

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York

DECEMBER 04, 2016

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

"A herald: Voice in the desert: Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths."

Matt 3:3

Pastor's Corner

THE WHITE HELMETS OF SYRIA

For the past six years, Syria has been torn apart by a lethal combination of civil war and tribal hostilities. To outsiders, there seems to be only villains and refugees.

But there are heroes. Enter the White Helmets: ordinary Syrians—teachers, tailors, builders, doctors—who didn't flee the country and didn't take up arms; instead, they return day after day to the scene of some of the worst carnage on the planet. Known by the distinctive headgear they wear, the White Helmets sift through the rubble of Aleppo looking for survivors. They treat the wounded, work tirelessly to repair and maintain water and electricity, seek to re-unite families separated by the bombings and occupations, and bury the dead.

The White Helmets grew out of a disparate set of local groups scattered throughout Syria. They number more than 3,000 volunteers in rebel-held areas across the country. They are all civilians—the White Helmets' code of conduct forbids their taking up arms. Members are trained in how to search collapsed buildings, how to put out fires, how to handle unexploded bombs, what to do in a chemical attack. Even militants who had fought in the armed rebellion have laid aside their weapons to join the White Helmets.

Since the White Helmets organized in early 2013, White Helmet units have saved and rescued 60,000 of their fellow Syrians. One hundred forty-one White Helmets have been killed while serving.

A war defined by impossible choices and implacable hatreds has also produced a model of heroism that reflects the best of humanity: ordinary people who rush in to help after every attack and bombing that devastates their neighbors and homeland. Their credo is a single verse from the Quran: "Whoever saves one life, saves humanity."

TIME Magazine, October 17, 2016.

A prophet is "one who proclaims" - and the White Helmets are "prophets" in the truest sense of the word. In their selfless, dangerous work, the ordinary Syrians who wear the White Helmets "proclaim" the justice and mercy of God in the devastation of their homeland. In our own commitment to the moral and ethical principles that are of God, we can be no less prophets of God's love and mercy in the Jordan banks of our homes, businesses and schools.

Connections December 2016

† **MASS INTENTIONS**

Week of December 5th — December 11th

Monday, December 5th

7:45 am

9:00 am George McLaughlin and Vessa Family

Tuesday, December 6th

7:45 am

9:00 am Maura O'Friel

Wednesday, December 7th

7:45 am

9:00 am Jack Moran

7:30 pm Kathleen Renata Evans

Thursday, Dec 8th Immaculate Conception

7:45 am Daniel Reich

9:00 am Roger Dufort

12:00 pm Madeline Rispoli

7:30 pm Father Dan Johnson

Friday, December 9th

7:45 am Catherine Gardiner

9:00 am Gerry Collins

Saturday December 10th

9:00 am Roger Dufort

5:00 pm Betty Barton

Sunday, December 11th

9:00 am The Stevenson Family

10:30 am Cecie Munkenbeck

12:00 pm Cornelius O'Brien

5:00 pm Roger Dufort

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.

SECOND COLLECTION
SUNDAY DECEMBER 11
RETIRED RELIGIOUS

Next Sunday, our parishes will take up the annual archdiocesan collection for the thousands of retired Catholic sisters and brothers whose hard work, prayers, and sacrifices helped build our Catholic schools, hospitals, and charitable agencies. These dedicated women and men gave—and give—their lives in extraordinary and exemplary service to the archdiocese, and now, as they move into their senior years, we are able to offer them in return our love and support through this annual collection that helps to provide for their needs.

Be assured that I am fully aware of the many good causes which you are asked to support and, at the same time, that many of us are faced with trying financial situations at home. As the Christmas season of generous giving approaches, please do whatever you can to assist our retired religious.

With prayerful best wishes for a blessed Advent season, I am, Faithfully in Christ, Timothy Michael Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Thursday, December 8, 2015

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Mass Schedule

Wednesday, December 7th

7:30 pm

Thursday, December 8th

7:45, 9:00 am, 12:00 pm & 7:30 pm



CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CONFESSION

Saturday, December 10th & 17th, 4:00—4:45 pm

Confession Monday, December 19th, 4:00—8:00 pm

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, December 24th, Christmas Eve

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

Sunday, December 25th, Christmas Day

9:00, 10:30 am and 12 Noon

No Evening Mass

New Year's Eve

Saturday, December 31st

5:00 pm

Sunday, January 1st, New Year's Day

9:00, 10:30 am and 12 Noon

5:00 pm

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 — **\$6,215.00**

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

Total Collection — \$10,715.00

Total Collection—Human Development—\$2,381.00

Attendance last weekend was **938**

Thank you for your support and generosity.



ANGEL TREE 2015

With the Holiday Season upon us, St. Augustine Parish will once again be collecting Christmas presents for those less fortunate in our community. **Please consider taking one or more angels from the Angel Tree in the vestibule of the Church.** This is a good way to help your children understand the joy of giving. There is a bulletin board next to the tree where you will find an explanation of the different organizations to which the Christmas gifts will be delivered. Please return the gifts to the Rectory, **with the angel securely attached BEFORE DECEMBER 13th.** To many, these will be the only gifts they will receive this holiday season. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. Any questions, please call Anne Avenius at 914-527-6762 or Irish Benson at 914-834-5831.

OUR ANNUAL ADVENT POTLUCK

On Sunday, December 11 from 6:00—7:45 pm, please join everyone in Kenny Hall for our second Annual Advent Potluck. Dine on delicious food from around the world. All are welcome! Bring the whole family—fun Advent activities for kids of all ages. Enjoy singing the music of the season, lead by children of the parish! *All the Singing Ladies*, an acapella group, will serenade us all during dinner. For more info, email LDoyle@staugustineny.org.

FIRST 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 18 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.**



**BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS ON
THIS SECOND SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**



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.**

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

The beneficiaries of this year's ReDirect Christmas Program are:

International

Mary's Meals— provides help to those suffering the effects of extreme poverty in the world's poorest communities. They provide well over 1 million meals daily to children at schools. This enables children not only to get a meal, (probably the only one of the day), but also an education which is the only path to escape poverty. Over 93% of donations go directly to their activities. \$19.50 will feed a child for an entire year, 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.



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 of 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.



ADVENT WREATH CANDLES AND RINGS

Before (and after!) Mass this Sunday, look for Advent candles and the rings to hold them on the table in the back of the church. Make your Advent a holy time of prayer and waiting.

LIGHTING OF THE HOLLY TREE

The Holly Tree located outside the side entrance to the church will be lit **following the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday, December 17th**. Please join us as we light our way towards Christmas.



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.

DR. KEVIN MALONEY & ST. RITA'S

Dr. Kevin Maloney and St. Rita's Free Medical Clinic volunteers give toys to thousands of children every year. This year **the event is December 16th at 6:30 pm in front of Dr. Maloney's office**. All children are welcome. All toys go to the indigent children in our community. **Unwrapped new toys for children of all ages can be dropped off at Dr. Maloney's office at 144 E Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, call 914-381-2091 for details or to volunteer.**

Dr. Maloney still provides free medical care every Friday night to those who cannot afford it. Call 914-381-2091 after 7:00 pm for more details.





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.

MOVING? NEW TO THE PARISH?

Our warmest welcome to all who worship with our parish family, whether long-time residents or newly arrived in the parish. If you are not registered, or need to update our records, please call the rectory—914-834-1220 or register by visiting the Parish website at www.staugustineny.org/register or email abetkowski@staugustineny.org.

Welcome!