



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

October 2025



International Rosary Tuesday, October 7th

7:00 p.m.. Saint Gabriel Church

Pray the Hopeful Mysteries

Mark your calendars and plan to be with us on Tuesday evening, October 7th, for the popular and moving International Rosary, a parish tradition that honors Mary during the month of the Holy Rosary. Multilingual parishioners will lead each decade in a different language; the congregation will respond in English.

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, we will pray the Hopeful Mysteries. A mystery, in Church tradition, is not a puzzle to be solved but a sacred reality to be entered into, something revealed by God that we could never fully grasp on our own. The Hopeful Mysteries, a newly approved set of meditations, invite us to contemplate five scripturally grounded moments that point to God's enduring presence, even in darkness. They are:

Creation

Abraham's Sacrifice

The Great Flood

The Exodus

The Immaculate Conception

Dr. Tom Neal from the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, where the Hopeful Mysteries originated, has observed that praying them becomes "a devotion where you enter into the Old Testament mysteries with hope. The Immaculate Conception [the fifth mystery] is truly a bridge, a threshold between the Old and New Covenants."

Enjoy refreshments at Saint Gabriel Hall following the Rosary. We hope you can join us for this evening of prayer and reflection. If you have questions, call Rose Cox, 203- 878-6427.

Additional information on parish schedules and activities is available at the parish website:

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>



News from the Knights

Congratulations to Knight of the Year James Veeley! Jim joined the Knights in 2008 and has been a valued member of Council #47, having held several offices, including serving as Grand Knight for four years. We are pleased to honor Jim with this well-deserved award.

Coming up: A drive to benefit the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry. On November 8/9 after all Masses the Knights will hand out bags w/ wish lists of most needed items and ask parishioners to return the bags with their donations the following weekend, November 15/16. Thank you for your generosity in the past year. We hope you will continue your generous support this year. God bless.



October Rosary Opportunities

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
7:30 a.m. (before daily 8 a.m. Mass)
Saint Ann (M/F) or Saint Gabriel (T/Th)

Tuesdays at 12 noon
Saint Ann Children's Chapel

Our Lady of Fatima Rosary Resumes
First Saturday of the month, October - February
11:00 a.m. at Saint Ann Church

Pray the Rosary with the Knights of Columbus
Last Thursday of the Month (October 30th)
Saint Ann Parish Center



JOIN US FOR SAINT RAPHAEL'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

ARTISANS, CRAFTERS, THIRD-PARTY VENDORS,
SANTA, RAFFLES, BAKERY, FOOD COURT

SAINT ANN PARISH CENTER
501 NAUGATUCK AVE. MILFORD, CT

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH
9 A.M. - 3 P.M.**

**FR. ROB
GALEA**
WITH THE
**SAINT ANN CHOIR
& SAINT MARK CHOIR**

OCTOBER 19 SUNDAY 4 PM
OCTOBER 20 MONDAY 7 PM

TICKETS:
\$12 IN ADVANCE
\$17 AT THE DOOR

SAINT ANN
CHURCH

CALL THE PARISH OFFICE: 203-874-0634





Donna's *Creation Care Corner* New Mass for Care of Creation Added to Roman Missal

The Season of Creation concludes on Saturday, October 4th, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Because Saint Raphael Parish has no regular Saturday morning Mass, on Friday morning, October 3rd Father John will celebrate the new Mass for the Care of Creation.

Pope Leo XIV inaugurated the celebration of this special Mass on July 9, 2025 at the papal residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, "amid the beauty of what might be called a 'cathedral' of nature" (see photo). There is something deeply moving about the pope's decision to be the first priest to lead the creation-care Mass. In a world where leaders often delegate important tasks, the pope chose to be the celebrant. This Mass, then, isn't just a papal decree from on high. It is the Pope's own heart speaking to our hearts, reminding us that "every breath we take, every moment we live is a gift from God."



Leo XIV's celebration of this Mass speaks also to one of the most pressing spiritual needs of our time: to deepen our relationship with God's creation. The entrance antiphon from Psalm 19 reminds us that, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the firmament proclaims the works of his hands." The Collect's opening prayer asks God "that we may lovingly care for the work of your hands." And after Communion we pray that "as we await the new heavens and the new earth, we may learn to live in harmony with all creatures."

The theological implications run deep because the new Mass isn't about being more environmentally conscious but about fully understanding and accepting that God's creation reflects His love. When we care for creation, we are, in essence, participating in that divine love and becoming partners with God in His ongoing work. As the Holy Father noted in his July 9th homily, "Our mission to care for creation, to foster peace and reconciliation, is Jesus' own mission, the mission that the Lord entrusts to us."

Furthermore, this Mass is about realizing that everything around us is part of something much greater than ourselves. When we allow ourselves to recognize God's presence in creation, we acknowledge that creation is sacred. In his homily Pope Leo stated: "Only a contemplative gaze can change our relationship with creation ...". As the poet William Blake once wrote, we all need, "To see a world in a grain of sand and a heaven in a wild flower."



Be a Part of the T4S Fall Project: Cross Catholic Outreach Christmas Box of Joy®

It's October, and our busy Teens for Service group (T4S) will once again be part of the Box of Joy® project, a Christmas mission of love.

And what is a Box of Joy? A shoebox (12" x 6" x 4" high) packed with small toys, clothing, school supplies, hygiene items and more, gifts that represent Christ's love to children who may never before have received a Christmas gift. Boxes from our parish will also include friendly notes and prayer cards.

We invite parishioners to join our GIFT families in donating **new, small items** to fill the boxes, things like dolls, cars, trucks, plush animals, balls (deflated) with pump, coloring books, crayons, t-shirts, toothbrushes, hair bands, hair ribbons, necklaces, purses, wallets, sunglasses, drawstring bags. Check the bulletin for donation details and additional suggestions or reach out to Maria, (see next page).

T4S members will be packing our Boxes of Joy on Thursday, October 23 for delivery to the Saint Margaret Parish Center in Madison, our local drop-off center, on Friday, October 31. From there the boxes will be shipped to the Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Peru, and other developing countries.

Thank you for continuing to bring joy to impoverished children around the world! May God bless you for your kindness.

Running Water for Africa 5K Walk/Run and Kids Fun Run Saturday, October 4th Walnut Beach, Milford, CT

7:30-8:45 a.m

Pre-registration pickup/late registration

8:45 a.m.

Free kids run w/Donna 'Kids Queen' Cramond

9:00 a.m.

5K Timed run or walk and
1-mile untimed walk

Fr. Emmanuel Byaruhanga, our East Africa man on the ground, will be running with us!

Register (or donate) at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Milford/RunningWaterForAfrica5K>

Since 2007 Uganda Farmers Inc. has provided clean running water to some 90,000 people in rural villages in East Africa. The annual 5K is the group's main fundraiser and they are most grateful for your generosity.



G.I.F.T.

Growing In Faith Together

October's GIFT Sessions Following Jesus Through the Church Year

What does it mean to become a disciple of Jesus? To experience a personal call? To follow our Lord? To have a change of heart?

During October's GIFT sessions we'll look at what it was like for New Testament disciples like Peter, Andrew, James and John and discover what it means to follow Jesus today, to be a 21st century disciple like the teenage computer whiz Carlo Acutis. What are some practical ways we can follow Our Lord in our daily lives? And how is Jesus calling you? We'll consider these important topics when we meet this month. Please plan to be with us.

Becoming a Disciple

Sunday, October 26th

Noon - 2:15 p.m.

or

Tuesday, October 28th

6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Beginning with pizza in the
Parish Center Hall

GIFT follows a six-year cycle of faith formation topics: Sacraments, Nicene Creed, Following Jesus Through the Church Year (this year's topic), Living the Moral Life, Prayer Life, and Catholic Social Teaching. Children who begin to participate while in Grade 1 will repeat the topics beginning in Grade 7. Teens now, no longer young children, they will learn and grow in the faith with a different level of understanding. Some families begin participating in GIFT when their children are in Kindergarten or even earlier.

GIFT Sacramental First Reconciliation

Session #1

Saturday, October 4th

10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Parish Center Classroom

501 Naugatuck Avenue

Required for children
with a parent/guardian

Sometimes it's the young children themselves who ask for an early start. Like their older siblings, they "want to learn about God, too." The program also provides parents/guardians with tools to help their children continue to learn and grow in faith at home.

Special Note to Families with Children: Life is busy, we know! But our GIFT program works best when families make time to participate every year, not only in Sacramental preparation years. Regular Mass participation and faith formation can help our children and teens begin to see that God is very important in their lives.

Questions? Haven't signed up yet? It's not too late! Contact Maria Tomasetti, 203-988-8598 (voice or text) or atomasetti@snet.net Hope to see you at October GIFT!

A Special Sacramental Note: Congratulations, Brian Mercado Tejera, who received First Holy Communion on Sunday, September 14th at Saint. Ann Church. May God bless you always.

14th Annual Milford Trick or Trot 5K Walk/Run Saturday, October 25th to Benefit Beth-El Center Sign up to participate - Support a Great Cause!

This 14th edition of Milford Trick or Trot on October 25th will benefit Beth-El Center in Milford. For the past 40 years, Beth-El has provided emergency food and shelter programs for the Greater Milford community. Please see the box at right for a list of the Center's current efforts to provide crisis support, in Milford and beyond.

Milford Trick or Trot 5K Details

The 5K begins at Lisman Landing (37 Helwig St. in Milford) at 9:00 a.m. Registration/check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Walk or run a 3.2 mile scenic route through Milford.

Registration fee: \$37 for the first 150 registrants, \$40 for additional registrants to receive a race number and t-shirt; \$25 for ages 18 and younger. Register by October 4, 2025 to be guaranteed an event t-shirt. We encourage everyone to register online at [Registration \(milfordtrickortrot.com\)](http://milfordtrickortrot.com)

Please note that the Trick or Trot Fun Run for children ages 10 and under, which begins at 8:30 a.m., is free! (Parents/guardians of young children can run with them.)

All participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food item as a donation to Beth-El Center.

Please contact Maria Tomasetti as above for additional information or with any Milford Trick or Trot event questions.



Beth-El Center's Current Continuum
of Crisis Support Includes:

- *Emergency Shelter for Men, Women, Veterans and Families
- *Outreach and Engagement
- *No Freeze (Extreme Weather) Shelter
- *Diversion Services - stabilizing households as soon as possible to help them avoid entering the emergency homeless response system.
- *Permanent Supportive Housing
- *Community Kitchen Services

In addition to Milford, Beth-El Center also supports Guilford, Branford, North Branford, Northford, East Haven, New Haven, West Haven, Orange, Madison, Derby, Ansonia and Shelton.

**Trick or Trot, Boxes of Joy, New Mass , New
Mysteries of the Rosary, Fr. Rob and More!**



Welcome to our busy October! Look for colorful foliage outside - one of the beauties of God's creation - and for "what's happening" and "what's coming" articles in these pages.

We will close the Season of Creation with a new Mass and pray the International Rosary with new mysteries. Fr. Rob Galea and the Saint Ann and Saint Mark choirs will touch our hearts and lift our spirits with their beautiful music. And we can walk or run at each of two 5Ks as we support two very worthy causes.

Don't miss the chance to send gifts of joy to impoverished children around the world - and look for information about our upcoming Christmas Fair. Enjoy every one of October's 31 days!

The Parish Press

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Milford, Connecticut

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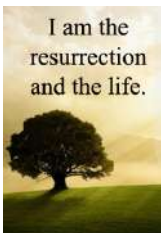
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In Memoriam

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

Paul Eden Beverly Jorgensen
Lucille Dente Ellen Fitzgerald
Robert Toronto III Helena Krol
Maureen Maroney Kinney

May our Savior welcome them into the joy of his everlasting kingdom.



Bereavement Support Sunday, October 12th

If you are struggling because of the loss of someone you love please consider meeting with our Bereavement Support group at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday October 12th. We meet every second Sunday of the month in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

You may find comfort in this quiet and confidential setting, sharing your feelings and memories with others who have known the pain of loss. Call Joanne (203-877-4020) if you have questions or would like additional information.

Info for November's Newsletter Due October 10th

Please submit news, notes and photos for the November issue to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Friday, October 10th. Thank you..

Love and Best Wishes . . .



. . . as you begin your married lives together,

Jeffrey and Katie (Pinto) Lucisano
Juan and Mia (Centore) Oporto

Dylan and Tiana (Albuquerque) van Waveren

Jeffrey and Katie were married on Saturday, September 6th at Saint Ann Church. Juan and Mia were united in marriage on Friday, September 12th at Saint Gabriel Church. Dylan and Tiana became man and wife in a ceremony in Monroe, CT on Sunday, September 21st.

Congratulations to the newlyweds! May God bless you abundantly and may you always share love and laughter.

Mark Your Calendars



Sip and snack at *Coffee And* after all the weekend Masses on October 11th and 12th. Catch up on any news you may have missed because we couldn't meet in September!

**Parish Mass of Remembrance
Sunday, November 2nd
2:00 p.m. at Saint Ann Church**

Plan to be with us as we remember and celebrate the members of our parish family who went home to the Lord during this past year. May they rest in the peace of God's loving embrace.