



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

September 2025



## Mouth-Watering Menu

### From the Grill:

Hot Dogs and Hamburgers  
Veggie Burgers  
Sausage Patties  
Boneless Chicken

### Tasty Sides

Roasted Veggies  
Potato Salad  
Garden Salad  
Macaroni & Cheese

### Plus

Watermelon  
Beverages and Dessert

## Among Picnic Professionals Inc.'s Top-Rated Summer Events: The Saint Raphael Parish Family Picnic - Coming September 7<sup>th</sup>!

You won't want to miss it! Bring the whole family, invite the folks you chat with after weekend Masses, and come on down to the Saint Ann Church grounds between noon and 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for a fun, festive family gathering. (PPI's coveted rating is well deserved.)

See an unfamiliar face? Smile and introduce yourself. A smile, in fact, is the only price of admission - when you see Father John you might want to thank him for his generosity. Lasse's mouth-watering menu appears at left (dessert selections include cookies and Italian ice). Entertainment and attractions are on the right.

It is **very important** that you respond early to let us know you're coming - and we certainly hope you are! (We have to give Lasse's a head count.) Send us an email ([srppicnic@gmail.com](mailto:srppicnic@gmail.com)) or fill out the form that's printed the bulletin and drop it in the collection basket. Kindly break down the attendance numbers: adults, children 5-13, children under 5.

## Entertainment and Attractions

DJ!  
Inflatable Bounce House!  
Cornhole!  
Hula Hoops!  
Temporary Tattoos!

**Another important note:** For setup and safety reasons there will be no parking in the area behind Saint Ann Church on Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup> or Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. The usual street parking and the lot across Church Street will be available. We are grateful for your cooperation.

If you would like to be part of our terrific picnic crew - key to helping us earn the PPI rating! - call 203-878-1990 or send an email to [cathycoda@att.net](mailto:cathycoda@att.net). Thanks very much. See you at the picnic!



## Celebrate Saint Raphael, our Patron! Enjoy "Breakfast to Go" on his Feast Day, September 29<sup>th</sup>

In 2017, when the linked parishes of Saint Ann and Saint Gabriel merged to become Saint Raphael Parish, we began the tradition of honoring our patron on September 29<sup>th</sup>, the feast day he shares with the other archangels who are named in Scripture: Michael, the defender of the Church and Gabriel, the herald of the Incarnation.

Raphael, whose name means "God heals," appears in the Old Testament Book of Tobit, where he accompanies young Tobiah on the journey that ends in his marriage to Sara. With Raphael's aid, the evil spirits troubling Sara are defeated and Tobit, Tobiah's father, is miraculously healed of his blindness.

Among others, travelers, migrants and those in search of a spouse seek Raphael's intercession. In Tuscany and elsewhere in Italy, parents pray to Raphael as young people leave home for the first time. (*Magnificat, September 2025, Vol. 27, No. 7, pgs. 404-405*)

Parishioners are cordially invited to *Celebrate Saint Raphael!* on Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at the 8'o'clock morning Mass at Saint Ann Church. As we will at the weekend Masses prior to the feast, we will ask for Raphael's intercession as we offer special prayers and petitions in his name.

After Mass members of the Prayer and Worship Committee will distribute "breakfast to go" bags, filled with tasty treats for your enjoyment. *Saint Raphael, pray for us.*

## Rosary Opportunities in September

Tuesday noon recitation of the Rosary resumes on September 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

You are invited to pray the Rosary with the Knights of Columbus on the last Thursday of the month (September 25<sup>th</sup>) in the Saint Ann Parish Center

## Calling the Area's Finest Vendors!

Come be a part of the always popular Saint Raphael Parish Christmas Fair,!

**Saturday, December 6**

**9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.**

**Saint Ann Parish Center**

**501 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford**

An 8'x 6' spot is \$55 at this fun, friendly and family-oriented holiday event which features raffles, Santa, bakery items and lots of Christmas joy. Email Maureen at [mhanson808@gmail.com](mailto:mhanson808@gmail.com) to book your spot, guaranteed once we receive your payment and a completed contract.

**Donna's Creation Care Corner**  
**The Season of Creation**

The Season of Creation begins on September 1st, the day, in an ancient Christian tradition, in which God began the creation of the universe. It is the day that symbolizes the expression “In the beginning”, the famous opening of both the Book of Genesis and the Gospel of John. It represents the very day in which God said “Let there be light.” The season ends October 4th, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals and ecology. His beautiful *Canticle of the Creatures* sings of how all creation is connected in one family under God's loving care.

During this special time there are many ways to be mindful of Creation – God's extraordinary gift to humankind. Think of it: God's created world provides a home on which we spend our mortal lives. The theme of this year's season is: “Peace with Creation.” During this special time, look for ways to be at peace with nature – be it as simple as taking a walk, spending more time outdoors, recognizing God's presence in everything you see and hear.



2025 marks the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's groundbreaking encyclical *Laudato Si' (Praise be to You)*, in which the late Holy Father extols the wonders of what he calls “Our Common Home.” *Laudato Si'* is the first papal encyclical to focus on care for creation as a central moral obligation. Like his patron, Pope Francis recognized that all creation is connected, as are the ongoing degradation of the environment and the social injustice that it causes. Because they are intertwined we must address them together: “the cry of the earth” and “the cry of the poor” are the same cry because environmental problems disproportionately affect the poor and marginalized.

*Laudato Si'* also makes us aware that the environmental crisis is a religious crisis as well; it is not only our moral obligation, but also our spiritual duty to care for Creation. Until now the situation has been addressed mainly in the arenas of politics, science, and economics. Since the publication of *Laudato Si'*, with its clear focus on long-standing statements and policies of Church leaders, including Pope Saint John Paul II, and in light of Catholic Social Teaching, people of faith should take the lead in solving the problem of how we treat God's world. We must not leave this dilemma to the secular world alone to confront.

During the Season of Creation, listen at Mass for the Prayers of the Faithful as well as the musical selections that center on creation. And when you take your walk, seeking to be at peace with nature, think of the lines written by the poet Mary Oliver:

*It must be a great disappointment to God  
if we are not dazzled by His Creation  
at least ten times a day.*

How many times have you been dazzled today?

**Please Be Aware: No Coffee And This Month**

Picnic fare on September first weekend, Breakfast to Go as the month draws to a close but no calendar space for *Coffee And* this busy month. See you in October!



**Father Rob Galea Returns in October**

Internationally acclaimed author, singer, songwriter and friend of Saint Raphael Parish Father Rob Galea returns to Milford next month. He'll be with us for a two-concert series at Saint Ann Church in mid-October for what we expect to be sold-out events with the Saint Ann and Saint Mark choirs. (Suggestion: get your tickets early!)



**Father Rob**

In late July Catholic Music Awards recognized Father Rob's *Love You* as the Best Praise-Worship Song of the year in English. Learn more about Father, his life and his love of the Lord, at [frobgalea.com](http://frobgalea.com) and at [ICONministry.com](http://ICONministry.com) the website for his non-profit global media and outreach Apostolate ministry, “bringing the hope and love of Christ to the nations.”



Enjoy a free viewing of this 2022 documentary in which Pope Francis meets personally with people who are especially affected by climate change. There will be refreshments and door prizes at the showing of the 90-minute documentary.

**Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
2:30 pm.  
Saint Ann Parish Center**

Plan to be with us for this YouTube original, produced in partnership with the *Laudato Si'* Movement.

**Concert Series  
Saint Ann Church  
Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>  
4:00 p.m.  
Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 p.m.**

# G.I.F.T.

Growing In Faith Together

## GIFT Sessions Resume This Month Theme for 2025-2026: Following Jesus Through the Church Year

The topic for September's sessions, the Identity of Christ, (Who Is Jesus?), will focus on learning more about Jesus as fully divine and fully human. Participants choose either the Sunday afternoon or Tuesday evening session. Throughout the year, we will also learn more about seasons of the church year, about Mary, and about some of the saints.

All monthly GIFT sessions begin with a pizza dinner in the Saint Ann Parish Center Hall (501 Naugatuck Ave). The dinner is followed by an opening prayer and song, a brief overview of the session's topic, and an opening activity for all ages. We then break into age-appropriate learning groups - family session (adults with children through Grade 4); Grades 5 and 6; teens in Grade 7 or older; and adults.

In our adult break-out session adults have the opportunity to listen, explore and discuss monthly topics with their level of understanding. The adult home kits we distribute are meant to provide tools for continued learning at home between the monthly GIFT sessions. At least one parent/guardian attends our GIFT program with children and teens. In that way the young people come to see that learning and growing in faith is important for everyone!

**The Identity of Christ  
(Who is Jesus?)**  
Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
Noon - 2:15 p.m.  
or  
Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.  
Beginning with pizza in the  
Saint Ann Parish Center Hall

### GIFT Sacramental Program Overview Sessions

All sessions will be held in a Saint Ann Parish Center Classroom

#### First Reconciliation/First Communion For Parents/Guardians

Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.

or

Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Note: Children are not required to attend, but for those who need child care, a GIFT catechist will be across the hall to supervise an activity for children.



#### Confirmation For Parents/Guardians and Incoming Teen Confirmation Candidates (Grade 9 or older)

Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

or

Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

If you have any questions about GIFT faith formation sessions or GIFT sacramental programs please contact Maria, [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598 (voice or text).

### Summer Sacramental Notes



On July 24, two parish young people, Rita Alexandra Flores Guevara and Sean Luxeder met Jesus for the first time in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this beautiful Sacrament of Healing they were blessed with Our Lord's boundless love and mercy. May they remain close to Jesus throughout their lives.

August was a month for First Communions and we spread the joy and beauty between both our churches. On Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, Sean Luxeder approached the table of the Lord at Saint Gabriel Church and received Jesus, the Bread of Life. Rita Alexandra Flores Guevara, Camila Torres Guevara, Airelis Villalta and Dayro Villalta received First Eucharist on Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup> at Saint Ann's.



Congratulations Sean, Alexandra, Camila, Airelis and Dayro. May you bring the presence of Jesus, His kindness, His gentleness and His love to everyone you meet.

### True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World

48 hardy campers trekked through Alaska's tundra during our summer VBS camp and learned that Jesus is a faithful friend. It was a great adventure!

Thank you to our incredible volunteers (more than 50 teens and adults) who opened their hearts, shared their talents and made the camp experience so memorable: our set-up/decorating team, small group leaders, and activity center leaders & assistants in Wild Bible Adventures, Crafts & Imagination, Music/Dance, Glacier Games, Sticky Scripture, Tundra Treats, Opening and Closing Celebration. Special, heartfelt thanks to Maria Tomasetti and Michelle Armellino, coordinators extraordinaire! God bless you all.



Bible Buddy Clawdia knows that when we are alone we can trust Jesus.



Wild Bible Adventures at True North, this summer's VBS camp.



## Ah, September! 1<sup>st</sup> Weekend We're Picnicking Last Weekend It's Celebrate Saint Raphael

The month begins with a holiday - Labor Day falls on the 1<sup>st</sup>. And for all of September's 30 days, through the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on October 4<sup>th</sup>, we will mark the Season of Creation. Details inside.



GIFT resumes this month, both its Faith Formation sessions and its Sacramental programs. There are 3 feasts on September's liturgical calendar: The Nativity of the Virgin Mary (9/8), The Exaltation of the Holy Cross (9/14) and the Feast of the Archangels (9/29).

Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> is the annual World Day of Peace. In this time of global turbulence and conflict, let us pray for peace and work for justice, on World Peace Day and every day.

### *The Parish Press*

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Milford, Connecticut

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## SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

Saint Ann Church Saint Gabriel Church  
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Milford, CT 06460-5048

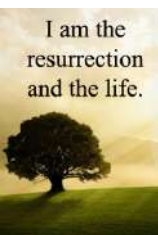
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**Parish Picnic Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>!!  
Don't Miss It!**

### In Memoriam

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

Nadir Sales	Bertrand J. Turmel Jr.
Bryan Connors	Paul C. Buonocore
Linda Leary	Robert V. Buonocore
Juliana Levin	Maureen Bowers



May they be welcomed into their heavenly reward and live in the house of the Lord forever.

### Bereavement Support Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup>



The parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon September 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann's Children's Chapel.

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.

### October's Newsletter Info Due September 12<sup>th</sup>

Please submit your news, notes, comments, and photos for the October newsletter to [parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com) or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Thanks very much.

### Love and Best Wishes . . .



. . . as you begin your married lives together,  
Luke and Alexandria (Saverino) Provenzano  
Todd Lusiano and Emma Shea

Luke and Lexy were married on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup> at Saint Gabriel Church. Todd and Emma were united in marriage on Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Saint Ann Church.

Congratulations to the newlyweds! May God bless you and love sustain you through long and happy marriages.

### We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Alessa Ballon	Amelia Rose Nauss
Dorian Ballon	Emilia Siconolfi
Krystal Ballon	Cooper Valentine
William Kelly	Victoria Andrade



Alessa, Dorian, Krystal, William, Amelia Rose, Emilia and Cooper were baptized in June. Victoria received the life-giving waters of Baptism in July. May the light of Christ guide them all the days of their lives.

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