



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

October 2026



Fatima Rosary Recitation Begins October 3rd

When Our Lady appeared at Fatima to Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta more than a hundred years ago, she asked them to pray the Rosary "to obtain peace in the world."

Our troubled world sorely needs that peace today. On Saturday, October 3rd, at 11:00 a.m. we will begin the First Saturday recitation of the Rosary at Saint Ann Church. This powerful First Saturday devotion will continue through February. Please join us.

Pray the International Rosary Tuesday, October 6th

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. In keeping with a parish tradition we will pray an International Rosary on Tuesday evening, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Saint Gabriel Church.



We invite you to be with us. Hear the decades of the Joyful Mysteries rise like fragrant incense in a variety of languages. Multilingual parishioners will lead each decade in a different language; the congregation will respond in English. Myriam Jean will lead a decade in French, John Marmolejo in Spanish, Antonia Gomes in Portuguese, Katharina Weirether in German and Anna Nguyen in Vietnamese. Raise your voices in song as we sing traditional hymns in Mary's honor. The evening will close with refreshments in the Saint Gabriel Church hall.

Coffee And October 17th and 18th



Visit *Coffee And* after all the Masses on October 17th and 18th and share goodies and refreshing drinks with those engaging people, the members of the Saint Raphael Parish family.

Stop in to the Saint Ann Parish Center Library after Saturday's Vigil Mass or Sunday's 9:30. Going to the 8 or 11 o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel Church on the shore? It's a short walk to the Parish Hall for coffee and conversation. Have a great weekend.



Saturday, October 24th 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**Saint Ann Parish Center
13 Passionate Chili-meisters!
Limited to 150 people**

\$15 per person ticket includes chili tasting, hot dogs, condiments, iced tea, lemonade, soda, water. Tickets available after all weekend Masses through October 18th.

Come sample and vote. Help us crown a champion!



**Sunday, October 25th
4:00 p.m.
Saint Ann Church**

We welcome the return of this award-winning artist and composer!



Choir Opens First Sunday of the Month Series October 4th at Saint Gabriel Church

The choir has booked a five-month First Sunday tour beginning this month. Our popular and very talented group will go on the road - actually, on Naugatuck Avenue - to bring their melodious sound to the eleven o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel Church on the shore. Succeeding tour dates: First Sundays from November through May.

And during the tour, what about music at Saint Ann's First Sunday 9:30 Masses? Cue the cantor and the congregation, with Peter DeMarco (or another fine musician) at the piano and/or the organ. No parts or descants, in all likelihood, but those in attendance will certainly lift their voices in praise of our awesome God!

Celebrate the Season of Creation 2026 and The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on Sunday, October 4th, 2:30 p.m.

The Season of Creation 2026, which opened with prayer on September 1st, will close with celebration at the Saint Ann Parish Center on Sunday, October 4th, the Feast Day of Francis of Assisi.

What a perfect pairing - the 12th century saint with "almost universal appeal" because of his "love of nature and regard for creation" (per Cardinal Seán O'Malley in the September 2026 issue of *Columbia*) and the 20th/21st century Season of Creation, an annual celebration in prayer and action for the care and protection of creation, all that the Lord has made.

The 2026 theme Living Water, explores Ezekiel 47:9,12: The prophet sees a river that "teems with every kind of living creature; everything lives where the river flows." It is a powerful biblical vision of hope and ecological healing. Today the lack of clean, running water constitutes a world-wide crisis. And so we pray: *Lord of all Life, stir in us a calling to care for the waters*, and we act, seeking and supporting efforts to keep the water flowing.

Join us, please, as we celebrate the Season of Creation 2026. Be stirred into action by the stunning visuals of *Watermark*, an acclaimed feature documentary that one reviewer called "An immersive version of ravishing photographs, thrilling, terrifying and enraging all at once."

Enjoy eco-friendly drinks and snacks and environmentally friendly door prizes, including not one, but two grand prizes!

See you on Sunday, October 4th at 2:30 in the Saint Ann Parish Center!

Advance tickets: \$12.00, available through the parish office 203-874-0634
Tickets at the door: \$17.00

**Donna's Creation Care Corner:
For Bats, It Can Be Scary Out There!**



Bats, black cats and witches' hats - scary images that almost scream Halloween. But according to the National Wildlife Foundation, "There's nothing scary about bats except threats to their survival!" (More information at <https://blog.nwf.org/2025/10/bats-and-halloween/>.) Today, beyond the myths and folklore of the ancient Celts, we should be frightened at the alarming decline in the numbers of one of God's most intriguing creatures, the bat. Because of their vulnerability, eight out of the nine bat species living in Connecticut are listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern.

Why does that matter? Bats play a crucial role in pest control, pollination, and seed dispersal. In fact, the loss of this keystone species would compromise the health of our planet. Bats consume enough pests to save more than \$1 billion per year in crop damage and pesticide costs in the U.S. corn industry alone (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Across all agriculture, bats consume enough pests to save more than \$3 billion annually.

Secondly, some bats feed only on nectar, thereby pollinating a variety of plants like peaches, cloves, bananas, avocados, dates, figs, mangos and agaves. In fact, bats are the sole pollinator for the agave plant – a key ingredient in tequila!

Lastly, fruit bats sustain vast ecosystems. In damaged or cleared rainforests, they distribute 95% of the seeds needed for vital regrowth. In fact, some seeds will not sprout unless they have passed through the digestive tracts of bats. They also ensure a rich diversity of new forest life.

As stewards of God's creation, especially during this Halloween season, we should be aware of tricks to avoid and treats to provide to learn more about and to protect God's flying phenomenon.



Tricks to avoid:*Unnecessary outdoor lighting: Artificial light adversely affects bats and *all* wildlife.

*Pesticides: CT bats are insectivores – a single bat can eat 3,000 insects per night! Pesticides not only kill their food source but poison bats in the process.

Treats to provide:*A natural, wildlife-friendly habitat - with native plants - in your backyard.

*A bat box. Learn how to build one, and more, at <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/fact-sheets/bats>.

*Preserve habitats bats depend on like forests, meadows, and wetlands.

*Monitor CT's bat population at <https://portal.ct.gov/deep/wildlife/learn-about-wildlife/bats-in-connecticut>

Grand Knight Dave Sell Shares News from the Knights



It is with great humility and even greater joy that I write to you for the first time as the newly installed Grand Knight of Tinto Council 47. I want to begin by simply saying thank you — to the brother Knights who placed their trust in me, to the families of our parish who make our work possible, and to God, who has guided this council faithfully for longer than any of us have been alive.

That last point is not an exaggeration. This year, Tinto Council 47 marks an extraordinary milestone: **138 years of continuous service**, dating back to our charter in 1888. Think about that for a moment. When our council was founded, the automobile had not yet been invented. Electric light was still a novelty in most American homes. Grover Cleveland was in the White House. And in the midst of all that change, a small group of Catholic men in our parish gathered together, guided by the vision of Father Michael J. McGivney, and decided to build something that would outlast them. They succeeded. Council 47 is one of the oldest continuously operating councils in the entire Knights of Columbus, anywhere in the world.

Who We Are, and Why It Still Matters

For those newer to the parish, or those who have wondered what exactly the Knights of Columbus do beyond Bingo and our Family Picnic (which, yes, we will absolutely continue),

it's worth saying plainly: the Knights of Columbus exists to put our Catholic faith into action. Father McGivney founded the Order in 1882 with a simple but radical idea — that Catholic men should band together not just for fellowship, but to protect and provide for one another's families, to serve the poor and the vulnerable, and to be unapologetically, visibly Catholic in public life.

Our Order's presence on the world stage continues to grow as well. In August Pope Leo XIV appointed our own Supreme Knight, Patrick Kelly, to the Vatican's Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and Life. It is a remarkable recognition — our Supreme Knight will now have a direct voice in shaping the Church's work on behalf of families and the laity worldwide, and it is a source of real pride for every council, including ours, that carries the Knights of Columbus name.

An Invitation

If you are a Catholic man in our parish and you have ever wondered what it might be like to be part of something like this — something that has quietly outlasted wars, depressions, and a century and a half of change — give me a call (203) 589-5554. I would love to talk with you. No need to have it all figured out. None of us did when we joined. You just need a willingness to show up.

On November's calendar: the latest Tinto Council 47 food drive! Check the church vestibules on Halloween weekend for paper grocery bags and lists of our food pantry's most needed items. Return your donations November 7th and 8th. Thanks!

GIFT Sacramental Programs

First Reconciliation Session #1

Saturday, October 3rd
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Saint Ann Parish Center
classrooms.

A weekday evening make-up
session will also be scheduled.

Confirmation The Sacraments

Sunday, October 11th
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
or
Tuesday, October 13th
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Saint Ann Parish Center
Candidates Only



15th Annual Milford. 5K Trick or Trot Run/Walk To Benefit Beth-El Center Saturday, October 31st Halloween!

Information/Details at:

[https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/
Milford/
10thAnnualMilford5KTrickorTro
tRunWalk](https://runsignup.com/Race/CT/Milford/10thAnnualMilford5KTrickorTrotRunWalk)

Coming Before You Know It! The Fabulous Saint Raphael Christmas Fair Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, December 5th, 2026
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Saint Ann Parish Center
501 Naugatuck Avenue, Milford

Details? Contact Maureen:
mhanson808@gmail.com

October's GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Living the Moral Life, Living Faithfully

October's sessions will continue our focus on the Ten Commandments, emphasizing in particular the importance of respect, gratitude, and helping each other out. These are qualities we learn first within our families and from our parents/guardians. Along with love, honor, obedience, and assistance they are the key qualities we need to guide us in our most important and closest lifelong relationships. In age-appropriate ways, we will look more deeply into what the Church teaches about living together as a family, being together in romantic relationships, and remaining committed to one another in marriage.

The October session is required for families participating in our First Communion and Confirmation programs and encouraged for all GIFT families

Questions about GIFT or GIFT Sacramental Programs? Contact Maria : atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell, voice or text.)



October Time for T4S and Box of Joy

This fall T4S, our Teens for Service group, will mobilize to participate once again in Box of Joy, a ministry of Cross Catholic Outreach. This year the ministry is on track to reach a remarkable milestone: 1 million Box of Joy gifts delivered to children around the world since the ministry began in 2014!

Box of Joy gifts are Christmas gifts, small items that will fit into a 12" long x 6" wide x 4" tall shoe box, sent to children in developing countries like Peru, Guatemala, Malawi and many more. Filled with small toys, clothing, school supplies, a rosary and *The Story of Jesus* (and friendly notes and prayer cards from Saint Raphael Parish!). These simple gifts are tangible expressions of Christ's love.

We invite parishioners to join our GIFT families in donating *new, small items* to fill the boxes. Our dedicated T4S crew will be packing the boxes in late October, allowing time to get them to our local drop-off center and on to their destinations. Check the bulletin or reach out to Maria (as above) for Box of Joy suggestions and details. Thank you for your kindness.

Fall 2026 Confirmation at Cathedral of Saint Joseph

On Tuesday, October 27th, two adult candidates from Saint Raphael Parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during a ceremony at the Cathedral of Saint Joseph in Hartford. 16 teen candidates from Saint Raphael Parish will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during a Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday, November 1st.



Please keep our 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, our advocate, may they have the strength to live as Catholic Christians in today's world.

For Creative Hands *The Times They Are A-Changin'*

Creative Hands, that crafty group, borrowed from the Bob Dylan song book to announce a change in their schedule. The group will now meet on Tuesday afternoons from 2-4 in the Saint Ann Parish Center Library to knit, crochet, enjoy being together and generally live up to their name.



If this sounds like your kind of group, please join us! Members donate their handmade items to local nursing homes and hospitals, and make blankets for the newly baptized. We welcome beginners and experienced crafters. Val Yergeau will be happy to answer any questions (203-687-9568).

Forecast Calls for a Very Busy October!



Ready? Take a deep breath and let's look at what's coming up. On the 3rd: Fatima Rosary at Saint Ann's. On the 4th: The choir kicks off its First Sunday of the Month Series at Saint Gabriel's 11 o'clock Mass. At 2:30 in the Parish Center we mark the end of the Season of Creation and celebrate Francis of Assisi and his care for creation with fun, film, refreshments and door prizes.

Pray the International Rosary on the 6th. Sample and vote at the Chili Cook-off on the 24th, and save the 25th for a concert with Iván Díaz and the choir. There's more! Check inside.

Have you noticed a plethora of pumpkins around town, and an infinite variety of pumpkin spice flavored *everything*? Reminders, perhaps, to sign up for the Milford 5K Trick or Trot Run/Walk. It's happening on Hallowe'en!

The Parish Press

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Editor: Ann K. Eden

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501 Naugatuck Avenue
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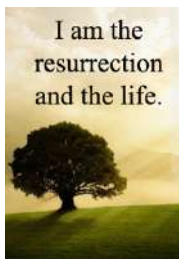
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In Memoriam

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

Patrice Shanley Louis D'Amato
Ronald McDonald, Sr.
Bernhard Bruder Jeannette Scinto
Robert W. Fitzgerald
Lou Anne O'Malley

May God grant them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Support for the Bereaved, Sunday, October 11th



Our parish Bereavement Support group will meet in the Saint Ann Children's Chapel on Sunday, October 11th at 2:00 p.m.

If you are finding it difficult to cope with the death of a loved one, please plan to be with us. You may find comfort and consolation among others who have experienced the heartache of loss. You may call Joanne (203-877-4020) for additional information.

Info for November Newsletter Due October 12th

Information for the November issue of *The Parish Press* is due in our editorial office by Monday, October 12th. Send your news, notes, and photos to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744). Thank you!

Love and Best Wishes . . .



. . . as you begin your married life together . . .

Joseph and Sheila (Kempf) Micucci
who were married on Saturday, September 12th at Saint Gabriel Church. Congratulations to the newlyweds! May you savor warm love, a new day every day and a long life together.

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members our parish family

Brody Baillargeon Noor Guerra
Isaac Gurrieri Aubrey Jachym
Gemma Siciliano, Collin Roach
Russell Robillard,



Brody, Isaac and Gemma were baptized in June. Noor, Aubrey, Collin and Russell 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>