



# The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

April 2026



## Coffee And April 21/22

Visit the Parish Center or the Saint Gabriel Hall after weekend Masses on April 21/22 for what we hope will be two snow-free, springlike days for Coffee And.

Sample the goodies, enjoy a hot or cold beverage and spend some time with our delightful parish family.

## April's Pork Roast Dinner Supports HomeFront



The date for our annual Pork Roast Dinner at Saint Gabriel Hall has been changed (to Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m.) but the opinion of a nation-wide panel of respected food critics remains the same: "Don't miss this "Treat Your Tastebuds" gastronomical delight!"

Tickets (\$15 for adults) will be available after weekend Masses through Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for the reservation specialists at the doors of both churches. For further information you may call Rose Marie Marmolejo (203-378-5508) or Kathleen Buchanan (203-606-6476)

The dinner supports a really great cause, HomeFront's May 2<sup>nd</sup> one-day repair blitz for a local family in need. Read more below.

## The Easter Triduum, The Summit of the Liturgical Year

The Easter Triduum, chronologically three days, from Holy Thursday evening to the evening of Easter Sunday, are liturgically one day, unfolding for us the unity of Christ's Paschal Mystery. The single celebration of the Triduum marks the end of the Lenten season, and leads to the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord at the Easter Vigil. The schedule for the Triduum and for Easter Masses appears below.

### EASTER TRIDUUM SAINT ANN CHURCH

#### HOLY THURSDAY

April 2<sup>nd</sup>

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper

7:00 p.m.

#### GOOD FRIDAY

April 3<sup>rd</sup>

The Celebration of the Lord's Passion

3:00 p.m.

#### HOLY SATURDAY

April 4<sup>th</sup>

Blessing of the Easter Food

11:00 a.m.

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night

8:00 p.m.

The Solemn Beginning of the Vigil

The Liturgy of the Word

Celebration of Confirmation

Liturgy of the Eucharist

### Easter Sunday Masses

#### Saint Gabriel Church

8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

#### Saint Ann Church

9:30 a.m.



## Saint Raphael Parish - HomeFront 2026 - Volunteers Needed for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Our hardworking Saint Raphael Parish HomeFront Team is preparing for HomeFront Day 2026, scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. HomeFront, established in Norwalk in 1988, currently serves Fairfield, Hartford and New Haven Counties in Connecticut; and Westchester County, New York. Like other teams in the program, we will be completing home repairs for a local family in need, enabling the family to remain in their home with an improved quality of life.

Our parish has worked with HomeFront for many years, thanks to the generous support of parish volunteers. We have been blessed with the assistance of skilled professionals like carpenters, plumbers, electricians, flooring installers, and painters, and with workers who are not professionals but are vital to the success of the project for tasks like scraping, painting, yard work, footing ladders for safety, assisting skilled professionals, and clean-up. Until our 2026 project site has been confirmed we won't know which workers we will need.

A dedicated house captain, John Marmolejo will lead our HomeFront effort again this year. We will need a strong team of volunteers and friends to support him, however, so that we can truly help this family in need.

The full project day on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> runs from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We hope many of you will be available for most of the day, but even a half day would be a great help to our team. Continental breakfast and lunch will be available on-site.

For further information about supporting HomeFront 2026 as a volunteer or with your donations, go to page 2.

**Sessions for GIFT Sacramental  
(Meet in a Parish Center Classroom)**

**First Communion Program**

***Learning and Praying the Rosary***

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>

or

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

*First Communion children  
with parent/guardian*

**Confirmation Program**

***Faith in Action/Choices***

Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

or

Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

*Confirmation candidates only.*

**Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) Program  
Following Jesus Through the Church Year  
Living as Disciples**

Through his words *and* his actions, Jesus taught us how to follow him. April's sessions will give all of us the opportunity to learn how to live as followers, disciples of Jesus, today, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. How can each one of us follow our Lord's example? How can we live according to His Law of Love?



**Turning In Your Generous CRS Rice Bowl Donations**

Please know that your support of CRS Rice Bowl makes a world of difference in helping families around the world overcome hunger and poverty. Ready to return your Rice Bowl? Here's how:

- \*Put donations (in a sealed rice bowl or labeled envelope) in the collection baskets at Mass .
- \*Bring your CRS Rice Bowl with donations to April's GIFT in-person sessions. (Schedule appears above.)
- \*Return Rice Bowl donations to the Parish Office Monday thru Friday during office hours
- \*Donate on the Rice Bowl website: [Give to CRS Rice Bowl](#)

Thank you for your kindness and generosity to people in need. Your Rice Bowl donations help CRS carry out the commitment of the U.S. Bishops to assist the poor and vulnerable, overseas (75% of donations) and in the Hartford Archdiocese (25%). Reach out to Maria, 203-988-8598 (cell) or [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) if you have CRS Rice Bowl questions.

**April GIFT**  
Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>  
12:00 noon. - 2:15 p.m.  
or  
Tuesday, April 21<sup>st</sup>  
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.  
*We will begin  
with pizza!*

**Saint Raphael Parish Website**

<https://saintraphaelmilford.org>

**Summer VBS Camp Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. - 12 noon**

**Registration Now in Progress - Save Your Child's Space Today!**



Campers 4-11 who explore this year's *Illumination Station* will find a world aglow and discover how Jesus shines in the darkness. Just as Jesus himself told his friends, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." Jesus, they will learn, is truly the Son of God, perfect and powerful, God's plan for forgiveness. They can follow him forever and shine his light and love on everyone they meet.

VBS Camp is held at Saint Raphael Parish Center and Grounds, 501 Naugatuck Avenue. Suggested donation is \$25 per child (\$5 per day). Camp scholarships are available. Contact Maria Tomasetti, as above, for a registration form or with questions. Adult and teen (ages 12+) volunteers needed. Watch the bulletin for meeting and training dates. Thanks very much.

**Support HomeFront 26**

**Sign up as an Adult Volunteer:**

Reach out to Elizabeth Simonetti, 770-845-6779 or [elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com](mailto:elizabethsimonet@mindspring.com).

**Sign up as a Teen Volunteer:**

Contact Maria Tomasetti [atomasetti@snet.net](mailto:atomasetti@snet.net) or 203-988-8598. For teen volunteers ages 14-17, parents are required to complete and sign a waiver form prior to Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Teens will be supervised and cannot participate in risky assignments, e.g., using power tools or climbing ladders.

**Make a Donation**

We are required to contribute some of the funds needed for the project to help cover insurance, materials, and supplies like lumber, paint, sheetrock, plumbing supplies, storm door, lights, etc.

To help, donate to our *Bakeless Bake Sale*. (You make a donation but receive no baked goods!) Drop your donations into the collection basket by April 19<sup>th</sup> in an envelope marked *HomeFront*. Thank you very much.

***Human Life* by TPUSA Faith, A Special Presentation of  
the Pro-Life and Human Concerns Committees  
Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> 10 a.m. – 12 noon**

*Human Life* is designed to provide both scientific knowledge and spiritual resources to champion the cause of the pre-born with family and friends. 50 years of constitutional protection for abortion rights (so-called women's healthcare) ended when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe vs. Wade in June of 2022. Yet abortions continue to increase nationally despite some small reductions in certain states. Monthly averages are up 16% since the 2022 decision.

Saint Raphael's generosity during the diaper and baby bottle drives has been an inspiration and has already saved lives. What more can we do? What if we could improve our ability to influence others to protect innocent life? *Human Life* offers scientific and scriptural foundations and suggests how to speak with clarity and compassion to educate and influence others about a pro-life position.

You will learn more at the May 9<sup>th</sup> presentation at the Saint Ann Parish Center. Please RSVP to [wally@wallyhauck.com](mailto:wally@wallyhauck.com) or 203-874-8484. Thank you for your interest in this vital topic.

**Parish Latest Details on the Tag Sale!**  
**Tag Sale** (Tag Sale Date: Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>)

The Tag Sale team will start collecting items on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>. Drop off schedule for April is Monday through Wednesday 10 a.m. - 12 noon and Thursday evenings 5 to 7 p.m.

MaryJo is still in need of sorters, folks who will identify the donated items and put them with similar items.

Questions? Call MaryJo Downs (203-710-0471). Thank you!

**An October Chili Cook-Off?**

The idea is on the Parish Life Committee's drawing board. They've penciled in a date (Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>) and so far 3 "I make the best chili" contestants have signed on to compete. The committee would like to have at least 7 contestants, so the call has gone out: *The Chili Cook-off Wants You!*



Which kinds of chili tickle your tastebuds? Chili con carne? Chili with or without beans? White chili? Vegetarian? Texas style? Kansas City?

Whatever your great chili recipe, if you'd like to put it to the test - and perhaps win a prize! - please contact Leo Dorsey (203-876-9708) or Lou Servideo (203-260-4750).

**Come Decorate Saint Ann's For Easter!**

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on Saturday morning, April 4<sup>th</sup> (Holy Saturday) and help arrange the beautiful flowers that speak so eloquently of the joy of Easter.



We can't begin until the flowers have been delivered to the church and as we went to press we did not yet have a time for delivery, but **last minute update:** Please come at 9:00 a.m., when the flowers are due to arrive!

We appreciate your taking time out of your busy Holy Saturday. Thank you.



**A Creation Care Corner Invitation: Join Donna, as A Laudato Si' Animator!**

The invitation to register for the 2026 *Laudato Si'* Animators Formation Program comes directly from Donna DiMassa, Saint Raphael's very animated Animator, whose *Care for Creation* column appears regularly in *The Parish Press*.

Pope Francis' 2015 landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'* challenged and appealed to "every person on the planet" to "care for Creation, our common home." Like thousands of others, Donna joined the global *Laudato Si'*, community, whose website [animators@laudatosimovement.org](mailto:animators@laudatosimovement.org), defines its goal: "Are you looking for a way to care for creation and build a better world?" If so, "You are in the right place." Donna became a Certified Animator, committed to prayer and action. Animators work within their parishes and communities to engage others and advocate for climate and ecological justice. (Donna's first project was the parish Pollinator Garden.)

Registration for this year's Animators Formation Program opens April 15<sup>th</sup> at <https://laudatosianimators.org>. The online program, free, user-friendly and easily accessible, includes four weekly sessions at 9 a.m. EST. (All webinars will be recorded and available on our online platform for those who are unable to join the live sessions.) Training videos, readings, learning materials, and discussion forums are included.

The schedule of weekly session topics:

- April 15, 2026 What Is Happening to Our Beautiful Home?
- April 22, 2026 What Does Our Faith Say? (*Laudato Si'*/Catholic Social Teaching)
- April 29, 2026 Commitment to Personal Ecological Conversion
- May 6, 2026 Action in the Light of Our Faith
- May 17-May 24, 2026 *Laudato Si'* Week: Participants implement a Seed Project\*
- June 17, 2026 Graduation Ceremony (online)

\*As the final assignment of the LSA Training, animators are invited to implement a "Seed Project," a small but concrete project of personal interest that brings *Laudato Si'* to life. Certified Animators will support you as you carry out the project.

*Laudato Si'* Animators play a critical role in promoting sustainability and addressing urgent environmental challenges. If you or someone you know would like to discuss the program with a Certified Animator, please contact Donna DiMassa, 203-444-4285 or [dm.dimassa@prodigy.net](mailto:dm.dimassa@prodigy.net).



**Richard Wheeling's Notes from the Knights Tinto Council 47**

In early March the Council completed *Men of the Word*, our 12-session Bible study, that drew brother Knights, several parishioners and Deacon George to its monthly sessions. Consensus: a fruitful experience - with more to come! We are researching new options that will strengthen the group's knowledge and provide continued spiritual growth. Once we've made our choice we will spread the word and hope and pray that you make the choice to join us. Remember, men, you do not have to be a K of C member to join us. As the song goes, "All are Welcome".

Many of the Knights have volunteered to help with HomeFront, led by John Marmolejo who became a Fourth Degree Knight this year. I encourage any and all parishioners to volunteer for this one-day repair blitz for a local family in need, scheduled for Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. What a great way to serve God, by serving your brothers and sisters. Jesus reminds us that when we serve others we are serving Him.

Plans are being finalized for our May 30<sup>th</sup> social event. Its rather lengthy title: "an evening gathering featuring Fr. Michael McGivney ale, a cigar and a little nosh." We hope the men of the parish will join us. Further information forthcoming.

Lastly let me invite the men of the parish to **THINK ABOUT AND PRAY ABOUT JOINING OUR BROTHERHOOD**. It would be wonderful if you could visit one of our meetings and see what we do. For more information please contact me at 203-520-3250.

May God continue to bless you and hold you in his loving arms.

## Rejoice! Sing Alleluia!



Our Lord is risen, we will exult on Easter morning. *Alleluia* is indeed our song! The schedules for the Triduum and for the celebration of the Mass of the Resurrection appear on page 1.

Turn in your Rice Bowls this month, start dropping off your tag sale donations and consider signing on to train as a *Laudato Si'* Animator. It's not too early to reserve a spot for your children ages 4-11 at this year's VBS camp, *Illumination Station*.

Don't miss the Pork Roast dinner on April 26<sup>th</sup>, a tasty way to support HomeFront Day 2026. And how about a chili cook-off? Details inside.

The entire *Parish Press* staff wishes you a happy and blessed Easter. May the light of Christ shine brightly for you and your loved ones.

### *The Parish Press*

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## SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

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*Christ is Risen! Alleluia!*



### In Memoriam

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

Jeffrey Detoro Patricia Kurowski  
Lou Holtz Joan Ann Bemis

May our loving Father lead them into his heavenly kingdom and may their families take comfort in knowing that we share in their sorrow.



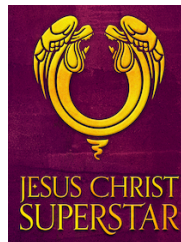
### No Bereavement Support Meeting This Month

The parish Bereavement Support group will not meet during April, but we will gather again in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel on Sunday May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. .

Please plan to be with us if you are struggling to cope with the death of someone you love. May the souls of your loved ones rest in peace and may God grant you strength in your sorrow.

### Information for May's Newsletter Due April 13<sup>th</sup>

Kindly submit your news, notes comments, photos and suggestions for May's *Parish Press* by Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. You may call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) or send your information through cyberspace ([parishpress06460@gmail.com](mailto:parishpress06460@gmail.com)). Thanks.



### Parish Life Excursion Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> Goodspeed Opera House Featuring *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Jesus Christ Superstar is a cultural phenomenon that shook the world. Coming to the legendary Goodspeed Opera House this Spring, the show has been performed for 50 years with an electrifying rock score.

Lunch is included. Select from a full course lunch menu at the popular Gelston House Restaurant offering delicious cuisine and gorgeous views of the Connecticut River.

Provided by DK Tours.

Roundtrip motorcoach transportation.

Departs Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. \$224 per person

Orchestra seats to the 2:00 p.m. performance

(Please contact Arlene Lacerenza [alacerenza@att.net](mailto:alacerenza@att.net))

### No Tuesday Noon Rosary Recitation This Month

Tuesday recitation of the Rosary will resume on May 5<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel.

