

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York  
DECEMBER 11, 2016  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:**

“What did you go out to the desert to see?”

Matthew 11: 2-11

*Pastor's Corner*

**WALKING AMONG THE REEDS**

You're working 60 to 70 hours a week; you're lucky if you get six hours of sleep a night. Making income cover expenses is becoming a bigger challenge every month—and, in the meantime, your spouse and children—the people you live for—are becoming strangers. *What did you go out to the desert to see?*

You juggle a wide network of acquaintances. The e-mails never stop; there's not an empty line in your calendar book; your cell phone is permanently clipped to your ear. But you can't seem to shake the loneliness you feel in the most crowded rooms. While you maintain contact with a host of business associates and colleagues, precious few of them do you consider friends and no one close to being special. *What did you go out to the desert to see?*

Every semester you scan the course offerings: *This course I need to graduate . . . This class meets at a good time . . . This professor is a nightmare . . . This lecturer is an easy A . . . God, look at this reading list—no way!*

*What did you go out to the desert to see?*

*What did you go out to the desert to see? What are you looking for? Jesus' question takes on particular urgency in the Advent of our lives: As we struggle to make ends meet, have the means become an end in themselves? Has the love and support of family and friends become just another asset? Are we satisfied merely with learning and achievement that we can list on our resumes or do we want to learn and become truly educated human beings? John's call to transform our lives in the things of God and Jesus' Gospel of humble compassion certainly resonate in our broken hearts and despairing spirits—but are we willing to take on the hard work of conversion and re-creation? May we rediscover in this holy season what we want our lives to be for and, with the Messiah's grace, continue that work of re-creation in every season of our lives.*

**Connections December 2010.**



**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 12th — December 18th**

**Monday, December 12th**

7:45 am Mario Cestone

9:00 am Jane Hofmann

**Tuesday, December 13th**

7:45 am

9:00 am Angelo & Lucy Caricato

**Wednesday, December 14th**

7:45 am Roger Sullivan

9:00 am Alice & Arthur Benning

**Thursday, Dec 15th**

7:45 am Joan Frusciante

9:00 am Denis & Margaret Twomey

**Friday, December 16th**

7:45 am Robert Hyer

9:00 am Peter Feuerbach

**Saturday December 17th**

9:00 am Jennie Durso

5:00 pm Nel Gallin

**Sunday, December 18th**

9:00 am Arthur Stock

10:30 am Joseph Bohan

12:00 pm Jeanne D. Gordon

5:00 pm Felix Wilson

**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 — **\$8,774.50**

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

**Total Collection — \$13,274.50**

Attendance last weekend was **920**

*Thank you for your support and generosity.*

## SECOND COLLECTION RETIRED RELIGIOUS

### CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

#### **CONFESSION**

Saturday, December 17th, 4:00—4:45 pm

**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



### 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.

### 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.**

## OUR ANNUAL ADVENT POTLUCK

This Sunday, December 11th, after the 5 pm Mass join us in **Kenny Hall for the Advent Potluck**. Don't worry if you don't have a 'pot' of food—you are welcome! Bring the whole family—fun Advent activities for kids of all ages. Enjoy the music of the season as you share food and relax at the end of this weekend with fellow parishioners.



## 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.

Last year alone, White Plains Hospital transfused over 6,000 units of blood to our patients. Blood is always in demand, and your blood donation will help ensure that there is a sufficient blood supply available to our community when it is needed.

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.

Sincerely, 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!**



## 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).



## 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 meals to be prepared to provide 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, 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

