

THE AUGMENTER

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

Newsletter for Families of St. Augustine Religious Education in Larchmont, NY

Our entire task in this life consists in healing the eyes of the heart so that they may be able to see God. — St. Augustine

What are the Pflaum Gospel Weeklies?

Some may be wondering what exactly comprises a religious education program at St. Augustine's with these hand-outs on the Sunday Gospels. I am choosing an acrostic to tell the story:

- * **G**ospels are the heart of the message
- * **O**pens learners up to God's Love Story
- * **S**ignals social justice service
- * **P**arents are primary in the process
- * **E**ngages learners in their faith life in the 21st century
- * **L**aunches a personal relationship with Jesus

- * **W**ritten for appropriate ages of the learners
- * **E**asy for catechists to learn and teach
- * **E**ntices learners to grow in faith
- * **K**nowledge that provides a background for the Scriptures
- * **L**oving God and others is made real
- * **I**nvolves learners through examples and games
- * **E**ndorses family life
- * **S**tories make Jesus' Gospel come to life

**Learning to be a disciple of Jesus
is the muscle of this process.**

Sister Suzanne Duzen, SS.C.M.,
Director of Religious Education
Publisher of *The Augmenter*

Send suggestions for future articles to:
rsuzanne@verizon.net

Not a Christmas Pageant but —

A Journey to Bethlehem with 1st and 9th Graders!

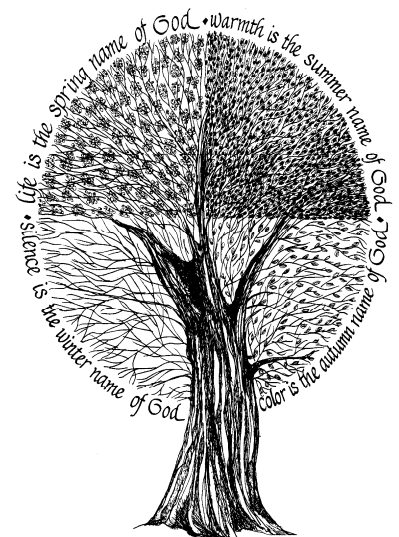
This year we are embarking on a new model for telling the story of Jesus' Birth. Rather than practice with 1st graders three sessions and miss their Gospel Weeklies we are asking the 9th grade Confirmation candidates to coordinate **The Journey to Bethlehem** and be the big sister and brother to 1st graders.

On **Sunday, December 15** the 1st graders will arrive in Kenny Hall at 3:30 p.m. to prepare for the big event with their counterparts. At 4:30 p.m. 1st grade parents, relatives and friends arrive and watch the big event. By 5:00 p.m. we are saying *Namaste* (I greet God within you) honoring the event!

The 10:30 Family Mass — Our Eucharist invites and includes:

During November you are seeing 6th graders as welcomers, hospitality hosts and hostesses, greeters, collectors of our stewardship, gift-bearers at the presentation of the bread and wine and distributors of our Sunday bulletins. Catechists Rachel Erfe, Courtney Hewson, Diane Andersen, Mary Ann Mazza and Valerie Mouracade are coordinating these efforts.

The *Augmenter* logo expands our vision of God through the seasons. It reminds us of God's presence in the here and now of our community in 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.



Buy your Advent/Christmas Wreaths and Support our Local Food Pantries

Our Confirmation candidates and their parents will be selling Advent and/or Christmas wreaths the weekends of Dec. 1 and 8 after the Masses in front of the church. Candles and wreath rings will also be available for purchase. The wreaths are coming from Sisters Gail, Bernadette and Amie at the Green Mountain Monastery in Vermont. The Sisters hand harvest the balsam from their trees in the forest on their property for you. They trim the balsam branches to encourage heartier trees and receive the incredibly fragrant gift of these noble friends of the forest in return. In a world where we are presented with the devastation of Earth and its life systems at every level, this small act of "Communion consciousness" models a different way of being human within the sacred community of life.

The cost is \$25 each wreath with \$5 going to our local food pantries for every wreath sold. Each wreath is 20 inches with a bow and pine cones.

Please reserve a wreath by signing the poster in the back of the church or emailing Sister Suzanne at srsuzanne@verizon.net. You may pay in advance and send a check to Sister Suzanne or pay when you pick up your wreath. We are hoping to sell 100 wreaths this year that will enable us to give \$250 to the Hope Food Pantry and \$250 to the CAP Center. Please support us and the needs of our local food pantries.

The Thanksgiving Dinner Drive Feeds 375 Plus!

Home-cooked meals are a rare treat especially for people on the margins. St. Augustine's performs such a feat when you cook home-made Thanksgiving dinners and bring them in a sturdy box to church, defining the family size, on Thanksgiving Day between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m. The Mass at 9:30 a.m. which celebrates our giving and thanksgiving smells delicious!! Please consider signing up to perform this tremendous service in the back of the church or email Anne Avenius at aavenius@msn.com or Margaret Paganini at amkmfrbr@aol.com

Who Are Given the Angel Tree Gifts?

It may help to know the magnitude of the project and the people whose lives are touched. The various colored angels reflect the places where the gifts are distributed:

Pink Angels--Cardinal McCloskey Children's Toy Drive for 4,500 at-risk children. We provide toys for boys and girls ages 2 to 18.

Blue Angels--Children's Center of Bedford Hills Correction Facility. We provide gifts for mothers to give their children for ages 1 to 13 which include dolls, trucks, arts and crafts, board games, footballs, basketballs, baseball and baseball gloves and clothing.

Tan Angels — Odyssey House, a comprehensive treatment center for gifts in the Bronx. We ask for gift cards so the gifts can be purchased in bulk, coordinated and given evenly.

Green Angels—Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, a shelter for first-time teenage boy offenders. We ask for gift cards so the gifts can be purchased in bulk, coordinated and given evenly.

Yellow Angels—St. Rita's Clinic serves families in the area. We provide for boys and girls from 1 to 15 with a great need for the older teens.

Red Angels—St. Augustine Special Families. Requests come from the priests or others in the parish who know of need. We provide gifts noting the gender, age and request on the angel.

Angels will be chosen on November 13 and 17 in Religious Education classes. Gifts need to be brought to Kenny Hall on December 4 and 8.

2014—A New Year so SAVE THE DATES!

The Sacramental Program for **First Reconciliation and Eucharist** will formally begin for **parents** in January. Instead of two meetings, only **ONE** will be required, but it is mandatory! For your convenience three meeting dates and times have been scheduled. **Choose one please.**

They are: Sunday, **January 12 at 9:00 a.m.** Wednesday, **January 15 at 7:30 p.m.** or Wednesday, **January 22 at 7:30p.m.** All meetings will take place in Kenny Hall.

First Reconciliation is on **Saturday, March 15 at 11:00 a.m. for 2 A4, 2 A5 and 2 S1 and 1:00 p.m. for 2 A1, 2 A2 and 2 A3.**

First Eucharist is on **Saturday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. for 2 A1, 2 A2 and 2 A3 and at noon for 2 A4, 2 A5 and 2 S1.**