



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

August 2025



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Friday, August 15th



On the Solemnity of the Assumption, we celebrate and honor the Virgin Mary who, at the close of her earthly life, was taken up, body and soul, into heavenly glory.

Masses for the Holy Day

7:00 a.m.

Saint Ann Church

7:00 p.m.

Saint Gabriel Church

The image above is from the powerful sixteenth century altarpiece painted by Titian for the church of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei Frari in Venice, where it remains today.



A Note of Thanks from Deacon George

The July 6th reception for Deacon George and his charming wife Monica was a fitting, fun and festive celebration. In his heartfelt note of thanks Deacon George expressed his appreciation for "the wonderful reception for Monica and me." He wrote:

"It was humbling to see and greet so many friends from St Raphael Parish that we have missed since being assigned to Precious Blood Parish. It meant so much to us!

The faith of the St Raphael Parish family has inspired us over the past 12 years that we have had the honor to serve you. I have witnessed the good works that you have been doing, and I pray that you all continue to serve the Lord and each other.

I want to especially thank Fr John Brinsmade for his guidance and friendship over the years. There are so many others to thank but I fear that I may miss a few of you. Please know that you all remain in my prayers and that I hope that you will remember Monica and me in yours.

May God bless you all abundantly and may you all continue serving Christ and his Church. Fondly, Dcn George Sartor"

Serve the Lord, Proclaim His Word, Become a Lector

One special and beautiful way to serve the Lord is to become a Lector, a Proclaimer of the Word. Through their ministry lectors bring the Word of God to life and help the faithful to encounter and understand God's message. Christ is present in the Word proclaimed and lectors make Christ present in the community.

Saint Raphael lectors serve at either Saint Ann or Saint Gabriel Church. For information about becoming a lector please call Pat Pavlucik, coordinator of lectors at Saint Ann Church (203-878-6053) or Mary Simonetti, lector coordinator at Saint Gabriel's (203-444-3685). Thank you for your interest in serving the Lord through this vital ministry.

Knights of Columbus Tinto Council #47 Presents *The Immortal Chaplains*

Thursday, August 14th

7:00 P.M., Saint Ann Parish Center



In the bitterly cold early morning hours of February 3, 1943, four U.S. Army chaplains stood tall as the troop ship USAT Dorchester, listing badly after being struck by a German U-boat torpedo, slipped beneath the icy waters of the North Atlantic, along with these heroic men.

Survivors considered the chaplains, George Fox, a Methodist minister; Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi; John Washington, a Catholic priest; and Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed pastor, a center of calm amid the chaos that followed the explosion.

You won't want to miss the stirring presentation of their story. Refreshments will be available. There is no charge for admission.



Tinto Council #47 Scholarships

Natalie Gagliardi, Jon Elcid Dimaya and Camille Irby are this year's recipients of the Knights of Columbus Tinto Council #47 scholarships, awarded annually by the Council. Natalie is a member of Jonathan Law's Class of 2025. Parishioners Jon and Camille will soon be off to college, Jon to Quinnipiac University, Camille to Cornell. Congratulations, Natalie, Jon and Camille, as you step into futures that are bright with promise.

Pray the Rosary with the Knights

Thursday, August 28th at 7:00 P.M.

Saint Ann Parish Center

Pray for your personal intentions and for those of our troubled world.

Don't Miss Coffee And August 9th and 10th



Coffee And, a monthly parish gathering that features hot and cold beverages, tasty treats and casual conversation, is happening this month after all the Masses on the 9th and 10th. Stop in to Saint Gabriel Hall or the Saint Ann Parish Center. Get to know the parish family: Look for one person you haven't met before and introduce yourself!



The Food Pantry is most grateful for your donations. Most needed items:

Decaf Coffee
Regular Coffee
Brownie Mix
Canned Corn

Kindly leave donations in the vestibule of either church.

Food distribution is by appointment only.

Call 203-878-3075 to schedule an appointment or to make a donation.

Men of Saint Joseph Meetings

Tuesday evenings 7:00-8:15
Saint Gabriel Church Hall

Men 18 or older who seek to grow in holiness are invited to join us. Come and encounter fellowship, love of Scripture and spiritual insights. Reach out to John Marmolejo if you have questions: jmarmolejo@snet.net or 203-375-2912

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



The pantry garden's newly renovated, varmint-proof (we hope!) fencing. Note the handsome gate.

Donna's Creation Care Corner The Beauty and the Value of Trees



Editor's note: Donna's August column came with a note lamenting the loss of "many, many trees" in her neighborhood, "cut down and not replaced." Morning walks with her husband Mike "are not the same since we've lost so many beautiful trees." The loss prompted this month's observation on the beauty and the value of trees.

Most of us are familiar with the opening lines of Joyce Kilmer's poem *Trees*: "I think that I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree." As lovely, I might add, or as valuable, another masterwork from the Lord of creation. Let me explain.

*Trees absorb pollutants (nitrogen oxides, ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide), trap particulate matter like dust and smoke and provide life-giving oxygen through photosynthesis.

*Because their leaves capture rainfall and allow it to slowly infiltrate the soil held together by their root systems, trees reduce storm-water runoff into sewers, streams and rivers, thus helping to prevent flooding and erosion. Trees also help replenish water supplies and improve water quality.

*Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere, and store it in their trunks, branches, leaves, and soil, helping to mitigate climate change. A single tree can take in more than one ton of carbon dioxide during its lifetime. Trees can lower air temperatures by providing shade in "urban heat islands" and other areas during the hottest months. Compressors run less frequently when trees are located near homes.

*A tree may take up lawn or curb space, but it provides rich biodiversity. An oak tree, for example, can support 2300 species including birds, mosses and mammals.. The most common neighborhood street tree supports wildlife: studies verify that areas with street trees have higher species richness compared to areas without them. 80% of all life on land lives in forests and trees.

*Trees can provide psychological healing. Studies reveal that living within 300 feet of a tree – of any species – is linked with lower use of antidepressants. Hospital patients with rooms overlooking trees recover faster than those without such a view. New mothers suffer less from postpartum depression if they live near trees. The color green is also significant: the human eye is most sensitive to green light; therefore, it is the easiest color for our eyes to focus on and to process. Green trees can reduce eye strain. Studies indicate that green can also improve memory. In fact, dementia patients who lose their ability to identify all other colors can still recognize the color green.

Kilmer's poem has other memorable lines, including "A tree that looks at God all day/And lifts her leafy arms to pray." Let us lift our minds and hearts to our loving and benevolent Creator: Thank you, God, for your masterpiece, the tree.

How Does Our Pantry Garden Grow?

Gardening can be a challenge - ask Elizabeth Simonetti and her hard-working team. In late June, some 5 weeks after they had planted/transplanted the vegetables and just as the seeds had sprouted and the transplants were growing, the varmints struck. Peas, beans, cukes, squash, zucchini - all bitten to the ground. What to do? Reseed? Replant? Start again? Throw in the towel?

Like generations of dedicated gardeners before them, the team carried on. They presented their case to Saint Isidore, their faithful patron and, as we went to press, the squash has yellow flowers, tomato plants have a lot of blooms and the weeds are finally gone. The peas didn't produce and were replaced with more squash seeds. The jury is still out on the beans: some flowers but no fruit yet. Thank you, Saint Isidore. We await the harvest.

G.I.F.T.

Growing In Faith Together

Our Parish Faith Formation (Religious Education) Programs Begin in September

Saint Raphael's GIFT program as well as our programs for Sacramental Preparation (First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation) will begin next month. Families registered with the parish or who are active in the GIFT programs should receive information and details by August 10th. Please check your mailboxes.

If you don't receive the mailing, if you are new to the parish or the GIFT program, or if you have any questions, please contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 or atomasetti@snet.net. Registration materials are also available this month at the doors of both Saint Ann Church and Saint Gabriel Church.



Adult Confirmation Program

The parish is planning a six-session adult Confirmation program for late August/early September.

The program is open to Catholics ages 18 and older who have received the Sacrament of Holy Communion (Eucharist) but not the Sacrament of Confirmation. Participants will be preparing for Confirmation in November at Saint Joseph Cathedral in Hartford. Interested adults should contact Maria, as above.



Adult Formation Program

OCIA, the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, is the process through which people join or complete their initiation into the Catholic Church.

If you are ready to take the next step on your journey of faith, or if you have questions, please reach out to Maria, as above.

New Backpacks and School Supplies Needed!

Help Us Support Milford Youth & Family Services Back-To-School Backpack Program

Donation Deadline: Sunday, August 17th.



It's a summer tradition! Once again Saint Raphael Parish will be collecting new backpacks and school supplies for Milford K-12 students from families in need. Milford Youth & Family Services has requested the items listed below, broken down by grade level.



Elementary School: • Pencils • Erasers • Pencil Sharpeners • Pencil Cases • Crayons • Glue Sticks • Colored Markers/Pencils • Youth Scissors • Pocket Folders • Spiral or

Composition one subject notebooks, wide ruled

Middle and High School: • Pocket Folders • Pencils • Pencil Cases • Pencil Sharpeners • Mechanical Pencils • Index Cards 3"x5" • Erasers • Highlighters • One subject Notebooks, college ruled • Colored Markers/Pencils • Three Ring Binders

For everyone: small packets of tissues, backpacks for any grade level

Please bring school supplies and backpacks when you come to weekend Masses through August 17th or bring them to the Parish Office during regular business hours (Monday and Wednesday 9-5; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9-1). Contact Maria, as above, if you have any questions. Thank you, as always, for your generous support!

Note: Milford Youth & Family Services prefers to pack the school supplies in the backpacks.

The Parish Will be Picnicking on September 7th...

... and you will want to be there! Plan to be at the Saint Ann Church grounds between noon and 3:00 p.m. for this annual parish get together. Lasse's mouth-watering menu includes:

Grilled burgers, hot dogs, boneless chicken, sausage patties,
Veggie burgers, veggies, green salad, fruit salad, watermelon
Coffee, lemonade, iced tea, cookies, fried dough, Italian ice

Come with family, meet with friends, make some new ones! Concerned about the weather? We may have an ace in the hole. Check the article at right.

For safety sake there will be no parking behind Saint Ann Church for the entire picnic weekend. Cathy Coda and her stalwart picnic crew apologize for the inconvenience, but with set-up and deliveries there will be too much activity for the crew to risk any mishaps.

Meet Saint Medard Patron Saint Against Bad Weather

Serendipity! As we were planning for the parish picnic we discovered that Saint Medard, pictured here, is the patron against bad weather and, by default, the patron saint of sunshine.

Let's pray to this sixth century bishop for a sunny September 7th!



Saint Medard,
Pray for Us.

**A Holy Day, A Note of Thanks,
A Stirring Presentation. Welcome to August**

Calendar highlights for this last full month of summer: a special presentation of *The Immortal Chaplains*, the story of four U.S. Army Chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice in 1943, and the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



We found a thank you note in our mailbox and made an online discovery: August has been designated *Happiness Happens Month* - hence our smiling sunflower!

Read about the importance of trees and the devastation caused by varmints and look for notes about Faith Formation, Sacramental programs and the ministry of Lector, Proclaiming God's Word.

May happiness happen for you and your loved ones this month and throughout the year ahead.

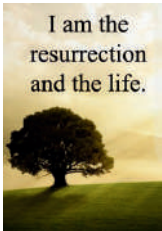
The Parish Press

A Publication of Saint Raphael Parish
Milford, Connecticut
Editor: Ann K. Eden
Production Staff: Lou Eden, Nancy Vai
Printing: Graphic Image, Milford, CT

SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

Saint Ann Church Saint Gabriel Church
501 Naugatuck Avenue
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In Memoriam

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

Gregory Calvin Ian O'Neill
James Michael Dean
Patricia Comiskey
William "Skip" Ziebell
Sandra Mrozinski
Charles Stuart Waddell

May they be welcomed into the eternal light of heaven..

Bereavement Support Meeting: Sunday, August 10th



The Saint Raphael Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, August 10th at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel. If you are finding it difficult to cope with the death of someone you love, please plan to be with us.

In our prayerful and confidential setting you will be able to share your burden and your memories with others who have known the pain of loss. For additional information you may call Joanne (203-877-4020).

News for September's Parish Press due August 11th

Kindly submit your September news, notes, photos, and comments to parishpress06460@gmail.com by Monday, August 11th, or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!.

Love and Best Wishes . . .



.as you begin your married lives together . . .

Gabriel and Shelby (Drake) Sparks
Luke and Alexandria (Saverino) Provenzano

Gabe and Shelby were married on Saturday, June 28th at Saint Gabriel Church. Luke and Lexy exchanged marriage vows on Saturday, September 12th, also at Saint Gabriel. Congratulations Gabe and Shelby; Luke and Lexy. May you always share love and laughter.

Celebrate Saint Raphael, Our Patron, September 29th

The tradition continues!, On Monday, September 29th, we will celebrate Saint Raphael on the feast day he shares with Michael and Gabriel. Please be with us if you can for the 8:00 a.m. Feast of the Archangels Mass at Saint Ann Church when we will "pay honor to the angelic creatures in whom the Lord delights." After Mass, as you leave, you'll receive a "breakfast to go" bag, tasty treats we hope you will enjoy. Please mark your calendars!

This Just In - Christmas Fair Date: December 6th

This year's parish Christmas Fair is on the calendar for Saturday, December 6th, the Feast of Saint Nicholas. How appropriate is that?! Watch the bulletin and the newsletter for details and updates.