

Saint Raphael Parish
Pastoral Council Meeting Minutes – St. Ann Parish Office
May 18, 2026 7:00PM

Meeting called to order:

Opening Prayer- Joyce

Frank facilitated the meeting.

Attendance: All present except for Josh (sorry).

New council members joined as guests (John Vargas, Emily Ciancimino, and Richard Warren).

Acceptance of April Minutes.

Note from Frank – with the new pastor arriving in July, and if requested by the pastor, we may have a meeting in July and August. Please keep an eye out for an announcement.

New rooster was passed around to confirm contact information for the 2026/2027 council.

Father John's Comments:

- Fr. John requested the new members introduce themselves and give a little background information.

Standing Committee Reports

Prayer and Worship Committee Report

No report

Social Justice/Human Concerns Committee

*See Addendum A

Parish Life – Cathy Coda

- Coffee And...
 - May donations for the Boys and Girls Village and there is no Coffee and... in June.
- Tag Sale on May 23rd.
- Marriage celebration on May 31st after 11am mass – event to introduce couples to each other and focus on the vocation of Marriage.
- Tunnels to Towers bottle/can drive on June 6th.
- Parish picnic is September 13th.
- Chili Cook-off scheduled for the fall.
- Trip to Goodspeed was a wonderful event!
- Next meeting of Parish Life is on Wednesday, May 20th.

Faith Formation: Maria Tomasetti

*Addendum B

Other Business

- Council communication to the parish – email address is up and running. Will work on the ministry brochure to include new pastor and update the council members. Will post in the bulletin a description of the council's mission with email so parishioners know what the council is about. Joyce is the email admin and will monitor and forward emails to necessary people
- Parish Website – the website has been inactive for the last 4/5 months. Looking for someone to bring current with the diocese website provider and then maintain it on a weekly basis.
- Old rectory – quotes for demolition are still coming in and a decision will be made soon.

Election of 2026/2027 Officers

Chairperson: Frank Lacerenza

Vice chairperson: Frances O'Neill

Secretary: Joshua Twidwell

Frank and the entire council thanked Rose Marie for her leadership as council chairperson and for her commitment to the entire parish, along with Leo and Cathy, for their dedication and support to the parish and council.

Frank also thanked Father John for not only being our pastor for the last 8 years but also for being the person on the spot guiding our two parishes into becoming one.

Housekeeping note: Going forward, remove "Open Forum" from the agenda.

Closing Prayer: Father John

- Minutes submitted by Susan Reed



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Addendum A: Human Concerns and Social Justice:

On Monday, May 4th, members of our very own Human Concerns Committee and members of the Milford community attended the Board of Aldermen Meeting at Milford City Hall. This was the first major step in the effort to STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN MILFORD. Among the 15 or so advocates for the anti-trafficking ordinance in attendance, 9 spoke in support of the ordinance which requires training regarding human trafficking for staff at the hotels and truck stops (the major areas of risk). The committee is proud to report a high level of interest in the community exemplified by the 500+ positive comments on Facebook and the reporting by local NBC news affiliate (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llmOLQALzBw>). Some were surprised the Parish Council members did not attend.

On Saturday, May 9th, the Human Concerns Committee hosted Olivia Hammershoy from TPUSA Faith for a video presentation. The title of the video presentation was Human Life. The purpose was to help the participants to improve their ability to be disciples of pro-life. Some were surprised that most of the Parish Council members did not attend. Special thanks also to Lou Servideo and his committee for the refreshments and to Dave Macone from the Knights for the technical support.

On April 17, 2026, the CT House of Representatives Passed the Safe Haven Baby Box bill SB0156 which the committee and Safe Haven team members have promoted. The CT Legislator Children's Committee has prepared a joint favorable report which includes two recommendations from our committee and Safe Haven team. This bill establishes a task force to study the policy and procedures of the voluntary surrender of infants to identify areas in need of improvement to ensure the safety of surrendered infants. Team members and committee members continue to lobby the legislators.

The next meeting will be May 21st at 7 PM at the St. Ann Church office. The agenda subjects are:

- Review Trafficking Ordinance initiative and create a follow up plan.
- Review results of TPUSA Faith event (May 9th) and create follow up plan.
- Agree on diaper drive date.
- Misc. Discussion and updates.

Addendum B: Faith Formation

- First Communion. 23 children received their First Holy Communion in May 2026.
- Adult Confirmation. Two adults received the Sacrament of Confirmation at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph on May 12, 2026.
- OCIA. One adult will receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion at the 9:30 am Mass on Pentecost Sunday, May 24.
- Teen Confirmation classes are ongoing in May and June 2026. Confirmation will be scheduled in October or November 2026 at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph, based on possible dates provided by the Archdiocese of Hartford.
- Mayor's Youth Awards We nominated 13 of our parish children and teens, all Milford residents as required by the City of Milford, for their service in our parish/community. The award ceremony was held on May 6 at the Parsons Complex in Milford.

- Monthly GIFT Program - GIFT Program Theme for 2026-2027: Living the Moral Life. GIFT and Sacramental Program mailings are planned for the week of July 27. Change for 2026-2027: Teens in Grades 8 or older can enroll in our Confirmation program.
- Graduate Mass and Reception - Sunday, June 7, 2026. 11 am Mass at St. Gabriel followed by lunch/reception for Grade 8, high school, and college graduates, family, and friends in St. Gabriel Hall. Email communications are ongoing, in addition to bulletin and Parish Press.
- Summer VBS Camp 2026 - ***Illumination Station: Shining a Light on Who Jesus Really Is*** - Monday, July 20 thru Friday, July 24, 2026. Camp registration is in progress. Six evenings are scheduled for set-up and decorations during the weeks of July 6 and July 13. A camp volunteer kick-off meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 pm. We are continuing to recruit adult volunteers and teen volunteers, ages 12 and older. There will also be a training session for the teen volunteers in July.

Nurturing Seedlings: Community for Young Parents is a ministry designed for parents/guardians of children ages birth to five.

- Nurturing Seedlings was created by the Archdiocese of Hartford to:
 - Give young parents the opportunity to share in community with other young families and enjoy a sense of belonging with the entire parish
 - Help parents to grow in their own faith and prayer life
 - Equip young parents with simple skills to lead their young child/children into a relationship with Jesus from the very beginning.
- Maria will be inviting potential facilitators to attend a Nurturing Seedlings training session, scheduled in early June in Branford.