

Webster's Definition:
augment (verb)—to
make or become greater
augmenter (noun)

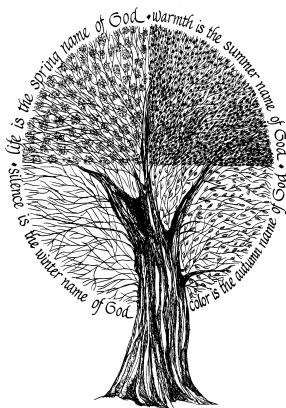
THE AUGMENTER

Newsletter for Families of St. Augustine Religious Education in Larchmont, NY
God loves each of us as if there were just one of us. — St. Augustine

Ash Wednesday

Our learners will have the opportunity of participating in Lenten services on Ash Wednesday. Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade learners will receive ashes at 3:00 pm in the church while our 1st and 2nd grade learners will have a special service designed for them at 3:45 pm in church. At 7:30 pm our 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade learners will celebrate the Ash Wednesday liturgy in church with the parish. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate.

The Augmenter logo expands our vision of God through the seasons. It reminds us of God's active presence in our community of Larchmont where most of the streets are named after trees. It takes us into a new realm of naming God through the signs of the seasons and makes greater the marvel of who God is—life, warmth, color and silence.



Lenten Service Sets the Scene for Spring

Our second grade children preparing for their first Eucharist will have the opportunity of being involved in preparing lunches for St. Augustine's Midnight Run. Parents will open their homes inviting teams of communicants to prepare the lunches that will be taken to the homeless in New York City the night of March 27.

Besides collecting toiletries for the homeless our Confirmation candidates will assemble and personalize bags to distribute on the Run.

Our candidates for Confirmation will also engage in several projects to help the elderly and the homeless. They will design and create cards with messages of gratitude and warmth for the 40 Ursuline sisters living at St. Teresa's Convent in New Rochelle and our senior parishioners.

We continue to collect diapers for Hope Pantry in large and extra-large sizes. A box is available for deposit in the hallway marked for that purpose.

The Seder

Since the sixth grade curriculum embodies the study of the Old Testament our sixth grade learners will have the privilege of Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman from Larchmont Temple, who will lead them in the celebration of the Seder on Thursday, March 26 at 7:00 pm in Kenny Hall.

The educational purposes for celebrating the Seder Passover are many. The two main advantages are:

1. It will help the students' value and respect common Judeo/Christian biblical roots. Passover is the oldest festival of the Jewish liturgical calendar. This holiday celebrates the deliverance of the Jewish people from Egyptian bondage.
2. The Seder Meal celebrates and makes vivid the Jewish and Christian appreciation of the tradition of prayer, especially prayer of giving thanks to God. One of the Jewish forms of giving thanks to God is expressed in the Seder meal. One of the Catholic forms of giving thanks to God is expressed in the Eucharist.

REMINDER

Religious Class will be held on March 11
Religious Class will **NOT** be held on **March 18**

Enacting the Living Stations of the Cross

The Confirmation candidates will enact a version of the Stations of the Cross that will speak in a relevant way to the whole parish. All are invited to participate in this "Journey of Decision" at St. Augustine's Church on April 1st at 7:30 pm. Our candidates will "raise us up" to new levels of awareness of how Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection can relate to our lives in the 21st century.

2009 Family Lent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February	25 Ash Wednesday Take your family to the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Wear the cross of ashes all day.	26 Tape a drawing of a vase on the fridge and label it "Lent." Each day, draw another flower in the vase and see a bouquet on Easter.	27 Share a mealless family meal.	28 Choose a family Lenten offering such as giving up desserts or praying family Rosaries.
1 March After Mass, explain the Gospel and the homily in terms your children can understand.	2 Pray for the victims of natural disasters who are still struggling to recover.	3 Invent a new family prayer you can say together each day.	4 Assess how your Lenten fasts are going and refresh your commitment to them.	5 Before eating your family meal together, ask each person to say a spontaneous prayer.	6 Pray for the people in the world who can't afford to eat meat every day.	7 Turn off the television, unplug the computer, and take the phone off the hook for a half-hour to pray as a family.
8 Before Mass today, pick a saint from the statues or stained glass windows in your church and learn more about him or her during Lent.	9 Collect stuffed animals or pillows in good condition and bring them to a local nursing home. Older folks love soft things to hug.	10 Ask each person to share a game, toy, or treat with someone else in your home today.	11 Plan how each of you can show kindness or compassion to someone outside the family tomorrow.	12 Think of someone you don't like and write down three nice things about him or her.	13 Figure out how much your family saved by not eating meat today. Put that money in the poor box at church.	14 At bedtime, ask your family to turn their hearts to God and think of him. Sit in silence together for a few minutes.
15 Light a candle in church today for someone who passed away recently or who needs special help from God.	16 Ask each family member to write a letter to Jesus thanking him for his sacrifice on the Cross.	17 Make cookies together and bring them to a nearby nursing home.	18 Perform an examination of conscience. Demonstrate for small children.	19 Place a crucifix or picture of Jesus in a central place in your home to keep the focus on him.	20 Every time a good deed is done until Easter, put a jelly bean in a jar on a kitchen counter. Share the candy on Easter.	21 Encourage each person to make a sacrificial offering, such as doing an extra chore without being asked.
22 Lenten Sunday Have a special meal today to celebrate the half-way point through Lent.	23 Pick a friend or neighbor and perform an anonymous good deed for him or her.	24 Promise to refrain from bickering today and offer the silence to Jesus.	25 Say a short prayer in front of each crucifix in your home.	26 Make up a box for a needy family or homeless shelter. Put canned goods, toiletries, and gently used clothing in it.	27 Eat pretzels today as a reminder that Catholics used to fast from milk, butter, eggs, cheese, cream, and meat.	28 Make crosses out of construction paper. Write on them, "He died for me." Post them all over the house.
29 After Mass, light a candle and recite the Apostle's Creed as an affirmation of faith.	30 Call Catholic Relief Services (877-HELP-CRS, www.catholicrelief.org) to see how you can help.	31 Send a card to someone who might need cheering.	1 April Give up a favorite toy or treat just for today.	2 Visit or call someone who is sick and can't leave home.	3 Place any final donations in the donation box you set up. Make a family trip to deliver it.	4 Go to Confession or attend a Reconciliation Service. Then go out for ice cream afterwards to celebrate forgiveness.
5 Have a Palm Sunday procession around the house and take turns playing Jesus.	6 Take a walk outside and look for signs of new life.	7 Forgive someone who hurt you today.	8 Get up 15 minutes earlier than usual today and pray together as a family.	9 Wash and dry each other's feet in commemoration of Jesus washing the feet of his Apostles.	10 Pray the Stations of the Cross today, and meditate on each one.	11 Dress a doll in a white garment and talk about the Baptismal vows we renew each year.