



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

May 2025



O Mary, We Crown Thee with Blossoms on Mother's Day



Because Saint Raphael Parish is blessed with two beautiful churches we are also blessed with the opportunity to crown Mary twice every year, once at Saint Ann Church, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of Nazareth and again at Saint Gabriel Church, dedicated to the angel of the Annunciation. Most appropriately, we will crown Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11.

Parishioners are invited to gather after the 9:30 Mass at Saint Ann's at the statue of Mary that is outside the church and to raise your voices in hymns and prayers as we crown our Lady.

Huxley Quinn has the honor of crowning Mary in a lovely ceremony before the 11 o'clock Mass begins at Saint Gabriel's. Continuing a touching tradition, Tom Croteau will donate the floral crown in loving memory of his sister, Michelle Papin.



Volunteers Needed for HomeFront Day, May 17

The parish HomeFront team has issued a call for assistance for this year's repair project.

The team needs volunteers on Saturday, May 17, to help with painting, carpentry, plumbing and various other tasks at a house on Dewey Ave. in Milford. We hope you can help us continue Saint Raphael's proud history with HomeFront, a community based, volunteer-driven program that provides free repairs to low income homeowners, allowing them to remain in their homes.

Please contact Carrie Jayne, our volunteer coordinator, to sign on (carrietyl@yahoo.com; 203-218-0644 - mobile; or 203-878-5566). We are most grateful for your help.



May's Notes from the Knights: Bible Study, Food Drive, 4 Chaplains Presentation

Saint Raphael's Tinto Council 47 has been busy with the "Men of the Word" bible study, open to all men of the parish. Sessions are held the first Monday of the month at 7 p.m. Next session: Monday, May 5 in the Saint Ann Library. Not to worry if you haven't been with us before - you are welcome to join us at any time.

Upcoming events: a spring Food Drive to benefit the Saint Gabriel food pantry. During the weekend of May 31/June 1 Knights of Columbus members will hand out paper bags and lists of most needed items at all of the scheduled Masses. On the following weekend, June 7/8, the Knights will collect the donations. Our fall food drive, you may recall, brought in over 2300 pounds of food for the pantry. How great was that?! We're hoping to meet or match that terrific total.

On Thursday August 14 the Knights of Columbus will host a presentation of "The Four Chaplains," an hour long program that tells the story of four WW II chaplains, ordained ministers of different faiths, who came together in an amazing way to demonstrate their love of God and man.

This presentation will be open to all parishioners, men and women. Look for additional information in upcoming editions of *The Parish Press* and in the weekend bulletin. We hope to see many of you at this inspirational program.



First Communion Weekends

May 3/4 and May 17/18

Twenty-six young people will receive First Holy Communion, their second Sacrament of Initiation, at regularly scheduled weekend Masses on May 3/4 and May 17/18.

What a wonderful celebration for the entire Saint Raphael Parish family as we welcome some of our youngest members with joy to the Lord's table. We remember and rejoice during the Easter season that the Eucharist, Holy Communion, is the most precious gift that Jesus gave us. As Saint Pope John Paul II has written, "Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love," where the whole Christ is truly present - body, blood, soul, and divinity - under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ - who rose from the dead (USCCB).

Thank you, First Communicants and your families, for allowing us to share in your very special day. We hope you will worship with us often and receive Jesus in Holy Communion, the meal of God's family.

First Weekend Coffee And This Month

Visit with the parish family during Coffee And after Masses on May 3 and 4. Sip and snack at Saint Gabriel Hall or at the Parish Center, where you can browse our collection of moderately priced greeting cards for all occasions.



If you can, kindly consider making a donation to support the good work of Boys and Girls Village.



Parish

Yes - the Long-Awaited Tag Sale Is On!

Saturday, May 24 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Campus - 501 Naugatuck Avenue

Come early, stay late. Check our inventory - you may find a treasure! You can also *be* a treasure - join our fun-loving team as a greeter, a sorter of fabulous merchandise or a table monitor. Your value to MaryJo and her minions will be beyond pearls! Call 203-710-0471 and identify yourself: "Hi, MaryJo. *Treasure* here. How can I help?"

It's Not Too. Late - You Can Still Donate Items for the Tag Sale

M-F, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call the office (203-874-0634) before a.m. drop-off.

Thursdays, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The team is looking for new or gently used items: clothing (terrific!), jewelry, holiday decor, electronics, housewares, sporting goods, artwork, toys, games, baby/toddler items, books and small furniture. Please, **no** glassware or large furniture. Thank you very much.

Food Pantry Garden Workday:

Saturday, May 10 10 a.m. - Noon

Attention garden teammates: Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 10 and help get the garden ready for planting. We'll turn over the planting areas, clean up the compost heap, install the gate, and plant the beans and peas, so bring a shovel, work gloves, and, of course, a smile!

Wally Hauck, John Marmolejo and Melvyn Moral have volunteered to make the garden gate (PVC pipe and elbows, zip ties and chicken wire - about \$25 of materials at The Home Depot). Please let Elizabeth know if you can make it on May 10.

Thanks for all you do for the Pantry and for the Lord.

Saint Isidore, pray for our garden ministry.



Donna's Creation Care Corner

Protect the Piping Plover, One of God's Cutest Creatures

Finally! A month into spring and we've been blessed with some warm, sunny days. Let's head to the beach for some surf, sand, leisure, and recreation. Be mindful, however, that our shore also has another function, one that's crucial for God's creation - it provides critical breeding sites for beach-nesting birds, like the Piping Plover, listed since 1986 under the Endangered Species Act.



Adult Piping Plovers are very similar in appearance, but the male has a black bar across his forehead and his neck collar is darker and goes nearly all the way around.. During breeding season, the males dress up: their bands grow darker as they try to attract the lady plovers, sporting their version of a top hat and tux. Nothing, however, is cuter than a Piping Plover chick with its tiny, fluffy body and its ability to run really fast - fuzz on wheels!

Before you head to the beach this year, remember to protect the Piping Plover and other nesting shorebirds. Nesting parents are under a lot of stress - they may still be recovering from migration. Disturbing birds prevents them from resting and feeding; even if we mean no harm, birds can experience reduced survival rates and egg failure. Piping Plover chicks are precocial; they can walk and forage within a few hours of hatching. But because the chicks are dependent on parental warmth to maintain a stable body temperature, parents and chicks should not be frightened away from each other.

Visit the Be-A-Good-Egg website at <https://ct.audubon.org/bird-friendly-at-the-beach> for tips and helpful information on sharing the shore with nesting birds, then click on and sign the Be A Good Egg pledge you'll find on the first page. To learn more about birds, download the Merlin app to your phone. This free resource is incredible for identifying birds you see and hear. [All About Birds](#) and [eBird](#) are two additional online resources for "all things birds."

Gee, there's a lot to think about and remember before you go to the beach, not just your towel and sunscreen. But once you've observed God's tiny, vulnerable creatures for the first or even the hundredth time, you will thank our loving Father for yet another wonder of creation.

Miscellaneous Notes of Interest

Results of Can and Bottle Drive To Support California Wild Fire Victims

The effort raised a total of \$755, which included a generous \$300 donation from the Knights of Columbus. Heartfelt thanks to all those who donated cans and bottles and to everyone who worked to make the event successful. God bless.

St. James Church:

Heart of PA Excursion

June 25-26

Per Person Rates:

\$564/Single \$484/Double

\$454/Triple. \$439/Quad \$324 Ages 3-12

Payment in full due by Monday, May 5

Karen Smith 203-209-4223 or

karen.smith@stjct.org

Courtesy Parking Now Available

at Tyde of Walnut Beach

(72 Broadway)

during Masses at

Saint Gabriel Church.

Courtesy of Rosa and her staff.

Thank you for your kindness.



GIFT's May Session is an Easter Celebration!

Friday, May 9, 6-8 P.M. at the Parish Center

All Families with Children and Teens are invited to GIFT's Easter Season Event on Friday evening, May 9 between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. Please join us in the Saint Ann Parish Center as we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus during the Easter Season. Come and learn more about the Ascension of Jesus and about Pentecost, which celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles.

This evening of festivities is open to all GIFT families and their friends, as well as to those who have not yet registered for our GIFT faith formation program: families with children, including young children, and teens. The evening's agenda includes: **Pizza dinner and snacks. **Easter season prayer walk. **Easter egg hunt!



**Easter season crafts and coloring, including Resurrection and Pentecost crafts **Other Easter season activities, like bingo, puzzles and cookie decorating. **Easter season service project for our ill and homebound parishioners.

For planning purposes, please contact Maria, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text) to sign up for this Easter extravaganza. (We want to be sure we have enough food, Easter eggs, and supplies for everyone!!) We look forward to seeing you on May 9th!

April's Sacramental Notes

In the days leading up to Easter four young parishioners met Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, a Sacrament of Healing. Congratulations, Brian Mercado who received the sacrament April 12 and Camila Torres Guevara, Airelis Villalta, and Dayro Villalta, who made First Confessions April 16. May you always remember how much God loves you.

Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil

During the beautiful and moving liturgy of the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19 at Saint Gabriel Church, Danielle Cerina Lydia Rivera, one of our OCIA candidates (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) was fully initiated into the Catholic Church. Baptized Catholic as an infant, Danielle received the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Eucharist. Congratulations, Danielle! Saint Raphael Parish embraces you and welcomes you into the fullness of life in Christ. May God bless you always.

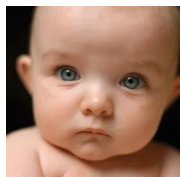
Our Pro-Life Ministry Has a New Project

Our newly invigorated Pro-Life Ministry owes a debt of gratitude to Deacon George Sartor, whose clear focus on the infinite dignity of every person, "born and unborn," was critical to its revival. Deacon George purchased and distributed over 500 copies of Trent Horn's booklet "Why We're Pro-Life" and encouraged the Human Concerns Committee to initiate a supporting project that would appeal to anyone and everyone.

The committee met and discussed the idea with three very active Pro-Life organizations the [Hope Pregnancy Center](#), [Helping Hands for Hurting Hearts](#), and [St. Gianna Pregnancy Resource Center](#). The result:

A Diaper Drive the Weekend of May 31/June 1

You can help by purchasing diapers (sizes 0 to 12 mos. only). Bring them to Saint Ann Church from 2 - 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 31 and/or Sunday, June 1. Teen volunteers will receive and store them, then organize delivery to both Helping Hands and St. Gianna for distribution to those in need.



With your help this can be a very successful project. Please donate if you can and also consider joining our committee to keep the momentum growing. We are planning more projects for the future. For further information reach out to Wally Hauck (wally@wallyhauck.com or 203-874-8484. Thank you.

Graduate Recognition Celebration June 1

It's not too late to join us!

Our annual Saint Raphael Parish graduate recognition celebration, scheduled for Sunday, June 1 is open to all grade 8, high school, and college/post-secondary school graduates with their family/friends. The celebration will begin with the 9:30 a.m. Mass at Saint Ann Church, followed by a brunch reception in the Parish Center. We hope your family will be able to participate! If not, please email your graduate's information, as indicated below, for our 2025 graduate sheet and our *Parish Press* newsletter.

RSVP to Maria, as above, by **Saturday, May 24** to register your graduate and confirm the number of family members and friends who will attend. Include the name of your graduate's current school and plans for next year (high school, college/major, post-secondary/technical school, military, work). We also request an electronic copy of a photo for our event's graduate photo board. To help with our menu planning, please advise us of any special dietary requirements for your family or guests.

God's warmest blessings on all our graduates and their families.

**May Highlights: Eastertide, Mothers, May
Crownings, 1st Communions and More!**

This year the entire month of May falls within the 50 days of the Easter season, or Eastertide. We sing *Alleluia*, rejoice that Christ is risen and, like the



Apostles, await the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

We celebrate our mothers during May and thank Christ for his precious gift from the cross, crowned this month with flowers, Mary, our Queen, the Mother of all the faithful.

At regular Masses on two May weekends 26 young parishioners will receive Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion. Other May highlights: GIFT's Easter celebration, the annual parish tag sale and a diaper drive sponsored by our Pro-Life Ministry. Enjoy the lovely month of May!

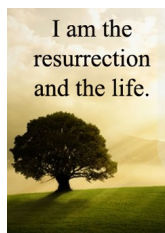
The Parish Press

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Happy Mother's Day!



In Memoriam

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

His Holiness Pope Francis
Mildred Robinson Jeffery Curriere
Steve Cioppa, Sr. Ann Moll
Joseph Bloszko Eugene Dumas

May God's love and mercy surround them and bring them to his everlasting kingdom.

A Prayer for Our Holy Father

On Easter Monday, April 21, the Lord called Jorge Mario Bergoglio, his good and faithful servant Pope Francis, home to his heavenly reward. We pray for our beloved shepherd:

O God, who in your wondrous providence chose your servant Pope Francis to preside over your Church, grant, we pray, that, having served as the Vicar of your Son on earth, he may be welcomed by him into eternal glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family:

Leo Benvenuti
Chloe Shaw



Leo was baptized on Saturday, March 29 while Chloe received the life-giving waters of Baptism on Sunday, April 6, both at Saint Gabriel Church. You are new creations, little ones, clothed now in Christ. May you walk always in his light.

Info for June Newsletter Due May 15

Send news, notes, comments, and photos for the June newsletter to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Thursday, May 15. Thank you!



Bereavement Support Sunday, May 4

Our Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon May 4 at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. We've moved our usual second Sunday meeting up a week because of Mother's Day.

If you are grieving the loss of a loved one we invite you to join us. Sharing the burden of your grief can be a first step toward healing. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you have questions or would like additional information.

Saint Raphael Parish Website
<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>