

The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

November 2026



Voting- A Right and A Responsibility

In a message leading up to Election Day, Tuesday, November 3rd, Archbishop Paul Coakley, President of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote:

"For citizens in a representative democracy such as our own, participation in public life—including voting—is both a right and a responsibility." His message continued:

"In a time of deep political division, the temptation is to be discouraged and to not participate in the election process. But discouragement is not a Christian virtue. Together, we can contribute to the common good of our nation as faithful citizens by supporting free and fair elections.

I would ask all Catholics to put their faith before politics. The Church's contribution to the public life of a nation is not a political or partisan program; rather, it reflects our commitment to the dignity of every person, who is created in the image and likeness of God.

May Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, bless our nation as we turn once more to elections, that we might respect the dignity of each person and promote the common good of all."

Questions? Important voter information is available from the Office of the CT Secretary of the State at: https://portal.ct.gov/sots/election-services/voter-information/voter-fact-sheet?os&ref=app

Please remember to vote in November's election. Exercise your right and fulfill your responsibility.

Enjoy *Coffee And* November 21st and 22nd.

Visit with the parish family - those delightful folks - and share your Thanksgiving plans while you sip and snack at the Parish Center or Saint Gabriel Hall after weekend Masses on November 21st and 22nd.

During November, when we honor our military veterans, you will have the opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to the Wounded Warrior Project, which offers free programs and services that support our nation's wounded veterans.

First Saturday Rosary Devotion November 7th

First Saturday Rosary recitation continues November 7th, following a tradition that began with Mary's appearance at Fatima in 1917. Please be with us at Saint Ann Church at 11:00 a.m. as we pray for the peace the world cannot give.

Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday, November 26th,
9:00 a.m.
Saint Gabriel Church

Sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts, always thanking God the Father for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:19-20

Parish Mass of Remembrance
Sunday, November 8th

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 2025 through mid-October 2026).

Please join us at Saint Ann Church on
Sunday, November 8th, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Conflict Connections, A Vocation of Marriage Event
Speakers: Gabriel and Jennifer Milano

Sunday, November 15th, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Saint Gabriel Church Hall

Saint Raphael Parish invites married and soon-to-be married couples to *Conflict Connections*, the second in our ongoing series of events on the Vocation of Marriage.

Gabriel and Jennifer Milano, a married couple, bring a wealth of experience and their unique perspectives to "the battle for holiness in marriage and family life." A sought-after speaker for many years, Gabriel holds a Masters in Theology in marriage and family, while Jennifer, a counselor in trauma and individual therapy, has a Masters in both counseling and public health. Together they are able to speak on the topic of marriage "from a fun, practical, and theologically rich" point of view.

Come strengthen and nourish the bond of love which brought you together. Discover ways to turn the inevitable conflicts that can arise in a marriage into opportunities for greater understanding and connection.

Children are welcome - there will be activities for them. Our refreshments menu includes sandwiches, juice, water, soft drinks, and (yum!) cookies.

Look for reservation forms in the church vestibules beginning on Halloween weekend. Please submit a form to assist us in planning for the refreshments. We look forward to seeing you!

Look for Advent Booklets November 21st and 22nd

November 29th is the First Sunday of Advent, the season that marks the beginning of the new liturgical year. It is more than a season of waiting. - it is an invitation to become a bearer of Christ's light. In *Longing for the the Light of Christ*, Janet Schaeffler, OP,offers thoughtful prayers and meditations that encourage us to watch for the light of Christ in the kindness of others, in prayer, perhaps even within ourselves.



The booklets, a gift from the parish, including a limited number in Spanish, will be in the church vestibules the weekend before Thanksgiving.

Donna's *Creation Care Corner:*
How the Turkey Got Its Name



In Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Juliet poses the classic question, "What's in a name?" Some 400 years later: a slightly different, Thanksgiving-related question: Why is a native American bird named after a country that's partly in Europe and partly in Asia?

Native tribes across North and Mesoamerica used very descriptive and colorful names.The Aztecs, for example called this large landfowl *huehxolotl*,"big monster." Europeans who first encountered the bird called it by many different names, mostly because nobody could figure out exactly what the turkey was.

When Spaniards arrived in the Americas the large birds with their vivid tail displays reminded them of peacocks, so they called them *pavo,* then renamed the actual peacock *pavo real, "*royal peacock" to distinguish between them. They were also called *chompipe*, which mimics the "pi-pi-pi" call of young chicks.

When the turkey was introduced in France, people thought America was perhaps part of India, so the French began calling it *cocque d'Inde*,"chicken from India." For the Greeks the bird was *galopoula*, "rooster-bird" or "French chicken." **(**G*alos* is derived from the Latin word *gallus*, which means "rooster" but is also associated with France. *Poula* is a diminutive suffix meaning "little bird."). The Italians called it *gallinaccio***,**"a bad rooster" or "a big bad rooster." The name stems from *gallina,* "hen" or "poultry," combined with the Italian pejorative suffix *-accio*, which denotes something bad, ugly, or clumsy.

Across Arabia, they called the turkey *diiq Hindi*, or "the Indian Rooster." And what did people living in Turkey actually call the turkey? *Hindi,* which is short for India!

No other nationalities called this bird *turkey,* except people who spoke English. But why turkey? In London in the 1500s, the term *turkey* was an alluring label for anything that came from far away. Thus many goods were named after Turkey, the country that sits on two continents. Pumpkins, for example, were called "Turkish cucumbers." And a rather exotic-looking bird from some distant, unknown country was, naturally and to this day, called a turkey.

In 500 years this bird that is unequivocally native to America has never once had an American name! Turkeys do not give each other names, but turkeys can, in fact, recognize more than 30 other individual turkeys in their flock just through their unique vocalizations.

Whatever we call God's handsome and fascinating bird is actually of little consequence. What is much more important during this special time of year and, in fact, in every time of the year, is to remember this verse from Saint Paul's letter to the Thessalonians (1 Thess 5:18): "In all circumstances, give thanks."

Happy Thanksgiving!

(The majority of this article was inspired by https://www.npr.org/transcripts/97541602. Enjoy the original story there!

K of C News from Council 47's Grand Knight Dave Sell

This month, the Brother Knights of Tinto Council 47 are once again facilitating our semi-annual food drive for the Saint. Gabriel Food Pantry. Paper grocery bags with lists of the pantry's most needed items will be available in the church vestibules on Halloween weekend. Return your donations, including Thanksgiving items, on November 7th and 8th. Thanks to the generosity of our parish families and neighbors, this drive brings in thousands of pounds of food each time, helping to keep pantry shelves stocked for local families in need as we head into the holiday season. We are deeply grateful to everyone who donates, sorts, and delivers. Your kindness truly makes a difference in our community.

We join the whole Church in celebrating the beatification of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, on Thursday, September 24, 2026, in St.Louis, Missouri. Cardinal Luis Antonio Table presided on behalf of Pope Leo XIV. Archbishop Sheen, a 4th degree Knight of Columbus and a member of Council 178 in Rochester, NY, reached some four million listeners through radio broadcasts of *The Catholic Hour (1930-1950).* His television series *Life is Worth Living* (1951-1957) attracted up to 30 million viewers. Venerable Fulton J. Sheen remains a powerful example of bold, joyful evangelization for both Catholic men and women today.

The Great Missalette Exchange at Saint Ann Church
Friday, November 27th, immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass

Be part of the team, that removes the old missalettes from their covers and inserts the new ones.Great addition to your resumé: "I was part of the Great Exchange!" Thanks very much.

Finally, we are always looking for new members to help us carry out our many charitable endeavors. If you are a Catholic man who wants to serve your parish, strengthen your faith and support your family, please speak with any Brother Knight or come to one of our upcoming events. Vivat Jesus!

Because of the Archdiocese of Hartford's Priest Convocation there will be NO Morning Mass at Saint Raphael Parish on Tuesday, November 3rd or Thursday, November 5th

GIFT SacramentalPrograms

First Reconciliation
Session2

Saturday, November 7th
10:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Parish Center classrooms.

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

Confirmation
Prayer Life/The Mass

Sunday, December 15th
12:30 - 2:00 p.m.
or
Tuesday, December 13th
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Parish Center classroom
Candidates Only

Saint Raphael Parish Website
https://saintraphaelmilford.org

Write-Out/Cut-Out Gift Tag Ornaments Meeting!

Tuesday, November 24th
6:30 p.m.
Parish Center Classroom

Adults, teens, children - people of all ages - are welcome to help write out and cut out the gift tag ornaments for the Christmas Giving Trees!

We will also need some weekend assistance with gift check-in and sorting as well as help with deliveries, beginning on December 14th and followed by several make-up delivery dates.

If you have any questions about the Christmas Giving Program, please contact Kathleen Buchanan, 203-606-6476, Maria Tomasetti atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (cell: voice or text); or Rose Marie MarMarmolejo, 203-378-5508.

November's GIFT (Growing In Faith Together)
Living the Moral Life: Being Good Stewards

During November we will explore two commandments: the 7th (You shall not steal) and the 10th (You shall not covet your neighbor's goods), and what they mean for our lives as Catholics. According to the U.S. Catechism for Adults (p. 419) in order to keep these commandments, "we need to acquire the virtues of moderation in our possessions, justice in our treatment of other people, respect for their human dignity, and solidarity with all peoples." In age appropriate ways, participants will learn more about how to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasure.

GIFT for November
Being Good Stewards

Sunday, November 15th
12:00 noon- 2:15 p.m.
or
Tuesday, November 17th
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

Parish Center Classroom
Begins w/pizza dinner!

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

Boxes of Joy Update

As we were going to press our hard-working T4S team was preparing to pack some ***50*** Christmas Boxes of Joy for children ages 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14 in developing countries such as Haiti, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, and Peru. Thanks to the Cross Catholic Outreach Ministry and to our wonderfully generous parishioners, children who may never before have received a Christmas gift will feel the warmth of God's love.

In the second week of November T4S members will pack the Boxes of Joy into larger shipping boxes and deliver them to Saint Theresa Church in Trumbull, our local drop-off center. Then the boxes are off to the National Screening Center in Miami, where each Box of Joy will be matched to the child who will receive it. Finally, the best part, Cross Catholic Outreach ministry partners will distribute the gifts at Christmas. More than the small items they contain, the aptly named Boxes of Joy fill the children who receive them with joy, love and hope. Thank you sincerely for supporting this very special project.

Christmas Giving Program 2026:
The Giving Trees Are On Their Way!



Look for our gaily decorated Giving Trees at the doors and in the vestibules of both of our beautiful churches beginning the weekend after Thanksgiving. The decorations, as always, are gift tags, simple requests for items or gift cards for someone in need, or, perhaps, for something that will brighten the day for a health care facility resident. As in previous years, many of the people we help are served through local organizations.

Please take a gift tag (more than one, if you can) and return the gift, with gift tag attached, when you come to Mass on December 5/6 or December 12/13. Check the gift tag to see if the gift should be wrapped or not. Thank you for returning your gift(s) by December 13th, if possible, or as soon as you can. We want to be sure (and Santa prefers!) that everyone has received their gifts before Christmas. Our smiling delivery elves will accept and deliver late gifts!! We are most grateful for your generous support!

This year there will be 25 gift tags for the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation. These gift tags will be easy to identify since they are coming from the Foundation itself. Each of the tags will have a donation envelope attached; parishioners will have the opportunity to make a monetary donation directly to the Foundation.

Spotlight on the Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation:



For families in Bethlehem, daily life remains filled with uncertainty. Economic hardship, limited employment opportunities, and the ongoing effects of regional wars have left many families struggling to access even the most basic resources.

Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem is a Catholic teaching hospital just 1,500 steps from the birthplace of Christ. It is a state-of-the-art maternity and neonatal critical care center serving poor and at-risk women, infants, and children throughout the Bethlehem region. The Hospital stands as a beacon of hope for families regardless of creed, nationality, or ability to pay.

In the birthplace of hope, Holy Family Hospital continues to be a beacon of Christ's love, ensuring there is always "room in the inn". Your generous donations will deliver life, peace, and hope in the Holy Land. This modern-day manger is sustained by generous donations from individuals and parishes throughout the world. To learn more, please visit birthplaceofhope.org

Election Day, Special Masses, Change of Seasons, Christmas Fair, and More



It's November, *Deo Gratias* season, a time to thank God for our many blessings. We should remember on these russet-tinged days that we are blessed to live in the land of the free, free to go to the polls and cast a vote for our leaders, free to gather in houses of worship to praise and worship the God of all creation.

We have a change of seasons this month, from Ordinary Time to Advent, and a change of time, with the end of Daylight Savings Time on October 31st. We gain an hour of Trick or Treat time this year!

Another Vocation of Marriage event is on the calendar, and the Christmas Fair team is getting ready for another *Spectacular* event.

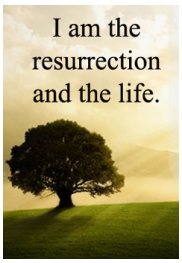
The *Parish Press* staff wishes you a beautiful Thanksgiving, rich with God's many blessings.

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Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



In Memoriam

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

Dorothy Lutinski	Edward Faulkner
David W. Bennett	Margaret Hennessy
James McNulty	Samuel Randolph

May they enjoy eternal rest in God's kingdom of light, happiness and peace..

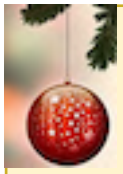


Bereavement Support

Because Saint Raphael's annual Mass of Remembrance will be offered on November 8th, the second Sunday of the month, our Bereavement Support group will not be meeting. We invite you to join us as we honor and celebrate members of the parish family who were called home to the Lord during the past year. (See details on Page 1 of the newsletter.)

December Newsletter Info Due November 9th

Goodness! We've turned the calendar to November, and we are suddenly in the holiday season - a time for early deadlines for. the bulletin and *The Parish Press*. Please submit information for December's newsletter to parishpress06460@gmail.com or call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) by Monday, November 9th. Thanks very much. Enjoy the holidays!



The Saint Raphael Christmas Fair:

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

We Do Indeed Need Volunteers!
See How You Can Help Make Our Event A Success:

Join Our Setup Crew!
Monday 11/30 - Friday 12/4, starting at 6:00 p.m.
As needed

Work the Fair!
Saturday, 12/5, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Greeters, Kitchen Staff, Bakery Staff
Tag Sale Room, Nativity Room, Raffle Room

Volunteer to Clean Up the Fair
Saturday, 12/5, 2:30 p.m.

Other Ways to Volunteer:
Donate a gift card or lottery ticket
Bake your favorite treat for our Bake Sale:
Drop off:12/4, 9-1 at church office
or 12/5 at bakery in Parish Center library
No nuts, please, if possible
Include ingredients and name of baked goods
Thank you!!