



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

November 2025



Parish Mass of Remembrance Sunday Afternoon, November 2nd

The Saint Raphael Community of Faith invites parishioners, families and friends to our annual Mass of Remembrance to remember and to celebrate all the members of our parish family who have died during the past year (October 2024 through mid-October 2025).

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on Sunday, November 2nd, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

The Mass of Remembrance will be live-streamed at <https://saintraphaelmilford.org>.

Coffee And November 8th and 9th



Enjoy tasty snacks and hot or cold beverages at the Saint Ann Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall following the weekend Masses on November 8th and 9th. Visit with those great folks, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish Family.

On this weekend before Veterans's Day you will have the opportunity to make a donation to Wounded Warrior Project, whose no-cost programs support the mental, physical, financial, social, and spiritual well-being of wounded service members and their families.

First Saturday Rosary Devotion November 1st



Recitation of the First Saturday Fatima Rosary continues at Saint Ann Church on November 1st at 11:00 a.m. Please be with us as we honor the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Advent & Christmas Reflection Booklet Available November 22/23

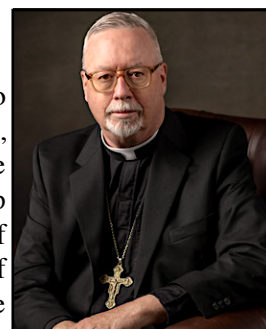
This year's seasonal booklet, Mary DeTurris Post's *Waiting in Joyful Hope*, a gift from the parish, will be at the church doors beginning the weekend before Thanksgiving, including a limited number of booklets in Spanish.

Thanksgiving Day Mass November 27th, 9 a.m. at St. Gabriel Church

Gather with the parish family around the Lord's table. Offer praise and thank God for his many blessings.

A Visit from the Archbishop Sunday, November 2nd

Archbishop Christopher Coyne's upcoming visit to Saint Raphael Parish is the fulfillment of a pledge and, in the Archbishop's own words, a blessing. When he began his episcopal ministry as the Sixth Archbishop of Hartford, in May of 2024 the Archbishop spoke of himself not as "a lonely Shepherd who walks ahead of the flock," but as "one who walks in the midst of the flock" - a flock spread out across 117 parishes. As a way to fulfill his pledge to visit his widespread flock he usually says Mass at a different parish each weekend.



Archbishop
Christopher J. Coyne

During his visit, with us Archbishop Coyne will be the principal celebrant of the 9:30 a.m. Mass on November 2, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day). Along with offering the Mass and homily, the Archbishop hopes to meet you at the after-Mass reception in the Parish Center Auditorium. You will find him approachable and friendly.

The Archbishop enjoys meeting his parishioners and hopes you will share with him your thoughts about our faith, our parish and our archdiocese. He knows the importance of listening to and really hearing "what you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, have to say."

Please join us on Sunday, November 2nd at the 9:30 a.m. Mass as we welcome Archbishop Coyne on his first visit to Saint Raphael Parish.

News from the Knights



Tinto Council #47 welcomes you to fall. During a relatively quiet summer, the Knights have been planning for the upcoming Fraternal year. Our first major charity event: November's Food Drive the weekend of the 8th and 9th. After all the Masses Tinto Council members will hand out bags with lists of most needed items, including those for Thanksgiving. On the following weekend, the 15th and 16th, brother Knights will collect parishioners' bags of donations before Masses begin. All items collected will be placed in the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry for distribution to those in need.

Look for Tinto Council members at the Christmas Fair on December 6th where we will display materials about our order, and be available to speak to anyone interested in joining our brotherhood. The Knights of Columbus was founded on the principles of Charity, Unity and Fraternity. We are hoping to find good Catholic men to continue our fine traditions. Why not stop by and speak with us?

In January the Knights will assist the Pro-Life committee in a "Baby Bottle" drive to support mothers in need. A presentation at all the Masses will outline program details. Check the bulletin and the newsletter for additional information in the months ahead.

Donna's Creation Care Corner Borgo Laudato Si'

In September, during the first week of this year's Season of Creation, Pope Leo officially inaugurated Borgo Laudato Si', a new educational and economic center located at the Papal Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, which has served for centuries as a summer residence and vacation retreat for the pope. Borgo means village in Italian. and the Borgo Laudato Si' village extends over 85 acres of gardens and 50 acres of farmland.



In May of 2015 Pope Francis wrote in his encyclical Laudato Si': "God created the world and entrusted it to us as a gift. Now we have the responsibility to care for and protect it." As a new "zero environmental impact" complex with solar-powered classrooms and a greenhouse, the center is devoted to making Pope Francis's ideals a reality. To that end the center promotes an integral ecology, a requirement of our faith that calls us to protect people and the planet. It also promotes an inclusive economy – one that is both circular and generative, a system that aims to eliminate waste and pollution by designing products for reuse, repair, and recycling.

Pope Leo has fully embraced Pope Francis's message about creation. In a recent address, he said, "People of faith cannot love God while despising His creatures, and people cannot call themselves Christians without caring for the earth." He added, "God will ask us if we have cultivated and cared for the world that he created, for the benefit of all and for future generations, and if we have taken care of our brothers and sisters."

"There is no room for indifference or resignation," Pope Leo stated firmly, echoing a warning from Pope Francis in the 2022 documentary *The Letter*: We are "becoming used to" climate catastrophes. Most importantly, Pope Francis stated that "becoming used to it" is "a terrible illness." Pope Francis called the earth "our common home," and Pope Leo has expressed the same sentiment: "We are one family, with one Father.", and "We inhabit the same planet and must care for it together."

The Season of Creation, which began September 1st, officially ended on October 4th, the Feast Day of Saint Francis of Assisi. The year 2026 will begin the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the 1226 death of "Little Poor Man.". Saint Francis would undoubtedly approve of the new complex and of these two most recent Popes, who have engaged in bold and positive actions to love and care for creation.

Boxes of Joy Are On Their Way!



Thanks to your generous donations and to the hard-working members of T4S who assembled and packed them on Thursday, October 23rd, our Christmas Boxes of Joy are on their way to children ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 in Honduras, Malawi, Peru, Dominican Republic, Haiti, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, and other developing countries. It's a journey with lots of stops!

First, our local drop-off center, Saint Margaret Parish Center in Madison. Next, Cross Catholic Outreach in Miami, FL, the National Screening Center where contents will be checked for safety and matched with the children who will receive them. *The Story of Jesus* will be added to each box, a booklet in the child's own language.

Cross Catholic Outreach ministry partners in each country will distribute the aptly named Boxes of Joy. Many of the children have never received a Christmas present, so this will be a very special Christmas for them.

Thank you for participating in the Box of Joy program, for your kindness and for praying for the children and their families. With your support we can spread Christmas joy one box at a time!



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 6TH
9 A.M. – 3 P.M.

Growing In Faith Together: GIFT Sessions for November
Following Jesus Through the Church Year

During our GIFT sessions this month we will explore how we can get ready - prepare in a spiritual way - for the coming of Jesus, our Savior. In ways appropriate to all of our GIFT participants we will learn more about Advent, a season of joyful hope and a time of preparation. Advent directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and also, to the birth of Jesus in a manger in Bethlehem at Christmas.

We will also reflect on the true meaning of Advent and of Christmas as we learn about some of the special and beautiful devotions they have inspired. They will also make us think: How can we make room for Jesus in our churches, in our homes, and in our hearts?

Please contact Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text) if you have questions or need additional information. Hope to see you at November GIFT!

**Preparing for the
Coming of Jesus**
(The Seasons of
Advent and Christmas)

Thursday, November 20th
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

or

Sunday, November 23rd
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Beginning with pizza in the
Parish Center Hall

GIFT Sacramental for November



First Reconciliation

Session #2

Saturday, November 1st
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

Parish Center Classroom
501 Naugatuck Avenue

Required for children
with a parent/guardian

Weekday evening makeup
will be scheduled.

Confirmation

Review Session
2nd Year Candidates

Monday, November 3rd

or

Thursday, November 6th

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Parish Center Classroom

Confirmation

The Sacraments
1st Year Candidates

Sunday, November 9th
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, November 11th
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Parish Center Classroom



**Be
Filled WITH
THE
Holy Spirit**

Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph

Teens: Sunday, November 16, beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Adults: Tuesday, November 18, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Please keep our Saint Raphael Confirmation candidates in prayer as they are fully initiated into the Catholic Church. May they be transformed by the Holy Spirit, stay close and committed to Jesus and remain strongly connected to the Church. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may they have the strength to live as Catholic Christians in our world today.



Christmas Giving Program 2025

Christmas trees will be near the doors of both our beautiful churches beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving, festooned with gift tag ornaments. You may also find additional gift tags by the front doors of each church. Every gift tag will list an item or a gift card - some for people in need, others as a way to brighten the day of a health care facility resident. Many of the people we help, as you know, are served through local organizations.

Please take a gift tag (or two!) and return the gift, with tag attached, when you come to Mass on December 6/7 or 13/14. (The tag will indicate whether the gift should be wrapped or not.) Please return your gift(s) by December 14, or as soon as you can. We want to be sure everyone has received their gifts before Christmas. Thank you!

Want to help? Come to our "write out and cut out gift tag ornaments" party Monday, November 24th at 6:30 p.m. in a Parish Center classroom. We welcome people of all ages - adults, teens and children! And we will need some weekend gift check-in and sorting help as well as delivery help beginning December 15th and later.

Questions? Please contact Kathleen Buchanan, 203-606-6476; Rose Marie Marmolejo, 203-378-5508; or Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell - voice or text).

**November: A Visit from Archbishop Coyne,
Mass of Remembrance and More**



Archbishop Coyne will visit us on November 2nd and in his honor the newsletter staff is displaying his coat of arms. Welcome to Saint Raphael Parish, Archbishop Coyne!

Also on our November calendar: the annual Mass of Remembrance, Tinto Council #47's food drive, our Wounded Warrior Coffee And, Confirmations at the Cathedral, the Thanksgiving Day Mass and the start of the Christmas Giving Program..

Look for a touching Box of Joy thank-you, a reminder about our Christmas Fair - always spectacular - and notes about ringing in 2026!

Wow! Have a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving!

The Parish Press

A Publication of Saint Raphael Parish

Milford, Connecticut

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In Memoriam

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

Walter D'Avignon	Mary "Mae" Brosnan
Lucille Dente	Marion Yazdzik
Judy Boyer	Margaret McHugh
Glenn Renzulli	Charles Mossorofo
Elizabeth Ann Marlow Sheehan	

May they be welcomed into the peace and happiness of everlasting life.



Bereavement Support Sunday, November 9th

The parish Bereavement Support group will meet on Sunday afternoon, November 9th, at 2 o'clock in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

Please consider meeting with us if you are struggling because of the loss of a loved one. You may find comfort in 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 December's Newsletter Due November 7th

Please submit news, notes and photos for the November issue to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Friday, November 7th. Thank you..

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Penelope Oporto-Centore	
Antonios Beasock	Frida Cunningham
Camden White	Maison Lancelot.

Penelope, Antonios, Frida, Camden and Maison received the life-giving waters of Baptism in September. May they grow in faith, in joy, in wisdom and in the love of the Lord.



SAVE THE DATE!

*Please join us
as Saint Raphael Parish
celebrates its 2nd Annual*

**Ring in the New Year Party
December 31, 2025**

*Last year's party was a blast!
Don't miss this year's celebration.
More details coming soon!*

