

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York
SEPTEMBER 18 2016
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

“You cannot serve both God and money” Luke:16

Pastor's Corner

“BLESSED ARE THE EMBEZZLERS . . .”

The parable of the shrewd steward is a difficult parable. From our perspective, Jesus seems to be endorsing larceny.

But Jesus' hearers would have heard the parable much differently. Based on the culture and economics of the time, there are a number of ways to read Jesus' parable. One New Testament scholar (*Kenneth Bailey, Poet and Peasant, Through Peasant Eyes*) offers this interpretation:

The steward in the story has been fired for embezzling the funds he has been hired to manage. He does not protest his firing—he could see it coming. Although he is fired, he is not punished. He is not required to pay back what he has taken. He is not jailed. He realizes he works for a master who expects obedience but also shows unusual mercy and generosity. Jesus' listeners would not miss either of these facts.

So the steward risks everything on mercy. If he fails, he will certainly go to jail. If he succeeds, he will be a hero in the community. Working fast, before word of his firing gets out, he sets about reducing the debts of the master's clients. They assume the reductions are legitimate, that the master has ordered them, that the steward has talked the master into acting with such magnanimity. And that's exactly what the steward wants them to think.

When the master realizes what has happened, he has two choices. He can go back to the debtors and tell them that it was all a mistake, a scheme cooked up by the fired manager. That would anger the debtors and all but destroy whatever trust and good will existed between the two parties. Or the master could say nothing, accept the gratitude of his debtors and let the rascal manager enjoy his popularity.

The master opts to be the “hero” the steward has set him up to be.

The steward knew his master was generous and merciful—remember that he didn't punish him or throw him in jail, as he could have. The steward risks everything on the master's generous nature.

And it saves him.

From “Gospel Rascals” by Eugene Peterson, The Christian Century, October 7, 2008.

In this interpretation of the parable of the dishonest steward, the steward is praised by Jesus for his “managing” the wealth at his disposal as a means for creating good will and extending mercy. His scheme, in effect, challenged his master to be merciful, to do right by those in his debt (in Gospel times, the interest charged in such transactions often amounted to extortion). Another way of looking at the parable: By not jailing him or forcing him to repay what he stole, the steward might have seen this as a moment of grace, an opportunity to change his own life and act justly and responsibly. Jesus appeals to the “children of light” to use worldly wealth as a means for establishing God's Kingdom of justice and mercy, to use what we have to provide for the common good and care of every one of us who stands before God as debtors in his grace.

Connections September 2016

† **MASS INTENTIONS**

Week of September 19th — September 25th

Monday, September 19th

7:45 am

9:00 am John D. Kreuttner

Tuesday, September 20th

7:45 am

9:00 am Catherine Cooney

Wednesday, September 21st

7:45 am

9:00 am Philip Power

Thursday, September 22nd

7:45 am Elaine Barry

9:00 am Past and Present Members
of the Ladies Auxiliary

Friday, September 23rd

7:45 am

9:00 am Richard Payne

Saturday September 24th

9:00 am Lorayne Smith

5:00 pm Raymond J. Ibelle Jr.

Sunday, September 25th

9:00 am Katherine Blish Houlihan

10:30 am Robert Whoriskey

12:00 pm Arthur Stock

5:00 pm Arline Rom

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 Teresa 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, 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 — **\$6,925.00**

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

Total Collection — \$11,425.00

Attendance last weekend was **929**

Thank you for your support and generosity.



SEPT. 18TH RECOVERY SUNDAY

Today our parish is celebrating **RECOVERY SUNDAY**. We wish to affirm and pray for all those individuals and their families who are struggling with and in recovery from addictive illnesses. There are many addictive illnesses, including addictions to alcohol, drugs, gambling, and pornography. Please join us today as we pray for healing, and freedom for all those affected by addictions.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious education **Sunday classes will begin today, September 18 for Gr. 1 through 8 at 9:00 am** in Kenny Hall. **Wednesday classes for Grades 2 through 4 will begin on September 21 at 3:30 pm** in Kenny Hall. **Wednesday classes for Grades 5 through 8 will begin on September 21 at 7:15 pm** in Kenny Hall. **Wednesday classes for Grade 1 will begin on September 28 at 3:30 pm in the cafeteria.**

Confirmation sessions for Gr. 9 and older teen candidates will begin on Sunday, October 23 at 3:00 pm in Kenny Hall.

The calendar and *The Augmenter* were mailed to the homes the week of August 22. Both appear on the website.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

Today we honor the 70 catechists and assistant catechists in our Religious Education program. The dedication of so many faith-filled disciples who dedicate themselves to being learners and teachers of our faith needs to be celebrated. To be faithful to 30 classes each week, to do the preparation and learning required and to communicate that passion for the Gospel to our 590 young people requires our thanks and admiration. **Please commend and compliment the catechists and assistant catechists this Sunday and pray for them.**



LECTIO DIVINA

During the Lectio Divina Prayer Group, Fr. Austin Norris will lead us in **TAIZE PRAYER: a form of prayer based on the Liturgy of the Hours**. It is a meditative form of prayer using chants, scripture and intercessions—deeply centering. The Group meets in the rectory on Tuesdays following the 9:00 am Mass.

ST. AUGUSTINE SENIORS

St Augustine Seniors Group will begin **Thursday, September 15th in Kenny Hall!** Everyone 55 years young and older are invited to join. **The group meets most Thursdays from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm in Kenny Hall.** Share lunch, play Bingo, Scrabble, meet new people. **Bring a friend!**



DIVORCE HEALING PROGRAM

St. Augustine Church is pleased to announce the beginning of an exciting, new ministry to men and women who have suffered from divorce. **The Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide** is a twelve-week program featuring thirty-minute DVD sessions each week that cover topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, the courts, the kids, the ex-spouse, annulment, dating, sexuality, spirituality, remarriage or staying single, and much more. *Whether you got divorced ten days ago or ten years ago, the program offers valuable insight for everyone.* Call the rectory, 914-834-1220 or email abetkowski@staugustineny.org for more information. All participants are required to register. So far 11 people are registered! There is a cost of \$15.00 for materials and please let us know if you will need child care to attend. **The first session is Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7:00—8:30 pm in the rectory, 18 Cherry Ave.**

ST. AUGUSTINE AUXILIARY NEWS

The annual invitation for membership letter containing sign up for various volunteer functions is in the mail. If you did not receive one yet, please contact **Anne-Mieke Smeets at 914-522-3844.**

The Auxiliary invites all Parishioners to the Opening Mass on Thursday, Sept. 22nd, at 9:00 am in St. Augustine Church. The Mass intention is for the past and present members of the Ladies Auxiliary, which will be followed by a breakfast-social in the Rectory.

If you would like to bring a baked good or fruit etc. to this event, please fill out the sign up in the annual Auxiliary letter and send the form ASAP or call Anne-Mieke Smeets. We hope to see you all on the 22nd!



CARE OF OUR COMMON HOME

Please join us Monday mornings following 9 am Mass. This new ministry will meet for 2-3 hours to tackle small cleaning and polishing projects throughout the Church. Join us for one or all of the Mondays in September and October in the "Care of Our Common Home" - our Church. Contact Kris Patterson at kbpatter@me.com for questions. *We will not meet in the event of a funeral.*



BANNS OF MARRIAGE

3rd Time—Anna Zampino & Andrew O'Neil
3rd Time—Cynthia Schmidt & Alex Saffi



CYO BASKETBALL REGISTRATION

Registration for the 2016-2017 CYO Basketball season is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 21, 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm & 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm in the gym. The 21st is the first day of Religious Education held on Wednesday. Forms can be picked up in the Religious Education office beginning the week of 9/19 or on the 21st in the gym. Children of parishioners in grades two through high school are eligible. Fees are \$150 per child, 4th grade through high school. 2nd and 3rd grade fees are \$75 per child. A 50% discount is provided to each additional sibling at all age groups. Registration will end in early October. The season runs from mid November until mid February. Any questions, email Mark McNally at mcnallyfamily6@verizon.net.



STUDY THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW OR THE PSALMS

Small groups are forming to study the Gospel of Matthew or the Book of Psalms together. Join us as we read Mark, the Gospel of Year A (coming up in our weekly readings of the 3-year cycle of the Church) or the Book of Psalms, a book of 150 poems that are a part of the Hebrew Bible and also found in the Christian's Old Testament. "This is the knowledge most of us need and did not acquire," wrote a parishioner after a recent study. Another participant felt his prayer life deepen. All of the discussion questions have been developed by Scripture scholars with a lay audience in mind; our trained facilitators keep the sessions moving—and meaningful. Let us know if weeknights would be better for you— or weekdays or even weekends. **Please come to the introductory meeting on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 at 7:30 pm** to taste and see how good the Lord is! Sign up posters are at the doors of the church or contact Pat McNamara at 834-0663 or email her at chenpat@optonline.net for info or to sign up.

FAMILY DAY

Family Day— Be Involved. Stay Involved, is The national Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse's national initiative to promote simple acts of parental engagement as key ways to help prevent risky substance use in children and teens. **Family Day will be celebrated across the country on Sept. 26th.** To learn more and to join parents all across America in taking the Family Day STAR Pledge, log on to www.CASAFamilyDay.org.



The items requested for September are **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.

A NEW VISION OF YOUTH MINISTRY ON SEPTEMBER 20

This Tuesday evening, Professor Bud Horell of Fordham's Graduate Dept of Religion will speak to us in Kenny Hall at 7:30 pm about a new approach to Catholic youth ministry. Come to discuss with teens of the parish about its important components, all centered around the elements of spirituality, service and social interaction. All parishioners are also invited to look at some of the chapters of McCarty's book posted on the home page of the website (bottom right). Join the effort to prepare our entire parish for this new look at youth ministry in a parish setting.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

Anyone who needs to report an alleged incident of sexual abuse of a minor by priest, deacon, religious or lay person serving in the Archdiocese of New York is asked to contact Sr. Eileen Clifford, O.P. at 212-371-1000 x 2949 or Deacon George J. Coppola at 917-861-1762. Both may also be reached via e-mail at victimassistance@archny.org. Information can also be found on the Archdiocesan website, www.archny.org. In keeping with the Archdiocesan policy regarding sexual abuse of minors, this information is provided to ensure that our children remain safe and secure.

EMPLOYMENT NETWORKING SUPPORT GROUP

A free 6 week Employment Networking Support Group, for anyone who recently lost a job or is returning to the workforce, will be sponsored by the RDC Center for Counseling & Human Development beginning on **September 19th**. This program will be offered at The White Plains Education & Training Center, 303 Quarropas St., White Plains. For more info or to register Pat Sheridan, LCSW, 798-1103.



A PANCAKE KIND OF WELCOME

Last weekend a multigenerational group of volunteers, ages 8—80, welcomed all parishioners, new (3-month-old was sighted) and older, back after your summer peregrinations. Kenny Hall was the scene of bustling pancake flippers, servers and cleaner-uppers, preschoolers passing juice and adults stirring coffee on a Sunday morning. More than forty people signed up for a parish ministry at the info tables along the side of the hall, and many more browsed, no doubt beginning their own process of discernment. Even if you were not able to attend after the morning Masses, please consider yourself welcomed! **And if you are interested in other welcoming events for all parishioners, join us on September 20 to discuss Catholic youth ministry with Prof. Horell, join a Scripture Study on September 29, bring a pet for the Blessing of the Animals on October 2, and read your bulletin in the interim!** Talk to the rectory (834-1220) or email ldoyle@staugustineny.org to be added to our AFF email list.