

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

St. Augustine's Provides
Many Opportunities to Help
our Sisters and Brothers

Many ways to serve are ours for the interest, participation and generosity. For more info call 834-9523 or volunteer at staugred@verizon.net

Sunday Nov. 16

The Walk for Habitat for Humanity

Come on Sunday as a family with your walking shoes and get pledges for the cause of building and restoring homes in our community. At 1:00 in Constitution Park across from St. Augustine's walkers will assemble and start the walk that will lead around Manor Park and return to St. Augustine's for refreshments. Walk for a better life and homes for our neighbors and bring your donations.

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Our parish will host the annual Larchmont Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Service at 7:30 pm. It is an opportunity for families to celebrate our unity, community and gratitude in the solidarity of our oneness in God. This one special time of the year the members of all the Houses of Worship in Larchmont come together in Thanksgiving. Please bring a gift of packaged or canned food for the Hope Food Pantry. Following the service, join us for refreshments.

Thursday, Nov. 27

Make a Thanksgiving meal for the Needy

The tradition of making a meal for those in special need at Thanksgiving continues to give joy and hope to the many in our community. St. Augustine's internalizes the true meaning of what blessings and bounty bring by sharing the bliss. Families sign up on the posters at the church entrance for the size and contents of the meal they will prepare. On Thanksgiving day, the meals are brought to church before the 9:30 am liturgy where they provide the backdrop for the abundance that swells within and for which we are thankful. After the Mass volunteers deliver the meals to waiting families. Isn't this the best picture of a Thanksgiving day to celebrate?

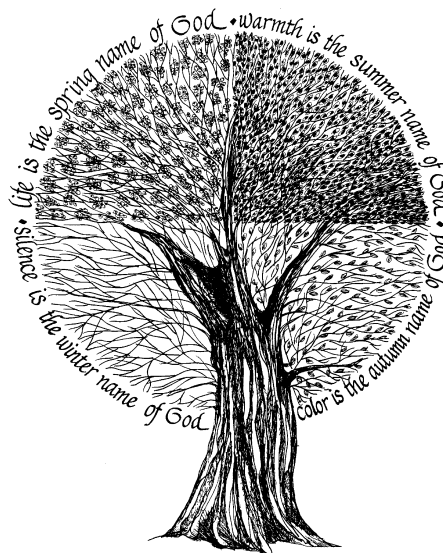
Nov./Dec. Christmas Angel Tree

Choose an angel ornament, shop for the gift you want to give and place it under the tree.

Volunteers needed to pack, carry and coordinate gifts.

Gospel Weeklies Augment the Living of the Gospel

Bridging and integrating life and faith can be daunting in this 21st century, especially for children and young people growing up. On a trial basis we are introducing the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies to augment our religious education process. Each week the brochure type of communication dramatizes and/or accents the Gospel with relevant stories that relate to the particular Sunday Gospel and readings. The pedagogy of the color captivating handout helps children at each level of development to break open God's Word and sense Jesus' living presence in the world today. **Promise** (Gr. K,1) **Good News** (Gr.2,3) **Venture** (Gr. 4,5,6) and **Visions** (Gr. 7,8) show the learners how to internalize Scripture in a relevant way. This kind of lectionary-based catechesis will have a better opportunity of opening hearts to God in the here and now. The Sadlier series, **We Believe**, of religion books can come alive with this supplementary more "hands on approach" of relating Jesus' love story to our learners.



As an instrument of peace and community building, the newsletters, **Finding God** and **The Augmenter** come to your home to promote communication and hospitality. At St. Augustine's we are a welcoming Church reaching out to each other and to all for the life of the world.

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.

Liturgy of the Word for Children

Because Sunday Eucharist is geared for an adult community with children present often times the youngest do not sense their integral part in this gathering ritual central to our faith and life. To open young children to God's call to them, "the Liturgy of the Word for Children" is being offered at our 10:30 Family Sunday liturgy. Sister Suzanne with special parent/grandparent helpers lead the children from ages 4 through 8 out of the assembly after the opening prayer to hear God's Word to them with a more developmental approach. Through music, puppetry, art and movement young children come to understand that God is with them through his Story. With the strains of the song, "We Hear God's Word," we hear the Good News that God is love. "All the stories of Jesus tells us how we should love like Him." These words continue to reverberate inside a child long after the ritual and imbed themselves in their hearts.

Helpful Hints

for Parents of Young Children

Have you ever wondered what to bring to church with a 2, 3 or 4 year old child? Ideas abound for Sister Suzanne. A backpack or canvas bag filled with "church contents" is the answer!! They include books for the young on Jesus, creation, peace and animals. A soft and tangible Noah's Ark filled with animals to squeeze, place and arrange on the pew help to fit the bill. This bag of "**church toys**" is **reserved only for church**. A child then builds a spiritual attitude of respect, reverence and an awareness for God. Unconsciously this overall significance is communicated to the child and a deeper value is placed on the time that church brings. Other toys are reserved for home. A sample of these suggestions is displayed in Sister Suzanne's office. Call her for more information at 834-9523.

Advent—a Lost Season that Needs Revisiting with Redirect Christmas

Though commercialism has its place the tinsel and bells seem to drown out the marvel of the "waiting time," better known as Advent. The Advent wreath with its four candles, three purple and one pink circles our lives faintly while the Santa's "Ho, ho" and the rustle of the gifts grab our attention. The busyness of the season precludes the time we actually wait because being "on the go" with all the "to dos" dominates our time and energy. But St. Augustine's offers an Advent tradition worth considering. "Redirect Christmas" puts Advent in its proper place and prioritizes the gift preparation where it is most needed. The opportunity of giving gifts to others that means the common good is primary and born in our midst. Truly Emmanuel (God is with us) is present when we give gifts that affect the national and international needs of others. "Redirect Christmas" does this. Join in this worthwhile way of making Advent a time of looking to the Star and following after it.

Congratulations to Catechist Maria Twomey

Maria Chan-Twomey, 6th grade catechist, will be awarded Level 1 and 2 certificates at a special recognition ceremony on November 16 at Maryknoll. Most Rev. Gerald T. Walsh will preside at the ceremony. Our congratulations goes out to Maria for this time honored achievement that entails eighty hours of classes. Now both John and Maria, our husband and wife team in sixth grade, have dual certification!



Upcoming Events in December

- *Holly Party** Friday, December 5
- *Gifts for Troops** Sunday, December 7
- *Angel Tree Gift Collection:**
 - Sunday, December 3
 - Wednesday, December 7
- *Christmas Pageant**
 - Wednesday, December 17
 - Sunday, December 21

Sunday, November 23-Enrollment of Confirmation Candidates—At the 10:30 am Family Liturgy in Church our 47 ninth graders will be formally accepted as Candidates for Confirmation. We surround them with our support and witness.