

# **St. Raphael Parish, Milford – GIFT Program – 2025-2026**

## ***Faith Formation for People of All Ages – Information Sheet***

### **What is GIFT?**

GIFT – Growing in Faith Together – is open to all members of Saint Raphael Parish as well as non-parishioners -- from age 5 through adult.

It is our Saint Raphael Parish faith formation program. It is the way our parish educates children and teens about the basics of our Catholic faith. It is also designed for adults – to answer their questions about the Catholic faith, explain religious traditions, and help them grow in relationship with God. Single people and couples without children and teens are welcome and encouraged to join us for one or more sessions.

Through GIFT, we build community by involving people of all ages in the life of the Church. Materials are provided for parents/guardians to continue learning at home with their families—between sessions.

### **GIFT Theme**

Our GIFT theme for 2025-2026 is Following Jesus Through the Church Year. We will also include Mary and the Saints.

### **GIFT In-Person Class Schedule – 2025-2026**

- \* Sunday, Sept 21, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Tuesday, Sept 23, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Identity of Christ (Who Is Jesus?), Ordinary Time
- \* Sunday, Oct 26, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Tuesday, Oct 28, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Becoming a Disciple (Ordinary Time)
- \* Tuesday, Nov 18, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm or Sunday, Nov 23, 12 noon to 2:15 pm – Preparing for the Coming of Jesus (Advent & Christmas Seasons)
- \* Tuesday, Dec 16, anytime between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm - Advent/Christmas Celebration
- \* Sunday, Jan 25, 12 noon to 1:30 pm or Tuesday, Jan 27, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm – VIRTUS: Empowering God's Children (for families with children in Grade 1 & older and teens) – *required by Archdiocese of Hartford*
- \* Sunday, Feb 22, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Tuesday, Feb 24, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Suffering and Death of Jesus (Lent and Holy Week – to Good Friday)
- \* Sunday, March 22, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Tuesday, March 24, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – New Life in Christ (Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday, Easter Season)
- \* Sunday, April 19, 12 noon to 2:15 pm or Tuesday, April 21, 6:00 pm to 8:15 pm – Living as Disciples
- \* Tuesday, May 5 – anytime between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm - Easter Season Celebration

We offer age-appropriate sessions for families with children through Grade 4, young people in Grades 5/6, teens in Grade 7 or older, and adults on these dates. Adult participation is essential to our monthly faith formation program so at least one parent/guardian per family is required to come to GIFT with children and teens.

\* Adults who attend with children through Grade 4 usually participate in our family sessions.

\* Adults who attend with young people in Grade 5 or older or who attend without young people participate in our adult breakout sessions.

\* Adult home kits will also be provided to continue learning at home outside of our monthly sessions.

### **GIFT Sacramental Program – 2025-2026**

Any families with young people who may be eligible to prepare for the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Communion or Confirmation will receive a separate Sacramental program mailing by the second week in August. ***Registration in the GIFT program is required for families participating in our Sacramental program. There are no separate registration fees for the Sacramental programs.***

#### **\* First Reconciliation and First Communion Overview Session for Parents/Guardians.**

Children are not required to attend this session. However, one of our catechists will be across the hall to supervise an activity for children who need to attend due to childcare.

Choice of:

- Tuesday, September 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm

or

- Saturday, September 13 from 10 am to 11 am

Location – Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave.

#### **\* Confirmation Overview Session for Parents/Guardians *and* incoming teen Confirmation Candidates.** Choice of:

- Tuesday, September 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

or

- Thursday, September 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Location – Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom, 501 Naugatuck Ave

**Questions?** Please contact Maria Tomasetti, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (cell phone – voice or text).