

CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE, LARCHMONT, New York
FEBRUARY 12, 2017
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOTE FROM THE PASTOR:

“Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord” Psalm 119

Pastor's Corner

GRASPED BY LOVE

Years ago we nicknamed one of my nieces “the attorney general.” She was about four years old and as legalistic as a tiny person could possibly be. When told that she could ride her tricycle only in the driveway, she wanted to know if the front wheel could touch the dividing line with the street when she turned around. And what about her shadow, if that went into the street was she disobeying? If so, riding at different times of day would imply different rules—and a cloudy day would throw confusion over the whole system! It would have done her mother no good to cite Sirach saying “If you choose, you can obey and it will save you.” The child sought razor-sharp precision, intent on getting away with all she could, only to test the limits. She and her parents had no shared values in the laws of bike riding. For her the rule was nothing but an authoritarian limitation on her freedom. For her parents, it was a matter of preserving her life so that she could survive one day to use her cleverness for better causes.

Our attitude toward the law depends on the reasons we see for it and on our feelings for those who have formulated it. One level of obedience, like my niece’s, is conformity to avoid punishment. That’s purely egoistic; the only reason for following the rule is to keep herself out of trouble. When the potential punishment or risk of being caught diminishes there’s no motivation for observing the law. The lawgiver thus has to be certain that disobedience appears more costly than compliance.

Today’s readings talk about a much different appreciation of divine law. The selection from the Book of Sirach, a collection of Jewish wisdom, claims that obedience to God’s law leads to genuine quality of life. The law turns out to be more of a revelation than a demand. As today’s responsorial psalm asserts, God’s law offers the pathway to a life full of blessing. When we appreciate that following the law of God leads to tranquility, it makes philosophical sense.

When we get to Paul’s message the philosophers are invited to bow out. For Paul, divine wisdom refers to neither legal nor philosophical concepts but comes from knowing the mystery of Christ. Paul understands wisdom as the consciousness that comes from allowing the Spirit of God to enlighten us. It’s the result of a relationship of love, and therefore it’s impossible to understand outside of the context of being caught up in God’s love.

Matthew’s Sermon on the Mount presents Jesus as a new Moses, not as the lawgiver but a guide who shows the way to a life of blessing. In Deuteronomy 30, Moses told the people that through the covenant, God was offering them life or death, blessing or curse. When Jesus interpreted the Mosaic law, he refused to get lost in juridical minutiae but went to the heart of the matter: Fulfillment of the law is simply a question of love.

Sister Mary M. McGlone Preaching Resources, February 12, 2017



MASS INTENTIONS

Week of February 13th — February 19th

Monday, February 13th

7:45 am

9:00 am Helen Crossin-Kittle

Tuesday, February 14th

7:45 am Virginia McLaughlin (Healing)

9:00 am Peter Feuerbach

Wednesday, February 15th

7:45 am

9:00 am Bridget Paolucci

Thursday, February 16th

7:45 am

9:00 am Barbara Smeets

Friday, February 17th

7:45 am

9:00 am Joseph DiPietro

Saturday February 18th

9:00 am Peggy Naughton

5:00 pm Angie Bucci Brooks

Sunday, February 19th

9:00 am Bridget Paolucci

10:30 am Tina Cattano

12:00 pm Lydia DiVirgilio

5:00 pm Paul-Henri Parent

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, Robert Mangone, Martin Martinez, Virginia McLaughlin, Bob Morris, 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, Mary Williams and Billy Zarcone.

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 — \$ **6,370.50**

Total ParishPay was \$4,500.00

Total Collection — \$ **10,870.50**

Total Collection Peter's Pence—\$ **2,190.00**

Attendance last weekend was **813**

Thank you for your support and generosity.

THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

The 2017 Cardinal's Appeal has begun!

"So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith." Galatians 6:10

As disciples of Christ, we are called to help one another and be merciful, as Jesus taught us. It is only with **your help** that the Cardinal's Appeal continues its good work in our communities. Through our ministries and charities the *Cardinal's Appeal* continues to be a beacon of hope for our brothers and sisters in faith.

Online donations can be made at www.cardinalsappeal.org. Donation envelopes can be found in the pews. **Thank you for your generosity and support.**



RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS

On Sunday, February 19th at the beginning of the **12:00 pm** Liturgy, Eve Ciciu will be accepted as a Catechumen during the Rite of Acceptance. The Rite marks the beginning of Eve's movement from Inquiry to Preparation for reception of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil.

2016 TAX FORMS

If you would like a copy of your 2016 donations to St Augustine Church for tax purposes, please contact the rectory at 914-834-1220 or email abetkowski@staugustineny.org and a copy will be mailed to you. Many thanks for your generosity and support throughout the year.

SAVE THE DATE IRISH FLEADH SUNDAY, MARCH 19th

Join us at the Irish Fleadh, **March 19th from 2:30—4:45 pm** in Monsignor Kenny Hall, St. Augustine Church. Music, Light Refreshments, Arts and Crafts and More. **Come one come all.** Look for details in the coming weeks.



FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS

Feeding Our Neighbors is an Archdiocesan-Wide Drive to replenish Dwindling Food Pantries.

Sunday, February 5th & 12th

Nearly **325,000** children have difficulty affording food, that's **22% of children in the 10 counties** of the Archdiocese. Do your part to make sure no hungry neighbor is turned away. Please place all food donations in the boxes and baskets provided in the church.

The three simple ways to participate and contribute to the Campaign are:

1. *Donate money to support emergency food programs in the Archdiocese*
2. *Collect food to support a local food pantry in your community and drop it off at the church.*
3. *Volunteer your time and support at a local food pantry*

For more information: contact Edna.Mincey@archny.org or 718-292-9090 ext. 17 <http://www.catholiccharitiesny.org/feedingourneighbors>



FORMED.ORG

Eleven award-winning children's movies about saints and heroes are now on formed.org, the website with documentaries about the Bible, programs about the Mass and the sacraments, and more, which the Archdiocese has given its parishes as a gift. **Access its many offerings using our parish code RNBYV2.**

MIDNIGHT RUN NEEDS YOUR HELP

The parish Midnight Run team is looking for a **lunch coordinator**. The coordinator finds volunteers to supply lunches for runs throughout the year at four local churches, St. Augustine, St. John's Episcopal, United Methodist and St. John's Lutheran. This consortium has been going strong for decades; let's keep up our end! For information, please contact MaryAnn De Feis, 833-1803 or made-feis@gmail.com. (For information about the Midnight Run organization, please visit <http://www.midnightrun.org>)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The completely volunteer-run adult ESL (English as a Second Language) program at the New Rochelle YMCA (50 Weyman Avenue., New Rochelle) is looking for teachers, substitute teachers, and tutors to teach English to adult immigrants either the morning, afternoon or evening during the week at the Y. **No previous ESL teaching required.** Please contact Karen Khor at khortan@mac.com if you are interested.



OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY A LENTEN PARISH MISSION

Brother Jack Rathschmidt, O.F.M. Capuchin, will lead us through a mission experience during St. Augustine's 125th Lent as a parish. **Beginning at all of the weekend Masses on March 4-5 and continuing for three evening sessions (Sunday, Monday and Tuesday) from 7-7:45 pm**, he will challenge us to consider the questions, *What does it mean to be in a community? How can we share God's great mercy? What might it mean for us to broaden our horizons as Jesus' disciples?* (Br. Jack asks that we arrive 30 minutes before the evening sessions to sit in silent prayer as preparation; afterwards, a simple meal will be offered in the rectory.)



STUDY THE SCRIPTURES IN SMALL GROUPS

Several small groups will begin meeting during Lent to study the Scriptures. **Join in to learn more about the Old Testament's Book of Psalms or the New Testament's Gospel of Matthew.** This Lent we will be offering a new group study of **The Eucharist in Scripture.** For more info or to sign up, please contact Pat McNamara at 834-0663 or chenpat@optonline.net.

HEARTS AND HOMES

Hearts and Homes for Refugees of Larchmont & Mamaroneck is sponsoring a march and rally on Sunday, February 12th, gathering at Flint Park at 2 pm. Come join us for a local march to support refugees. From Flint Park, we'll walk together to the Kemper Memorial Park at Mamaroneck High School to hear a number of speakers, including a refugee, who will speak about his experiences. Please invite your friends and neighbors.



LECTIO DIVINA & CENTERING PRAYER

Please join us for two special times of prayer:

Lectio Divina meets on Tuesdays following the 9:00 am Mass in the rectory.

Centering Prayer meets on Saturdays in St. Augustine Church following the 9:00 am Mass.



The items requested for February
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.



ZERO WASTE

Would you like to be part of St. Augustine's new zero waste initiative with the three-pronged goal of reducing waste, educating parishioners and becoming an example in the care of Creation for our broader community? **In honor of St. Augustine's 125th anniversary, our parish is rolling out a parish-wide zero waste initiative.** Zero waste is a goal where little or no trash is generated (more info at zwia.org). Everything is either reused, recycled or composted so that very little ends up in the waste stream. Please contact Karen Khor at khortan@mac.com or Ldoyle@staugustineny.org or call the rectory at 834-1220 to join our Care for Creation subcommittee.



POPE FRANCIS' LAUDATO SI'

In his encyclical on the environment. *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis says that "climate change is a global problem with grave implications. . . It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day. Its worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades" (LS 25). Pope Francis also reminds Catholics that caring for creation is an essential part of our faith (LS, 64) , and he calls upon world leaders to work together to solve the climate crisis. Now is an opportunity for Catholics to respond to the message of this important encyclical. **Please go to GCCM.org (Global Catholic Climate Movement) and sign the petition urging President Trump to honor the Paris Agreement,** the world's best chance at addressing the climate crisis before it is too late.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/STAUGUSTINELARCHMONT

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 _____