissues, toilet paper, small size laundry detergent. Thank you for your kindness.

Mark Your Calendars - Circle Saturday, November 9! The Parish Garden's Great Compost Drive, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

The hard-working Parish Garden crew is looking for donations of soil and compost to winterize our vegetable garden. You are invited to gather up your homemade or bagged and store-bought compost and drop it off at the garden on Saturday, November 9 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.



Tucked away behind the former Saint Ann Rectory on Naugatuck Avenue, the garden is an innovative project, now approaching its third season, that provides fresh vegetables for the families served by the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry. A good thick layer of compost, project coordinator Elizabeth Simonetti told our reporter, will get us off to a great start in the spring. We are grateful for your donations and for the help of our faithful patron, Saint Isidore the Farmer. *Saint Isidore, pray for us.*

Advent Luncheon Sunday, November 17, Following the 11:00 a.m. Mass

The invitations are out - this is yours! - to the parish's annual Advent luncheon on Sunday, November 17 in Saint Gabriel Hall, immediately following the 11 o'clock Mass. You won't need a ticket, but there is an entrance fee: a non-perishable food item and a new, *unwrapped* item of winter clothing for adults or children (hats, gloves, scarves, socks, etc.) All donations will go to the homeless, local charities and the Saint Gabriel food pantry.

Make your reservations in the church vestibules or call our master chef, Rose Marie Marmolejo, (203-378-5508), who needs to know how many guests we will have. Our reporter had a quick peek at the menu: soup, sandwiches, chips, condiments, coffee, tea and finger desserts, prepared and served with love and appreciation. Thank you.

A Recent Posting to Our Facebook Page: (St Raphael Parish, Milford, CT)

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the invaluable service you provide to those in need, including myself. In the months when financial difficulties have made it challenging to afford groceries, your food pantry has been a lifeline. But it's not just the much-needed assistance that I appreciate - it's the way you provide it with such respect and care.

The quality of the groceries you offer is always impressive. It's clear that you go above and beyond to ensure that everything is fresh and well-stocked, and I'm so grateful for the effort you put into making sure that those who rely on your services receive the best possible support.

Your commitment to providing a dignified shopping experience has not gone unnoticed. You treat everyone who comes through your doors with kindness and understanding, and it makes such a difference in the lives of those who may be struggling.

Thank you, St. Gabriel's Food Pantry, for your compassion, generosity, and dedication to serving your community. Your work truly makes a meaningful impact on the lives of those you serve, and I am incredibly thankful for all that you do.

November GIFT Faith Formation for People of All Ages

During November's GIFT sessions we will look more deeply into what we believe about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, and consider how the Holy Spirit is active in our lives, in the Church, and in the world. As we learn more about the gifts of the Holy Spirit we will consider how we can use them in our families, in our parish and in our community.

Please note: We invite teens and adult without children to join our GIFT families for either of these November sessions. There will be an adult break-out session on both dates.

GIFT Sacramental Program Dates

First Reconciliation

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

In two Parish Center
classrooms

Required for children
with parent or guardian

The Nicene Creed
The Holy Spirit
Sunday, November 17
12 Noon-2:15 p.m.
or
Tuesday, November 19
6:00-8:15 p.m.
Starts with a pizza
dinner in the Saint Ann
Parish Center Hall

Christmas Giving Program 2024



Trees in our church vestibules are a sign - the Saint Raphael Parish Christmas Giving Program is underway! When you come to Mass the first weekend of Advent, November 30/December 1, you will find Christmas trees in the vestibules of both churches, gaily decorated with gift tag ornaments. (Additional ornaments at the church doors.) Each gift tag lists an item or gift card that will bring Christmas joy to parish families, to people in need and to people served by local organizations. Your gifts will also brighten the day for health care facility residents.

Festive as they appear decked in their colorful gift tags, the trees become more beautiful as they are stripped of their ornaments by the members of the parish family. Your generosity is a true sign of the love that is the reason for this season.

Please take a gift tag (more than one, if you can) and return the gift(s), with tag(s) attached, when you come to Mass on December 7/8 or December 14/15. The gift tag will indicate whether or not your gift should be wrapped. Please return gifts by Sunday, December 15, if possible. Our holiday elves want to be sure that all the gifts are delivered by Christmas Day. May God bless you for your kindness.

Want to help? We are scheduling a meeting on November 25, 6:30 p.m. for anyone who would like to help write out and cut out our gift tag ornaments. (See at right.)

Sign Up for Beth-El's Welcome Home Ministry Assist Households Moving to Permanent Housing

Welcome Home Ministry is a new initiative spearheaded by faith communities, Saint Raphael Parish among them, in partnership with the Beth-El Center (BEC). Historically BEC has supported households moving to permanent housing by acquiring home goods and providing moving support. Since the COVID-19 pandemic the funds and bandwidth that supported these efforts have decreased, while the population BEC serves has increased in vulnerability. With 80% of individual households now above age 55 and facing complex medical issues, they have limited ability to provide their own moving needs or to acquire the home goods necessary in their new homes.

In an attempt to meet these needs BEC is looking for volunteers who can provide a truck or other vehicle, and/or can lift and move furniture and household goods. More information and a sign-up sheet are available at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfKrTC4DP9op7v4uAUsVdfXtnZdEo5wWgiKyr4QMpsMayHsDw/viewform?usp=pp_url or info@bethelmilford.org.

Before we decorate the trees . . .

. . . we will need help writing and cutting out the gift tag ornaments. Would you like to help? We welcome people of all ages - adults, teens and children - to be part of our important "prepare the ornaments" crew. We'll be meeting on Monday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m. in a Parish Center classroom. Come join us!



We will also need some weekend help with gift check-in and with delivery, beginning on Monday, December 16, with several make-up delivery dates.

If you have questions or would like to help please contact Kathleen Buchanan (203-606-6476), Rose Marie Marmolejo (203-378-5508) or Maria Tomasetti (atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598, voice or text).

Saint Raphael Annual Christmas Fair Saturday, December 7, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

MaryJo Downs and her hard-working committee are gearing up for this year's Christmas Fair and hoping you can help. Please donate lottery tickets and gift cards from local grocery stores, hair and nail salons, restaurants and barber shops (all great raffle prizes!). Seal them in an envelope marked "MaryJo, Christmas Fair" and drop it in the collection basket.

Excitement is building around the newest addition to the Fair, a Nativity Scene Exhibit Room for fair-goers to visit and enjoy. If you have a Nativity set you can donate (MaryJo thinks "that would be wonderful!") please bring it to the parish office (501 Naugatuck Ave., lower level) on Mondays or Wednesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Questions? Info? Call MaryJo (203-710-0471). Thank you.

A Busy Month: All Saints, Election, Mass of Remembrance and More

November begins with the Solemnity of All Saints, a feast that honors the well-known and the obscure, all of them sharing life with God for all eternity. Also on our parish calendar: first Saturday Fatima Rosary, Coffee And, a concert with Jesse Manibusan, the Advent Luncheon, our Mass of Remembrance and much more.



Tuesday, November 5, is Election Day. As Americans we are blessed to be able to participate in our nation's political and public life. As Catholics we are called to bring together our principles and political choices, our values and our votes, to help build a better world. Be a faithful citizen. Remember to vote.

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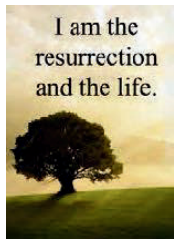
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Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

In Memoriam



Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of . . .

Sherlock Paul Holmes, Jr. Helene Clark
Angelica McLaughlin Janet Covaleski

May Christ's perpetual light shine upon them.

Bereavement Support: Sunday, November 3



Our parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday, November 3 at 2:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. (Please note the change to the first Sunday of the month.) If you feel overwhelmed by the loss of someone you love, consider joining us. Let us walk with you, for a while, on the painful journey from grief to healing. Call Joanne (203-877-4020) for details.

December Newsletter Info Due November 8

Please send your information for December's *Parish Press* to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Friday, November 8. Thank you.

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Maura McCarthy Rory McCarthy
Georgia Neilis
Dayro Villalta Airelis Villalta



Maura, Rory and Georgia were baptized in September. Dayro and Airelis received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Saturday, October 5 at Saint Ann Church. May God bless them always and may they live and grow in the light of God's love.

Love and Best Wishes

as you begin your married life together . . .

William and Emily (Sopchak) Millhuff
Alec and Jaclyn (Kochiss) Dvoretzky



Will and Emily were married on Saturday, September 28 at Saint Ann Church. Alec and Jaclyn exchanged wedding vows on Friday, October 11 at Saint Gabriel Church. Congratulations! May you savor warm love, a new day every day and a long life together.

From the USCCB: *We strongly urge all parishioners to register, to become informed on key issue, and to vote. The Church does not support or oppose any candidate, but seeks to focus attention on the moral and human dimensions of issues. In a democracy, loving our neighbor and caring for the least among us means supporting leaders and policies that promote the common good and protect society's most vulnerable members.*