

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York
DECEMBER 25, 2016
CHRISTMAS DAY

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

“For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord.”

Luke 2: 1-14

Pastor's Corner

COME TO THE STABLE

In a stable near the village, the two of them sit at their small table in their apartment. She is living Christmases of long ago; she has no awareness of this Christmas. Her faithful husband of 60 years is cutting pieces of turkey and gently feeds her, as she struggles to sit upright in her wheelchair. Later he will patiently remind her who he is, who they are, and that it is Christmas. He will point to the pictures of their children and again tell her the stories of their life together. Into this stable in the assisted-living facility, Christ is born again and again and again.

In a stable near the village, a single mom and her two sons have made it through another year. But they don't let their exhaustion and disappointments mar this day. They will put their kitchen table and card table and TV trays together to make one big (if uneven) table and will host a potluck Christmas dinner for Grandma and friends who would otherwise be alone this day. It will be a great time. Their stable with the makeshift table is the dwelling place of God.

In a stable near the village, she is up before dawn. Being a mom, Christmas Eve is a very busy day for her. But the cooking and gift-wrapping for her own family are done. This day is about bread. She will spend her morning baking fresh loaves for the local soup kitchen's holiday meal and her husband will deliver them early in the afternoon. She has been doing this since college, when she first helped out at a church's Christmas dinner for the homeless. That Christmas she made some not-so-great cookies in her dorm—but the joy on that little boy's face when he took one of her reindeer-shaped cookies was the most beautiful thing she had ever seen. And just knowing that something she bakes can be the means of such joy gets her up before daybreak every Christmas Eve. Her kitchen becomes a Bethlehem—"a house of bread" - where Christ is born.

The theologian and novelist Frederick Buechner writes: "Once we have seen God in a stable, we never know where we might see him again. If God is present in this least auspicious place, there is no place or time so lowly or earthbound but that holiness can be present, too. For just when God seems the most helpless, God is the most strong; and just where we least expect him that he comes most fully." On this Christmas Day, may you see God in your stable in the midst of those you love; may you know in every season of the New Year the joy of "preparing him room" in your hearts and homes.

Connections December 2016

MASS INTENTIONS

Week of December 26th — January 01st

Monday, December 26th

7:45 am Madeline Rispoli

9:00 am Teresa Martin

Tuesday, December 27th

7:45 am Alice and Arthur Benning

9:00 am William Crossin

Wednesday, December 28th

7:45 am Henry Armstrong

9:00 am Roger Dufort

Thursday, December 29th

7:45 am Karl E. Gould

9:00 am Joseph Barbieri

Friday, December 30th

7:45 am Roland Belanger Jr.

9:00 am John P. Dillon

Saturday December 31st

9:00 am Angela Forenza

5:00 pm Terry Martin

Sunday, January 01st

9:00 am Dolly and Ed Paoli

10:30 am Marie Moffa

12:00 pm Jennie Durso

5:00 pm Marcelo Checa

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, 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 — \$ **5,961.50**

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

Total Collection — \$10,461.50

Attendance last weekend was **909**

Thank you for your support and generosity.



NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

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

FORMED.ORG

OUR GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

In this Christmas season, as we celebrate the coming of our Savior, go to FORMED.ORG, a new source for our faith formation from the Archdiocese of New York. Sign in using our **parish code RNBYV2**. Check out courses under programs, watch movies, listen to audio presentations and download free Kindle books for you and your children!



ANGEL TREE

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the Angel Tree gift program. Through your thoughtfulness and generosity, we were able to provide gifts to eight organizations, including the Little Sisters of the Assumption, the Mamaroneck Community Center, Cardinal McCloskey Children Center, Bedford Hills Correctional Facility, the Youth Shelter of Westchester, St. Rita's Clinic, Odyssey House in the Bronx and St. Vincent's as well as special families and our seniors. Over 600 children and families were so grateful to receive such wonderful gifts. For many of them, it was their only gift this Holiday season.

Thank you to the Confirmation students who cut the Angels and bought and wrapped gifts for the Odyssey House in the Bronx and the Youth Shelter in Westchester. Thank you to the Stay Connected Kids who helped wrap gifts for St. Vincent's. Thanks to all who provided gifts, collected gifts, sorted and delivered gifts. Your contributions made this program a huge success!



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 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.

ST. AUGUSTINE SENIORS

Find out more about the St Augustine Seniors Group! 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!**



ADVENT POTLUCK

A spirit of fellowship was in attendance 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, Boston Baked Beans, 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 Christmas season.

**SHARE YOUR TIME & TALENT!
FIND OUT ABOUT THE
OVER 40 MINISTRIES
AT ST AUGUSTINE CHURCH**



**VISIT www.staugustineny.org
Or Call 914-834-1220!**



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

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.



MERRY CHRISTMAS



AN INVITATION TO EXPLORE THE CATHOLIC FAITH

Have you or someone you know ever thought about becoming a Catholic?

The RCIA is a process that welcomes unbaptized adults and teens, baptized Christians from other faith traditions as well as baptized Catholics who for various reasons have not received Eucharist or Confirmation.

Jesus said to his followers, "Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened for you." (Matthew 7:7)

Come by our Church for a visit and a prayer. Find out if the Catholic faith, grounded in Jesus' teaching, offers the answers you are seeking. Contact Sr. Muriel Cooney, OP, or Ann Betkowski for more information—914-834-1220, or email, srmuriel@staugustineny.org.

LECTIO DIVINA

The Lection Divina prayer group meets every **Tuesday following the 9:00 am Mass**. Lection combines the reading of Sacred Scripture from the Sunday Lectionary with prayerful contemplation. The meetings take place in the rectory about 9:30 am. **All are welcome!**



CENTERING PRAYER

Be transformed in Christ through the power of centering yourself in the silence. **Come on Saturdays at 9:40 am to the church** as we join in silent communal prayer for twenty minutes.



SOME DAILY BREAD

Try out the excellent daily devotional booklet **Give Us This Day** for a year. Twelve issues cost only \$25 to join our parish subscription. Email LDoyle@staugustineny.org or call the rectory to join. You will also receive the online edition to share.

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 complete this form and place it in the collection basket or mail it to the rectory or register by visiting the Parish website at www.staugustineny.org/register.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ TEL _____

EMAIL _____