

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York

DECEMBER 18, 2016

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:**

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.” Matthew 1:23”

*Pastor's Corner*

**LETTERS TO DAD**

Every so often a television ad manages to do more than just sell a product. There's a wonderful television ad produced by the paper and packaging industry currently running that touches something good in all of us.

In the 30-second spot, a little boy misses his dad, who's serving with the military overseas. He imagines that he can send letters to his dad in the form of paper airplanes. So one afternoon he goes out to his backyard and launches a fleet of letters he has written. They sail over the six-foot fence and disappear into the sky. He hopes that the wind will take them and carry them to the place far away where his dad is serving.

But he doesn't see the paper planes land in the yard of the neighbor next door. The neighbor, an older gentleman, seems none too pleased to find this mess of paper on his lawn—until he reads them. He gathers them up, boxes them and sends them to the boy's father overseas. The dad sends the neighbor a box filled with his own paper airplane letters that he has written to his son. Then one afternoon, the neighbor launches the notes over the fence where the delighted six-year-old sees them and begins to catch them.

Some paper and simple kindness make the distance of oceans disappear for a boy and his dad.

*This is the season of wonder, when we celebrate the very presence of God in our midst. But the real wonder of this season is not the bright lights against the midnight sky or the beautiful figurines of angels and shepherds and kings or the magnificent music of Christmas. The true wonder of this season is the Spirit of God that inspires and animates every act of generosity, kindness and peace. Even paper airplane letters can be signs of Emmanuel—God is with us. Let the Spirit of God inspire us to make this a true season of wonder and grace for all his sons and daughters.*

**Connections December 2016.**



**CONFESSION RECONCILIATION**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

All the churches of the Archdiocese will offer and celebrate the **Sacrament of Forgiveness and Reconciliation on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**. Priests of our parish of St. Augustine will be hearing confessions in the church from **4:00 – 8:00 pm**. You are invited and encouraged to come, spend some quiet time with the Lord in church & experience God's Grace of forgiveness.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Week of December 19th — December 25th**

**Monday, December 19th**

7:45 am Ruth S. Doyle

9:00 am Teresa Martin

**Tuesday, December 20th**

7:45 am Ersilia & Innocente Viazzo

9:00 am Roger Dufort

**Wednesday, December 21st**

7:45 am Joseph J. Doyle

9:00 am Ann & Edward Egan

**Thursday, December 22nd**

7:45 am Patrick J. Doyle

9:00 am Marianna Piorkowska

**Friday, December 23rd**

7:45 am Maria Vittoria Volpe

9:00 am Cornelia Bruno

**Saturday December 24th**

9:00 am Reverend Michael Walsh

4:00 pm Maria Manetta

6:00 pm Mary Rudolph

8:00 pm Jeanne Wozniak

10:00 pm Mary Rizzo

**Sunday, December 25th**

9:00 am Nellie and Paul Benjamin

10:30 am Donald O'Connor

12:00 pm Cornelia Bruno & Paul-Henri Parent

**WE PRAY**

For those who are ill, including: Sandy Albert, Ellen R. Barbieri, Bill Battalia, Peter Benjamin, Frank Booth, Nelly Carillon, Debbie Coangelo, Teresa Cogan, Caryn Colombo, Conall Crean, Maria Teresita de Chavez, Bernier De Comes, David DiPietro, Mary Ann Dolan, Elizabeth Dolan Dillon, Marlene Dufort, Mark Elliott, Loren Finnell, Mary Elizabeth Fraioli, Marty Gary, Robert Glickman, Alessandria Glickman, Eleanor Gordon, Mary Haid, Kerry Hegarty, Robert Heyde, Harvey and Mary Humphrey, Carol Hrabsky, Mary Jordan, Fred Kriegel, Dorothy & Dave Lakso, Zachary Lawrence, Rose Leghorn, Martin Martinez, Virginia McLaughlin, Elizabeth Murray, Patricia Clifford Newman, Doris Nogueira, Scotty Norton, Doris O'Toole, Bridget Paolucci, Jack Pastor, Katherine Samon, Annmarie Shower, Susan Testa, Joan Troccoli, Rosemary Walsh, Nicholas James Walsh, Missy Wey, and Mary Williams.

**May they find healing and comfort in Jesus Christ.**

## PARISH STEWARDSHIP

We are grateful to all who contribute so generously each week. We do recommend that you use parish envelopes or **ParishPay**. Please call the rectory for details or to register. Total Collection this week — \$ **6,895.00**

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

Total Collection — \$ **11,395.00**

Total Collection Immaculate Conception \$ **714.00**

Total Collection Retired Religious \$ **3,135.00**

Attendance last weekend was **911**

*Thank you for your support and generosity.*

## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

### *CONFESSION*

Confession Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, 4:00—8:00 pm

### *MASS SCHEDULE*

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve

4:00 6:00, 8:00, (with St. Augustine Choir) and 10:00 pm

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day

9:00, 10:30 am and 12 Noon

*No Evening Mass*

New Year's Eve Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>

5:00 pm

Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>, New Year's Day

9:00, 10:30 am and 12 Noon & 5:00 pm



## 1st GRADE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Please join us for this year's **First Grade Christmas Pageant** based on Tomie's Little Christmas Pageant by Tomie dePaola on **Sunday, December 18th at 3:30 pm in Kenny Hall**. To see our 80 children depict Jesus' Love story as lambs, cows, donkeys, camels, doves, stars, angels in addition to Mary, Joseph, innkeepers, shepherds and wise men will delight you in this rendition of the Christmas story. The glorious voices of our children's choir will also fill Kenny Hall. **Afterwards the Knights of Columbus will provide hot chocolate and treats for all to gather and enjoy in the cafeteria.**



The items requested for December  
**PASTA, SOUP AND ESPECIALLY CEREAL**  
Donations of food can be left in the baskets  
at the front & side entrances  
to the church during the day.  
**Thank you for your continued generosity.**



## **BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS ON THIS FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## OUR PARISH 125TH : A LOGO CONTEST

In 2017, we will be commemorating the 125th Anniversary of our parish of St. Augustine, founded in 1892. **Our kick-off event will be on Epiphany Sunday, January 8, at the annual Baptism Reunion**, with our very newest parishioners also present. **On that day, a parish logo for our anniversary, made by members of the parish between grades 1-12, will be unveiled on a banner.** Please ask your child if she or he would like to submit a logo! The winning entry will be selected based on artistry, creativity and appropriateness. Please go to the Religious Education Office or the Rectory for more information and an entry form showing the size. The logo will be used in numerous ways throughout the year, including on our parish website, [www.staugustineny.org](http://www.staugustineny.org).



## BLOOD DRIVE: THANK YOU

St. Augustine Parish,

Every year 4 million Americans will need a blood transfusion, but fewer than 5 percent of healthy Americans donate blood.

On behalf of White Plains Hospital, we want to extend our sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who came out for the blood drive on November 20th. **The congregation should be congratulated for assisting in the growing need of voluntary blood donors. Our staff collected 71 pints out of 86 potential donors.**

Thank you to those who donated for caring about the community and giving the gift of life. White Plains Hospital

**Also thank you to all the volunteers from St Augustine Parish who made this possible; especially Steve Piccone for his coordination and time and talent!**



## ADVENT POTLUCK

A spirit of fellowship was in attendance last Sunday at our third annual parish potluck in observance of this anticipatory season. Members of the children's choir lead us in Advent hymns along with the music teacher from Chatsworth School, and we shared dishes from around the world, each offered by parishioners from the Philippines, Peru, Singapore, Colombia, Italy, France and other nations. All generations mingled as ninth graders preparing for Confirmation helped elementary students make a crèche or write a thank-you in gratitude to a garbage man or letter carrier. Older members of the Parish Council sat with their younger compadres while the young women of All the Singing Ladies sang acapella numbers, bringing us all together in mutual appreciation. New parishioners, young and old, sat around the center Advent Wreath with others who have been in the parish for their lifetimes. As we all try to slow down during this season of preparation of body and soul, we wish you and yours a peaceful Advent season.



## REDIRECT CHRISTMAS

For over 40 years, ReDirect Christmas has been one of the special parish traditions at St Augustine Church. It is a great way of giving a charitable gift in the name of people on our Christmas lists instead of traditional store bought gifts. Announcement cards are available at the entrance to the church as well as more information about the organizations. **Please make checks payable to St Augustine Church and add ReDirect Christmas to the memo section of the check and send to the rectory.**

The ReDirect Christmas nominating committee met and considered several nominations for ReDirect Christmas 2016. Many thanks to the committee for their time and talent.

Beneficiaries of this year's ReDirect Christmas Program are:

### International

**Mary's Meals**— provides meals to children suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world's poorest communities through school feeding programs. A daily meal in school brings poor children to school every day, encourages parents to send their children to school and enables hungry children to concentrate and learn. For many of these children, their meal in school is the only meal they receive. Your donation will allow the 808 children currently enrolled at the Mulunguzi School in the Zomba District in Malawi to have a school feeding program for the first time. Your donation will help build a kitchen for the preparation of these daily meals. For a donation of just \$19.50, Mary's Meals can feed a child for an entire year. Schools with a Mary's Meals feeding program report increased enrollment, reduced absenteeism and improved school performance. Education can lift individuals and communities out of poverty. [www.marysmealsusa.org](http://www.marysmealsusa.org)

### Domestic

**Clare of Assisi House**—provides transitional residential services and life skills training for non-violent women with a history of domestic violence, substance abuse and/or prostitution who are coming out of prison and are in need of an environment which will encourage and support each resident in their attempts toward self-sufficiency and independent living in the community-at-large, [www.clareofassisihouse.org](http://www.clareofassisihouse.org).

## FORMED.ORG OUR GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

In this season of Advent, as we "wait in joyful hope for the coming of Our Savior," go to FORMED.ORG, a new addition to the faith formation of adults from the Archdiocese of New York, and sign in, using our **parish code RNBYV2**. Scroll down on the homepage and click on PROGRAMS. Under DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS, you will see ADVENT, a 4-part series of talks. Also under PROGRAMS: EXPLORING THE FAITH leads you to OPENING THE WORD, reflections on the Sunday readings of Advent. To quote Cardinal Dolan, "We all know how busy this time of year can get as we prepare for Christmas . . . Yet we can never forget that the Church gives us these weeks of Advent as an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. [In addition to the Advent programs, try] the new program on the Sacrament of Confession called FORGIVEN. I especially encourage you to watch this and prepare for our Archdiocesan-wide Reconciliation Monday on Dec 19.

## ST. AUGUSTINE HOLLY PARTY 2016

"It was a fabulous party" and "The Holly Party was even better again" some of the comments of parishioners who attended the successful Holly Party on Friday, December 2nd. Yes, it was a very successful event again to start the Christmas Season. Many Beautiful Grand Prizes and Chinese Auction items were displayed. It was a wonderful atmosphere, and people brought great luncheon spreads and drinks.

A core group of people, and this year some "new" parishioners, started organizing the Holly Party in September. Many things need to be done to make this party happen; soliciting gifts, wrapping gifts, other people donated new and "recycled-new" gifts, some organized people bringing desserts, ask for servers, type the envelopes for gift certificates, order invites, send them out, collect reservations and make seating arrangements, help set-up and decorate Walter F. Kenny Hall, sell tickets, announce prizes, hand out the prizes, write the numbers on the boards, and clean up as well as washing all table cloths. Yes, a lot of people are working on this event!

With the proceeds from this fund raiser and Christmas party we will be able to help charitable organizations in our communities as well as St. Augustine. A list of charitable organizations will be published in one of the January bulletins.

We thank the many volunteers who made it all happen: Ann Meehan, Anne-Mieke Smeets, Nancy Lennon, Marlene Dufort, Jean Power, Annalea Ricci, Iraci DiBuono, Dawn Provender, Ann Betkowski, Paula DelGuercio and Jane Penny Langone and her "Pine Ridge Friends", Mary Jane Mason, Maureen Hughes, Ann O'Brien, Suzanne Clephane, June Hesler, Therese Hollwitz, Eileen Gerspach, Michele Hoffmann, Peggy FitzPatrick, Mattie Mancini, Ann Siragusa, Soledad Sambrano, Annette Treacy, Helen Fay, Carol Ulmer, Anne Avenius, Tish Cox, Mary Ann Mazza, Denise Mathiesen, Mary Bohan, Cindy Habig, Carmen White, Lori Alpert, and Marie Morris. Thank you, Mary Twomey Spollen with her team, who collected the toys to be brought to Bedford Correctional Facility for Women (Hour Children).

We also thank Msgr. Thomas R. Kelly, (announcer Grand Prizes), Mary Connor (announcer), Moira Griffen Nokes (kitchen), Santos Pineda and Angel Ojeda (help in general) and all the people who brought the many (especially home made) terrific desserts, and the women who worked so hard as hostesses/servers during the party, as well as those who helped clean up. **We thank you all so very, very much!**

A very big **THANK YOU** to all the merchants who donated the beautiful prizes, and those parishioners and their friends who **DONATED** so many wonderful prizes. We really had exceptionally beautiful gifts. Some merchants declined to donate this year, therefore we are very grateful for those who did. Thank you.

**We encourage everyone to shop at those businesses who donated to our event, and to thank them for their support. We appreciate their donations and support a lot, and many of the merchants are long time donators! Please shop locally!** Without all these merchants, restaurants, and the many "friends" we wouldn't be able to offer such a variety of fantastic "gifts/prizes."

**We wish you all a Blessed Christmas, and a Peaceful, Healthy New year.** Anne-Mieke Smeets, Chair Holly Party 2016

