

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

Registration for 2009-2010

Registration packets are being sent via a bulk mailing along with a **Talent Survey** to the homes of all the families of our religious education process. If the registration form is **returned by May 15th** with the payment, a special discount is given. Forms returned after that date necessitate an additional charge.

God's Love Story Is Experienced through “Liturgy of the Word for Children” on Sundays

This year Sister Suzanne with her associate, Ms. Soledad Sambrano, began an experience for children from ages four (4) through nine (9) during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Family Liturgy. After the opening prayer, Sister Suzanne and Ms. Sambrano lead the children to the rectory for opening them to the Sunday readings, primarily the Gospel. By using creative strategies of song, story, art, rhythm, puppetry and drama “God’s love story” comes alive to children in relevant and appropriate ways. The children return to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist after the prayers of petition.

This experience will continue throughout most of the summer. If anyone is interested in watching Sister Suzanne and learning the process, Sister would like a few interested people to help out for a Sunday when she or Ms. Sambrano cannot be present.

Please contact Sr. Suzanne with inquiries or your interest at srsuzanne@verizon.net.

Sacraments

First Eucharist	Saturday, May 2 nd , at 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.
Confirmation	Wednesday, May 20 th , at 5:00 p.m.

A Calendar of Creative and Mystical Moments

“Puppets on YouTube.com”
with Sister Suzanne

May 6th in Kenny Hall at **7:25 p.m. for Grade 6 and 7** and at **8:00 p.m. for Grade 8 and 9**

“Mary Moments” and Puppets
with Sister Suzanne in Kenny Hall

Wednesday, May 6th **3:05 p.m. for Grade 3**
and
3:40 p.m. for Grade 1 and 2

Wednesday, May 13th **3:05 p.m. for Grade 4**
and
3:40 p.m. for Grade 5

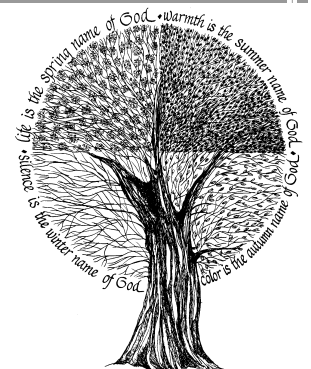
Sunday, May 17th **9:30 a.m. for Grade 1-8**

Closing of Religious Education Classes

On **Wednesday, May 13th**, and **Sunday, May 17th**, the formal religious education classes will come to an end. The puppets will bring the process to a new dimension until **NEXT YEAR!**

Our faith life continues to abound as does every other part of our life.

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.



Family Catechesis—What is it and for Whom?

Family catechesis is a term often used to connote the involvement of the whole family in bringing “faith to life and life to faith.” For our faith to grow we have a need to support and help one another, recognizing that we belong to a family, parish and community in the global sphere. Therefore, experiences must abound for this family catechesis to occur. This year events like the “Pancake Breakfast” and “Potluck Supper” reminded us of our need to gather around a table and share food and friendship with one another. “The Irish Fleadh” was another experience of our need to gather with music, dance and refreshments to celebrate heritage and one another. All these events demonstrate our desire for hospitality, belonging and community.

Sacraments are also times in

the life of a family and a parish when parents and children gather to learn and grow in the preparation of their reception. Events like the enrollment of the candidates for Confirmation and Eucharist at our Liturgies, “The Living Stations of the Cross,” the Confirmation retreat, the first Eucharist retreat, the service projects that parents and learners share in together make witnessing to our faith real and alive!

The Seder meal that our sixth graders celebrated with Rabbi Jeffrey Sirkman on March 26 indicated our desire to appreciate our Jewish roots and ritual ancestry.

Service of all shapes and sizes abounded from the Walk for Habitat for Humanity, the making of a Thanksgiving Dinner, the Christmas Giving

Tree, Redirect Christmas, to the support of Midnight Run. Monetary donations and other kinds of collections provided help to the Hispanic Resource Center, H.O.P.E. (Help Other People Eat) Food Pantry, Save the Children Foundation and the troops overseas.

The multitudinous ways of gathering in small groups for a need larger than ourselves mirrors Jesus’ own way of teaching us how to live. All these experiences of faith can be identified as family catechesis.

For some of us who dream dreams that never were and make things happen that are still yet to be, we hope and pray that many more experiences of family catechesis will emerge and evolve in the years ahead at St. Augustine’s so . . .

What’s Next in 2009-2010?

A new faith formation series of books/experiences/happenings to become lifelong learners in faith.

Opportunities for children, young people and parents to realize their value and call as people of God.

Our tenth graders to be more involved in serving on mission trips, in food pantries, in an all night Food Fast for Catholic Relief Services, as mentors to our new Confirmation candidates, as lectors, cantors, and altar servers at our Sunday liturgies, some Friday nights for a movie, pizza and for discussions on relevant topics of our faith, participating in the Midnight Run and the making and delivering of the Thanksgiving Dinner.

Offerings such as:

- ◇ “Tried, True and Treasured Techniques for the New and Not so New Catechist”
- ◇ “Lessons, Limericks and Life through the Bible”
- ◇ “Theology with a Twist of Twitter”
- ◇ “Dancing with the Soul”

. . .and more where this comes from!!!