



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family
Milford, Connecticut

April 2025



Papal Encouragement on our Lenten Journey

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent began, our gracious and merciful God spoke to us through the prophet Joel: *Return to me with your whole heart.* Signed with the ashes of repentance we set off on our journey of return, designated by Pope Francis as *pilgrims of hope.*

In this year's Lenten message, Pope Francis offered some encouragement: *Let us journey together in hope. Let hope be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter.* His message goes on: *Christ, my hope, has risen! He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph.*

We should reach our destination, the empty tomb, in just under three weeks. This year we will celebrate the Easter Triduum, the "emotional heart of the Church year," at Saint Gabriel Church.

EASTER TRIDUUM SAINT GABRIEL CHURCH

HOLY THURSDAY

April 17

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
7:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY

April 18

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion
3:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY

April 19

Blessing of the Easter Food
11:00 a.m.
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
8:00 p.m.

The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil
The Liturgy of the Word
Celebration of Confirmation
Liturgy of the Eucharist

Easter Sunday Masses

Saint Gabriel Church
8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Saint Ann Church
9:30 a.m.



Lenten Confessions (In addition to regular Saturday schedule)



Saint Gabriel Church

Monday, April 7, 6-6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 15, 4-4:30 p.m.

Saint Ann Church

Monday, April 14, 10-10:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 16, 7-7:30 p.m.



Stations of the Cross

Friday afternoons
3:00 p.m. at Saint Ann Church
Live-streamed at the parish
website, remain available under
Previous Broadcasts.

April 4

***Come to Me All of You
Stations in the Voice of Christ***

April 11

Mary's Way of the Cross

Teen-led Stations of the Cross

7:00 p.m. (about 30 minutes)
For families/people of all ages

April 4

Saint Ann Church

April's Notes from the Knights



Rich Wheeling, Grand Knight of Tinto Council #47 filed this report on the Kof C's new Scripture initiative, *Men of the Word: The Good News.* Fourteen men of the parish met on Monday, March 3 in the Saint Ann library for the first session of this bible study that is meant for and open to **all men of the parish.**

Basic for Session One: the Bible, is God's word to us. And the the "heart of our religion."? Not a moral code, a philosophy of life, or a set of rituals and prayers. The core of our faith is the person of Jesus Christ and the story of how much God has loved us. The group read and discussed Scripture passages about the beginning of Jesus' ministry and the realization and revelation of the resurrection to his disciples. The exercise prompted discussion and questions pertaining to the lesson and the readings. The evening was a success!

Remember, men of the parish, it's not too late, it's *never* too late, to join us. Our next session will be on Monday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the Saint Ann Library. We look forward to seeing you then.



Parish

Saturday May 24
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
St. Ann Parish Center

**Tag Sale Team Will Accept Donations
at the Saint Ann Parish Center**

Starting Wednesday April 23

Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m. daily

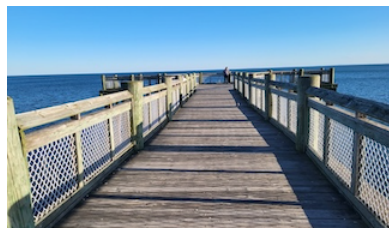
Thursday evenings, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Our team is looking for cash and carry items like jewelry, electronics, housewares, sporting goods, gently used clothing (a terrific item!), and small furniture only.

Items headlining our "Please no, they just don't sell!" list:

glassware, vases, and stuffed animals.

This major parish fundraiser succeeds year after year only with the help of terrific volunteers - like you! Can you help sort the items (ahead of the sale) or staff the tables on sale day (selling items, covering for the vendors, etc.)? Sign on by calling MaryJo Downs (203-710-0471). You'll make her day! Thank you.



**Donna's Creation Care Corner
Microplastics and the Sound**

How blessed we are at Saint Raphael Parish to live so near Long Island Sound! Because Milford boasts 17 miles of coastline along the Sound we are privileged to see her in all her moods, dark and stormy under grey skies, shimmering with diamonds on a clear and sunny day, serenely calm on a windless afternoon. And with God's blessing comes responsibility: we are to care for God's generous gift. She needs our help now.

Since 2017, Save the Sound, whose mission is to protect and improve the land, air, and water of the whole Long Island Sound region, has collected over 500,000 pieces of trash, mostly plastic, from LIS. More than 600 marine species worldwide have been adversely affected by plastic.

Plastics have an amazing upside, including the development of computers and cell phones and advances in medicine. In a March 2025 issue of Forbes, heart and lung transplant surgeon Bill Frist wrote, "Disposable syringes, IV bags, surgical gloves, and catheters dramatically reduced infection rates and made modern healthcare safer."

But plastics, especially single-use plastics like water bottles, break down into microplastics, particles smaller than 5mm in size. They have been found in drinking water, toothpaste, facial scrubs and various foods. In the same article Frist wrote that there is "alarming evidence of microplastics' presence in human brains, lungs, bloodstreams, and even the placenta. Researchers have now linked microplastics to inflammation, oxidative stress (two hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease), immune dysfunction, metabolic disorders, and even cognitive decline." NIH has found that a single plastic water bottle contains approximately 120,000 tiny microplastics.



As faith-filled, health conscious Catholics concerned about the environment we want to reduce the amount of plastic in our lives. Recycling, unfortunately is not the answer: according to MIT, only 6% of plastics are recycled yearly in the U.S. Thankfully, there are quick-and-easy preventive actions we can take:

When dining out or getting take-out, refuse:

*plastic straws: used once for a few minutes, they take hundreds of years to break down.

*plastic flatware: keep permanent flatware handy in your car.

Grab: those take-out containers already piling up at home for your leftovers when dining out. The U.S. consumes one trillion individual pieces of disposable food-ware and packaging yearly.

Embrace permanent water bottles: People buy a *million plastic bottles EVERY MINUTE*; in the United States alone. More than 60 million end up in landfills and incinerators *every day!*

Use permanent bags: at grocery stores/for all shopping. Americans discard 102 billion plastic bags yearly!

Compost food waste: Composts reduce the number of plastic bags that haul food scraps and trash to landfills where food waste creates methane.

Switch to:

*shampoo bars: over 552 million shampoo bottles go to landfills yearly.

*hand/body soap bars: over 1 billion plastic body-wash bottles are discarded yearly.

*eco-laundry strips: over 900 million laundry jugs end up as garbage yearly.

Pope Francis reminds us, "Efforts by households to reduce pollution and waste, and to consume with prudence, are creating a new culture." At home, let us begin spring with a new culture that saves not only the Sound, but also ourselves from plastic

**Seeds, Please, for the
Food Pantry Garden**



It's planting time - and the stalwart crew of the Food Pantry Garden is soliciting seeds for this year's crop. On the most wanted list: cukes, beans, peas, hard squash (acorn, butternut, etc.), zucchini and yellow squash. Please drop your donations into the boxes (marked **Seeds**) in the vestibules of both churches. Thanks very much.

Saint Isidore the Farmer, pray for us.

**The Nicene Creed:
One Baptism, Resurrection
Life of the World to Come**

Sunday, April 27
12:00 noon-2:15 p.m.

or

Tuesday, April 29
6:00-8:15 p.m.

Saint Ann Parish Center Hall

Each session begins with
a shared pizza dinner

April Topic For GIFT:

One Baptism, Resurrection of the Dead, Life of the World to Come

Since September the focus of our GIFT sessions has been the Nicene Creed, the Profession of Faith that we say and pray every week at Mass. We have discussed the various sections of the Creed and have deepened our understanding of God the Father; the Trinity; Jesus Christ, the Son of God; the Holy Spirit; Jesus' Death and Resurrection and the Church, one, holy, catholic and apostolic.

This month we will examine the truths expressed in the Creed's closing section: one Baptism, Resurrection of the Dead and the Life of the World to Come. We look forward to seeing all of our GIFT families, and welcome other parishioners to come and share the "GIFT Experience." For further information: Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

GIFT

**Sacramental
Program Schedule**

First Communion

Tour of St. Gabriel Church

Saturday, April 5

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

or

Tour of St. Ann Church

Saturday, April 12

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.



**Is Your Rice Bowl Brimming
with Donations?
Here Are Ways to Return It**

- *Put donations (in a sealed rice bowl or labeled envelope) in the collection baskets at Mass .
- *Bring your CRS Rice Bowl with donations to April's GIFT in-person sessions. (Schedule appears above.)
- *Return Rice Bowl donations to the Parish Office Monday thru Friday during office hours
- *Donate on the Rice Bowl website: [Give to CRS Rice Bowl](#)

Thank you for your kindness to people in need. Your Rice Bowl donations help CRS carry out the commitment of the U.S. Bishops to assist the poor and vulnerable, overseas (75% of donations) and in the Hartford Archdiocese (25%). Scroll to the bottom of the CRS website and you will see, printed in bold, bright letters: Faith Knows No Bounds®. Neither does the generosity of the Saint Raphael Parish family. Thank you very much.

Contact Maria, as above, if you have CRS Rice Bowl questions.

Pastoral Council Nominations Due Sunday, April 5

It's Pastoral Council Selection Season! To fill the vacancies that result from term expirations we ask you to submit nominations for new Council members. You may nominate yourself or another parishioner to serve on the Council, a consultative body that assists the pastor in planning and developing pastoral programs, improving pastoral services and evaluating their overall effectiveness. Please give careful and prayerful consideration, then submit the name (and phone number if you have it) of someone you think would serve the parish faithfully and well.

Nominees must meet these eligibility requirements: *Baptized and confirmed Catholics in good standing with the Church and at least 18 years old; *Registered and supporting members of the parish; *Committed to giving the time needed for participation.

Nomination forms are in the bulletin. Please drop your completed forms into the collection basket by April 5. New members will be chosen by lot (a system recorded in Scripture) from the group of final nominees.



A VBS Reminder from Kody the Bear

A note from Kody for young people ages 4-11: It's time to register for True North: *Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*, summer's VBS adventure. Camp dates:

Monday, July 21 through Friday, July 25

9:00 a.m. - 12 noon

(Extended Friday for Compass Closing, Pizza Lunch)

Suggested donation: \$25 per child (\$5 per day)

Campers will trek the Alaskan tundra as they track Jesus, a faithful friend who will always point us in the right direction. They will meet Bible buddies like Kody, enjoy the different Activity Centers, play Glacier Games and snack on some tasty Tundra Treats to the beat of True North's lively music. Kody says, "It will be a really cool time!" And scholarships are available.

To make this adventure happen we need adult and teen volunteers To register a camper or to sign on as a volunteer please reach out to Maria, as above. This July: North, to Alaska!

**Coffee And Weekend
April 12/13**



You are cordially invited to stop by Saint Gabriel Hall or the Saint Ann Parish Center for sipping and snacking after Mass on Palm Sunday weekend, April 12 and 13. Chat with some of the nicest folks we know, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family. If you're at Saint Ann's be sure to visit the Card and Gift Shop and admire the collection of madonnas, a gift to Saint Raphael Parish from the late Helen Boni Fisher.

**Come Decorate Saint Ann Church for Easter!
Saturday, April 19. at 11:30 a.m.**

Help us arrange the flowers and make the church reflect the beauty of the Easter season. Thank you.

Alleluia! He Is Risen!

The Lord is truly risen, alleluia.
To him be glory and power
for all ages of eternity, alleluia, alleluia.



These beautiful words, the Entrance Antiphon for Easter Sunday's Mass of the Resurrection, offer praise and worship to our risen Lord, a most fitting way to begin the Easter Sunday celebration.

In a famous Easter homily Saint John Chrysostom, 4th century bishop and Doctor of the Church, encouraged "devout lovers of God" to enjoy "this beautiful, bright Festival! Let all then enter the joy of our Lord!" Pope Saint John Paul II spoke of the joy of the Lord in these words: "We are an Easter people, *Alleluia* is our song!" Happy Easter.

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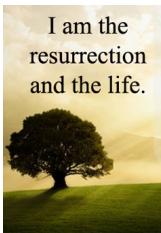
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Have a Joyous Easter! Rejoice in hope!

In Memoriam



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

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Carol Finn | Paul Lambert |
| Denise Martin | Leigh Danenberg, Jr. |
| Linda Borges | Claude Champagne |
| Lawrence Slater, Jr. | Russell Detuzzi |
| Daniel Charles Mazzabufi | |

May they enter into eternal life with the God who created them.

Bereavement Support on Palm Sunday, April 13



If you are struggling because of the death of someone you love we invite you to meet with the parish's Bereavement Support group. on Sunday afternoon April 13 at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel.

In this prayerful and confidential setting you may find comfort as you share the pain that often follows loss. For additional information please call Joanne (203-877-4020).

Information for the May Newsletter Due April 15

Kindly send your news, notes, comments, and photos for May's newsletter to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Tuesday, April 15. Thank you!

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest member of our parish family:

Weston Viscount

who received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, March 16 at Saint Ann Church.

God's warmest blessing on you, Weston, and on your family.



Graduate Recognition Celebration, Sunday, June 1

Attention, Class of 2025! Our annual Saint Raphael Parish graduation recognition celebration is scheduled for Sunday, June 1 and is open to all grade 8, high school, and college/post-secondary school graduates with their family/friends.

Festivities begin with the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Ann Church, followed by a reception with brunch in the Saint Ann Parish Center. We would be delighted if you and your family are able to participate. Please RSVP to Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text) by Saturday, May 24 to register your graduate and confirm the number of family members and friends who plan to attend.

Look for additional details in the weekly bulletin or in the May edition of *The Parish Press*. Thank you.